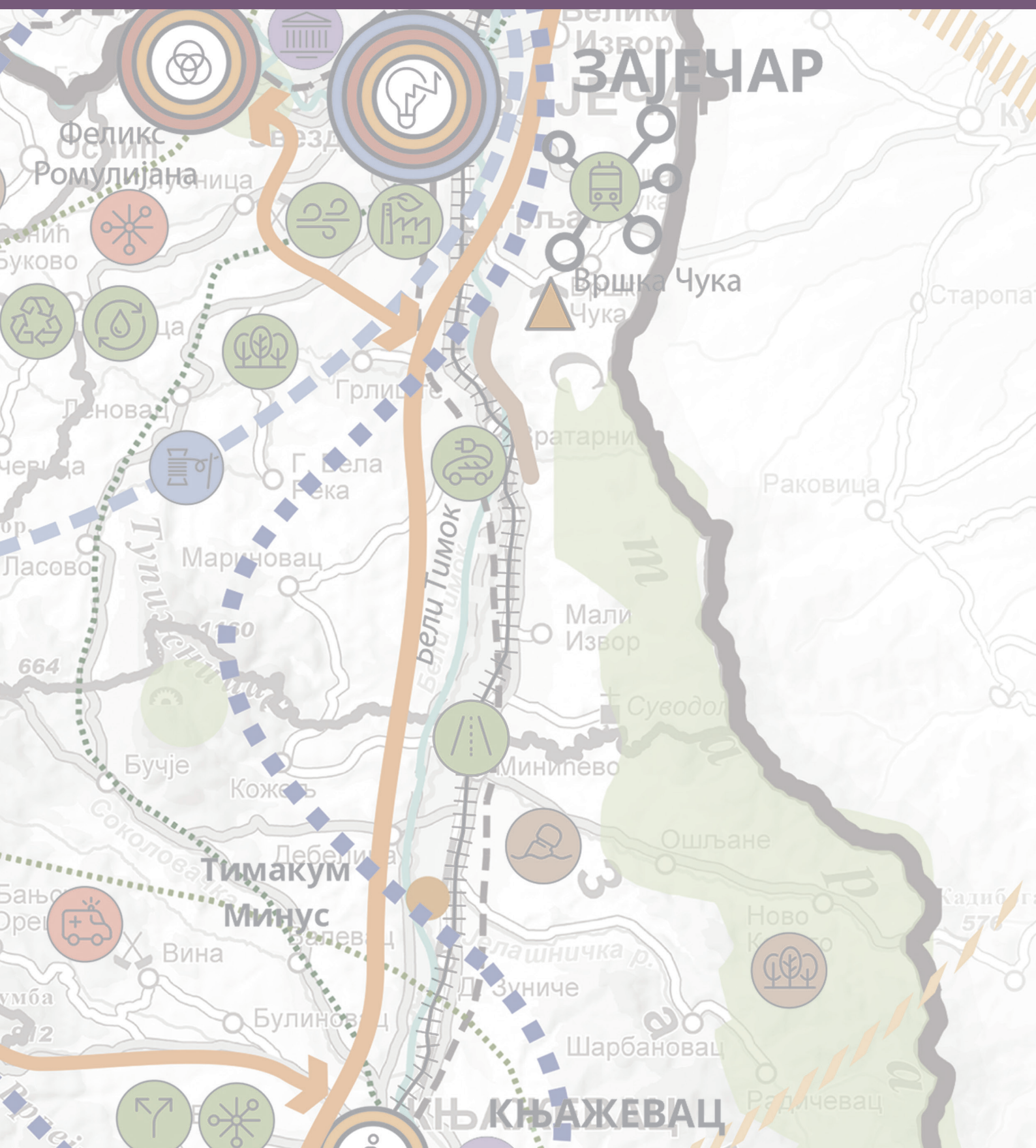


TERRITORIAL STRATEGY OF ZAJEČAR AND KNJAŽEVAC, SOKOBANJA AND BOLJEVAC URBAN AREA



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Ministry of European Integration
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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EU THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR
PRO+ LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ZAJEČAR

Dear fellow citizens,

This strategy is the foundation of our joint effort to shape the future of our local communities in a way that will ensure prosperity, sustainability and well-being for all our citizens.

Through a deep commitment to cooperation and development, this Strategy is the fruit of the joint work of our experts, institutions and, above all, our community. It is not just a planning document; rather, it is a signpost towards the realisation of our visions and ambitions for a better tomorrow.

In light of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, this Strategy has been designed to respond to the needs of our citizens, create conditions for sustainable development, encourage economic prosperity, preserve our rich culture and heritage, and improve the quality of life for all of us.

We will continue to build bridges between our cities and municipalities, strengthening connectivity and cooperation, and creating an environment where each individual can realise their full potential.

I am convinced that this Strategy, developed with the support of the European Union through the EU PRO Plus programme, will be the foundation of the success of our communities in the coming years. Thank you for working together for a better future.

Boško Ničić



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1 INTRODUCTION

The European Union programme for local development - EU PRO Plus contributes to a more balanced socio-economic development by strengthening the management of urban and territorial development, supporting economic growth and improving social cohesion in 99 local governments in two regions: Šumadija and Western Serbia and Southern and Eastern Serbia. The European Union (EU) has allocated 40 million euros through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2020 to finance this Programme, which is led by the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Relying on the results of three previous development programmes, the Programme in all its activities focuses special attention on good governance, digitalization and innovation, environmental and climate change aspects, as well as gender equality. In addition, as part of its activities, where relevant and possible, EU PRO Plus will contribute to eliminating some of the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The direct beneficiaries of the EU PRO Plus Programme are the Ministry of European Integration, 99 local self-government units (LSG), local government structures, regional development agencies (RDAs), other business support organisations, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), while the final beneficiaries of the programme are residents of 99 cities and municipalities. All programme activities are undertaken in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Serbia, while respecting national policies and priorities, in order to ensure national “ownership” of them and contribute to the development of national capacities. The EU PRO Plus programme is based on the National Priorities for International Assistance of the Republic of Serbia until 2025, which is of key importance for economic and social development and the process of European integration, where it will especially contribute to the preparations for fulfilling the requirements from Chapter 22 of the accession negotiations EU - Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments.

Direct technical assistance was provided with the aim of improving the competences of LSGs to introduce and implement an integrated approach to territorial development, in accordance with EU territorial development policies. In order to implement an integrated and sustainable approach to development planning, the Programme provided support to local governments through the development of territorial strategies. A total of 12 territories - urban areas that include 31 LSGs were selected through the Public Call for submission of applications for the development of territorial strategies.¹ The activities of the Programme included the following: a) support to interdisciplinary working groups formed for the development of strategies, in the form of advisory assistance and the organisation of training and workshops for the development of strategies, b) organisation and facilitation of stakeholder involvement (thematic round tables and workshops with experts and the general public) and citizen participation (survey,

¹ Urban areas of Bor, Kruševac, Leskovac, Loznica, Novi Pazar, Smederevo, Šabac; The urban area of the city of Kragujevac and the municipalities of Aranđelovac, Batočina, Knić, Lapovo, Rača and Topola; The urban area of the city of Zaječar and the municipalities of Boljevac, Knjaževac and Sokobanja, the urban area of the city of Niš and the municipalities of Gadžin Han, Merošina and Svrlijig; The urban area of the city of Pirot and the municipalities of Babušnica, Bela Palanka and Dimitrovgrad and the urban area of the city of Užice and the municipalities of Bajina Bašta, Čajetina, Požega and Priboj.

public forums and public hearings), v) provision of technical support for consolidation of materials and formulation of strategies, g) preparation for the press and printing of strategies, and support for strengthening transparency through the development of a website with a presentation of the strategy development process.

The time horizon foreseen for the realisation of territorial strategies is the year 2034, that is, the period that includes two programme periods of the EU Cohesion Policy.

2 APPROACH AND STEPS IN STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The goal of the Strategy is to contribute to the sustainable development of the urban area based on encouraging:

- application of an integrated and participatory approach to the development of society and economy, development of the countryside, cultural and architectural heritage, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and strengthening of urban-rural connections;
- transition to clean and fair energy, green and blue investments, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, sustainable and multimodal urban mobility;
- innovative, smart, low-carbon and circular economies, with better use of the potential of digital technologies for innovative purposes;
- strengthening the social component by implementing the European pillar of social rights in the field of employment, education, socioeconomic inclusion and integration, housing, social and health care, culture, sports and recreation, creating a stimulating environment for youth initiatives and activities, and social innovation.

The strategy sets priorities for sustainable and integrated territorial development, contributes to a more efficient pooling of funding sources and more effective use of financial resources and development of connections within and outside the environment.

The reasons for creating the Territorial strategy of the urban area are:

- encouraging sustainable and integrated development of the urban area;
- identifying the key needs of the development of the urban area;
- encouraging the effective use and improvement of urban/territorial capital management;
- the application of EU development governance instruments, which enables the establishment of a framework for sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development of the urban area by connecting the traditional system of spatial and urban planning, the planning system of public policies, the improvement of funding of urban development and the management of local public finances;
- improving the conditions for urban development in accordance with the New EU Cohesion Policy, the Paris Agreement, the EU Urban Agenda, the New Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and other EU documents;
- implementation of the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030: Measure 5.2.3 Application of EU Cohesion Policy instruments - integrated territorial investments (ITI), within the Package of measures 5.2 - Improvement of public finance management for sustainable and integrated urban development, and measure 5.3.3 Local strategies of integrated urban development within the Package of measures 5.3 - integrated planning of sustainable urban development) within the Urban Development Governance Strategic axis;
- defining the strategic framework for urban development projects;
- encouraging multi-level development governance and application of various management instruments (collaborative, command, hybrid); encouraging a multi-stakeholder

approach (economy, education, science, public and civil sector); improvement of inter-municipal cooperation; encouraging a participatory approach and involvement of local actors; encouraging mixing (blending) funding urban development from different types of funding (domestic and international); strengthening the transparency of decision-making at the level of the urban area;

- improvement of institutional and personnel capacities and governance mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategy.

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH

Integration is one of the four key elements of the integrated and sustainable territorial development (ISTD) planning approach tested within the EU PRO Plus programme. Integration has two main dimensions: spatial and thematic integration. The spatial dimension of integration, although it is important for all types of urban areas, is especially relevant for those who prepared strategies of integrated territorial investments (ITI), that is, urban areas that cover more than one LSG.

The thematic aspect of the integrated approach is a key characteristic of territorial strategies, which implies an integrated approach among different sectoral policies. Strategies can cover a wide range of policies, from different types of infrastructure, to business support, social measures or environmental investments. The instruments tested in the EU PRO Plus programme apply a multisectoral approach that goes beyond traditional sectoral policies, while supporting place-based and integrated solutions, thus enabling interconnected and cross-sectoral responses to urban challenges.

Within the EU Cohesion Policy 2021-27, the integrated approach is one of the four mandatory elements of territorial strategies, with regulations requiring “a description of an integrated approach to address the identified development needs and potential of the area”². The aforementioned approach and prescribed content of territorial strategies, defined by the new legislation of the European Commission from 2021, determined the legal basis for the adoption of this strategy, namely Articles 49 and 50 of the Law on the Planning System³. Namely, integration is a key dimension of Cohesion Policy in a broader sense, which implies not only integration between different governance levels (vertical) and different spatial levels and areas (territorial), but, most importantly, coordination between different policy areas (horizontal).

The intersectoral approach aims to overcome “silo structures”, i.e. the traditional division of functions according to sectors or policy areas, which is typically present in public administration. There are both horizontal and vertical dimensions of the intersectoral approach: horizontal refers to the relationship between departments in the same administration (e.g. in LSGs), and vertical refers to the relationship between departments in different administrations, state administration departments or other service providers. According to the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies of the Joint Research Centre of the European

² See Article 29 of the Common Provisions Regulation: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1060&from=EN>

³ Law on the Planning System of the RS (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 30/2018) <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-planskom-sistemu-republike-srbije.html>

Commission, cross-sectoral integration can be achieved by: 1) ensuring the consistency of policy-making principles and goals among different policy sectors in public administration, harmonising priorities and time frames; and 2) cooperation between different departments at all levels, in order to jointly create policies⁴.

Just as in EU Cohesion Policy, the strategies developed in the context of EU PRO Plus programme are multi-sectoral, organised under five objectives representing different thematic areas, and therefore require cross-sectoral integration. In practice, this can be supported by strong coordination structures involving stakeholders and other organisations at all stages, thus providing support for the implementation of a cross-sectoral strategy. Supported projects should contribute to the objectives of the strategy and be cross-sectoral. This requires adequate procedures, such as project eligibility and selection criteria, as these will have a major impact on how integrated the projects will be and how they will be linked to the strategy.⁵

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS

In the dynamic environment of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development, the creation and implementation of effective strategies is of key importance for ensuring the prosperity and sustainability of cities and wider urban areas. The territorial strategy traces the path for development, including various sectors such as: infrastructure, economy, environment, social protection services, etc. However, the complexity of contemporary challenges requires a collaborative approach that goes beyond LSGs. The involvement of partners - different levels of government, non-profit organisations, private companies, social groups, universities, institutes, development and research organisations, plays a key role in shaping and implementing a successful territorial strategy.

Partners in territorial strategy:

The development and implementation of a territorial strategy has enormous benefits as it involves different perspectives, expertise and resources brought by different partners. The comprehensive territorial strategy includes the following types of partners:

- **Administration:** Local (municipal, city) and national administration bodies are decisive partners because of their regulatory powers, funding resources and policy-making competences. Their participation ensures alignment with broader development goals and effective coordination of efforts.
- **Non-profit organisations:** Civil society organisations often work closely with communities, addressing social and environmental challenges. Their knowledge of the environment can help identify the specific needs, concerns and priorities of the local population.
- **Private Enterprises:** Private sector participation is vital to infrastructure development, innovation and economic growth. Partnerships with businesses can lead to investment in real estate, transportation, energy and technology, driving progress in urban areas.

⁴ Fioretti C, Pertoldi M, Busti M and Van Heerden S (2020) Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC118841>

⁵ Pertoldi M, Fioretti C, Guzzo F, Testori G, De Bruijn M, Ferry M, Kah S, Servillo L A and Windisch S (2022) Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies. <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130788>

- Academic and research institutions: Universities and research organisations contribute to intellectual capital by conducting studies, analysing data and proposing evidence-based solutions. Their research can lead to the formulation of a strategy based on sound principles.
- Community groups and citizens: Local people and community organisations ensure that the real needs of citizens are taken into account, thus creating the basis for strategies to be developed on local knowledge. The participation of local residents fosters a sense of ownership, ensures inclusiveness and increases the likelihood of successful implementation of strategies.
- International organisations: Cooperation with international organisations and cities enables learning from examples from the best world practices, access to finance and exchange of experiences. These partnerships can facilitate knowledge sharing and cross-border cooperation.

The inclusion of partners in territorial strategies has several advantages, it will improve the quality of strategy development and support its effective implementation. Therefore, partnership and participation are important prerequisites for developing a territorial strategy within the EU's Cohesion policy. Also, the New European Bauhaus initiative emphasises the added value of combining local knowledge with an interdisciplinary approach in achieving creative solutions to social problems - solutions that are inclusive, sustainable and beautiful.

Involving partners in the strategy development phase will help in:

- Problem identification: Partners contribute their expertise to comprehensively assess development challenges and opportunities. This joint effort provides a more “nuanced” understanding of the urban area.
- Data collection and analysis: Academic and research institutions, along with non-governmental organisations, can help collect and analyze data to identify trends, gaps and potential solutions.
- Stakeholder engagement: Community groups, NGOs, government and public organisations work together to engage citizens - in meetings, workshops and research. This participatory approach ensures that the strategy is aligned with the needs of those it serves.
- Establishing a strategic vision: Collaborative workshops involving different actors enable the creation of a common vision for the development of the urban area. This process ensures that the strategy reflects diverse views.
- Formulation of solutions: Drawing knowledge from different sectors, private companies, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions contribute to the proposal of innovative solutions with their ideas.

Equally important is the involvement of partners in the phase of implementing the territorial strategy. This often presents a challenge because it is easier to give an opinion or provide data than to engage in concrete activities. A common pitfall in the development of a territorial strategy is to expect activities from partners who were not involved in the development of the strategy and who do not feel engaged. Or vice versa, partners who engaged resources and knowledge in the strategy development phase were not later involved in the implementation

of activities, which leads to disappointment. The territorial strategies of the EU PRO Plus programme pay special attention to this.

The roles that partners can play in implementing the strategy are as follows:

- **Support through resources:** Partners play a key role in providing the financial resources necessary for the successful implementation of various aspects of the strategy of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development. National and local governments, their agencies and companies, private companies and international organisations allocate funds that enable the implementation of infrastructure projects, community programmes and sustainable initiatives. These resources are of vital importance for the improvement of the traffic system, the improvement of water and sewage systems, the promotion of the use of renewable energy sources and economic growth within the wider urban area.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Partners, including academic institutions and private companies, bring their expertise in technology and innovation to the fore. To face the urgent challenges of urban development, they propose innovative solutions. The application of “smart city” technology enables the optimization of city services, and solutions that include renewable energy reduce carbon emissions. Digital management platforms and data analysis systems, for example GIS, improve operational efficiency. This infusion of innovation helps create a sustainable and thriving urban area.
- **Community participation:** Partners actively engage with local communities to ensure that the strategy of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development is adapted to the specific needs and aspirations of residents. This participation process not only encourages a sense of ownership (over the process and decisions) and inclusiveness, but also helps in the realisation of targeted social and environmental projects and improves, for example, environmental awareness, waste reduction or the introduction of new green areas. Civil society organisations and advocacy groups can collaborate with the public sector to advocate for policy changes that are consistent with the strategy of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development, thereby ensuring that the principles of the strategy are incorporated into the legal framework.
- **Data-driven decision-making:** Academic institutions and research groups contribute to the implementation of the strategy by collecting, analysing and using data. This data-driven approach guides the decision-making process and allows all stakeholders to monitor progress, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions. Data analysis provides insight into the effectiveness of various initiatives, helping urban planners and policy makers to adapt and improve strategies in real time. This analytical approach ensures that the territorial strategy remains relevant and responds to the needs of a changing and evolving urban area.
- **Capacity building and collaboration:** Partners work together to build capacity among stakeholders involved in implementing the strategy. This takes place through training programmes, workshops and knowledge exchange initiatives aimed at improving the competencies of public administration employees, local community leaders and other key participants. This capacity building effort ensures that those responsible for

implementing the strategy have the understanding, knowledge and skills to apply the various instruments necessary for successful implementation. Furthermore, cross-sectoral collaboration among partners fosters a culture of collaborative problem-solving, drawing on the strengths of different actors to address complex urban challenges and promote inclusive development.

The wider urban area is a complex milieu that requires a collaborative approach to create lasting positive change. The involvement of partners in the preparation and implementation of the territorial strategy enriches that process with different views, resources and expertise. By encouraging the establishment of partnerships between the administration, non-profit organisations, private companies, academia and research institutions and various community groups, urban areas in the EU PRO Plus programme have the opportunity to develop and implement high-quality territorial strategies that will lead to a sustainable and inclusive transformation of urban areas.

2.3 APPROACH TO STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

In the development of the Strategy, a participatory and integrated approach was applied, taking into account the spatial dimension of urban and territorial development and the organisation of the process, which ensures coordination and cooperation.

The strategy starts from the topics contained in international and national policies of integrated and sustainable urban and territorial development, which are adapted to the local context of urban and territorial development in the Republic of Serbia. This was achieved by applying a participatory approach through public dialogue and inter and transdisciplinary cooperation of a wide range of actors from different sectors, professional fields and levels of administration. The applied participatory procedure is characterised by diversity (represented institutions/ participants, levels of administration, policies, disciplines, etc.), interaction using methods of consultation and active participation, and the existence of mechanisms for selection (prioritization). The purpose is to:

- identify the key needs of urban and territorial development and improve the use of urban/territorial capital;
- defines a strategic framework (for the time horizon until 2034, ie two programme periods of the European Union's Cohesion policy), which is based on management instruments and oriented towards efficient and effective implementation;
- enable an open and flexible approach to urban and territorial development governance topics in the local context, taking into account the administrative, legal, institutional framework, capacities, etc.;
- enable inter- and transdisciplinary discussion on cross-cutting urban development topics in order to overcome the limitations of the sectoral approach;
- ensure the participation of interested actors in solving key problems and challenges, identifying areas of intervention and prioritising urban development projects, as well as to enable the optimal combination of resources.

The formulation of the Strategy was carried out in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 52/2021) through the application of the principle of

gender perspective in planning and adoption of public policies in the areas of planning, traffic and infrastructure (Article 40 of the Law). The integration of the gender perspective in the process of creating the Strategy is supported by a participatory approach and communication as instruments for the representation of various interests within the local community that concern daily work, economic habits, social and cultural practices, as well as the need to access public purposes.

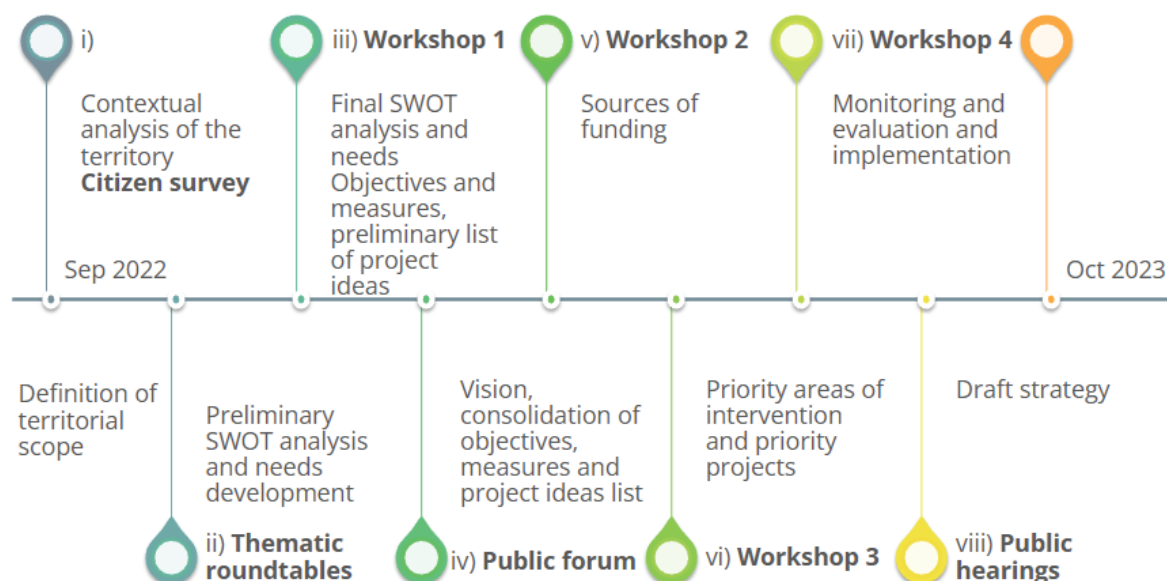
The organisation of the Strategy drafting process implies the coordination of cooperation between different sectors and levels of administration, facilitated communication with the participants of the planning process, the establishment of networks of administration and actors in the covered urban area and with the environment, as well as the involvement of the local economy, representatives of public institutions, education and science, and other relevant actors in planning and implementation of urban development programmes and projects.

2.4 STEPS IN STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The process of developing the Strategy was initiated in 2022. The formal procedure was started by signing the LSG partnership declaration for the application. This was followed by the adoption of the Decision on joining the development of the Strategy, which was followed by the Decision on the formation of the Council for the Development of the Urban Area, the Decision on the formation of a working group for the development of the strategy and the signing of the partnership agreement between LSGs. After the establishment of the institutional framework, the strategy development process began. The task was to assess needs, formulate vision, objectives and measures, and to map areas of intervention and strategic projects within an intersectoral, transparent and participatory environment with actors from different sectors.

The steps in the process of creating the Strategy were as follows (Graphic representation 1):

- 1) Contextual analysis by thematic areas;
- 2) SWOT analysis through identification of key problems of urban and territorial development and assessment of needs;
- 3) Vision, objectives and measures;
- 4) Sources of funding;
- 5) Priority areas of intervention and strategic projects;
- 6) Monitoring, evaluation, implementation of strategies and governance mechanisms.

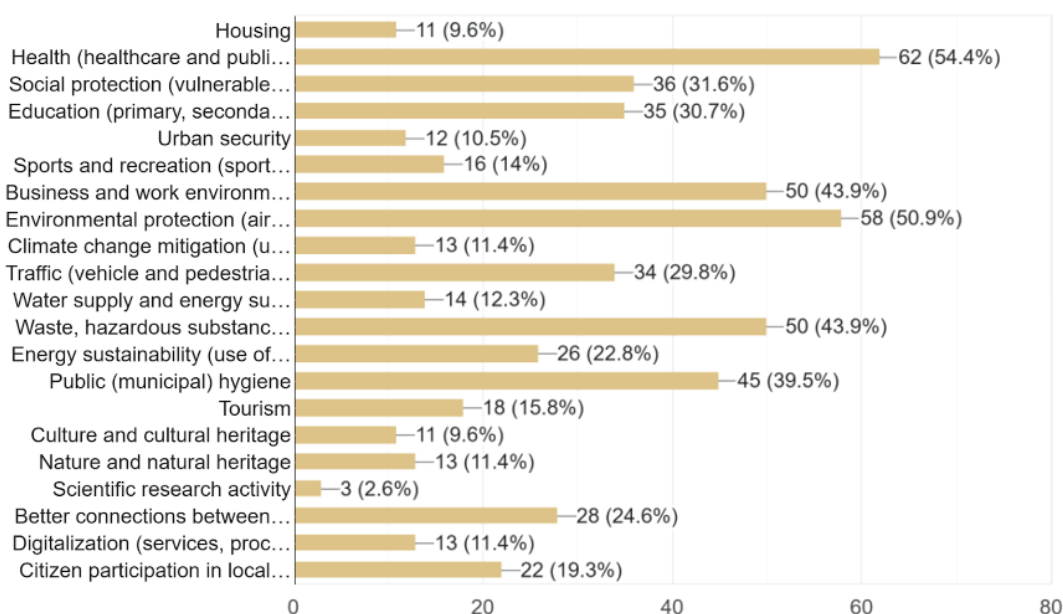
Graphic representation 1: Steps in the strategy development process

In the first step, a contextual analysis was made by thematic areas: a) Society (demography, social inclusion and social protection services, social and health infrastructure, education); b) Economy (general economic trends, labor market, business environment, tourism and culture); c) Urban environment (quality of urban structures and public spaces, quality of urban environment, exposure to environmental risks and climate risks, primary infrastructure, infrastructure for mobility and internet connectivity, urban transport, urban development governance). The analysis of the situation was followed by an online survey of citizens, the results of which were separately presented at the thematic round tables (Appendix 1).

Appendix 1: Citizen survey results

6. In which of the following areas should local government take action? (list five)

114 responses

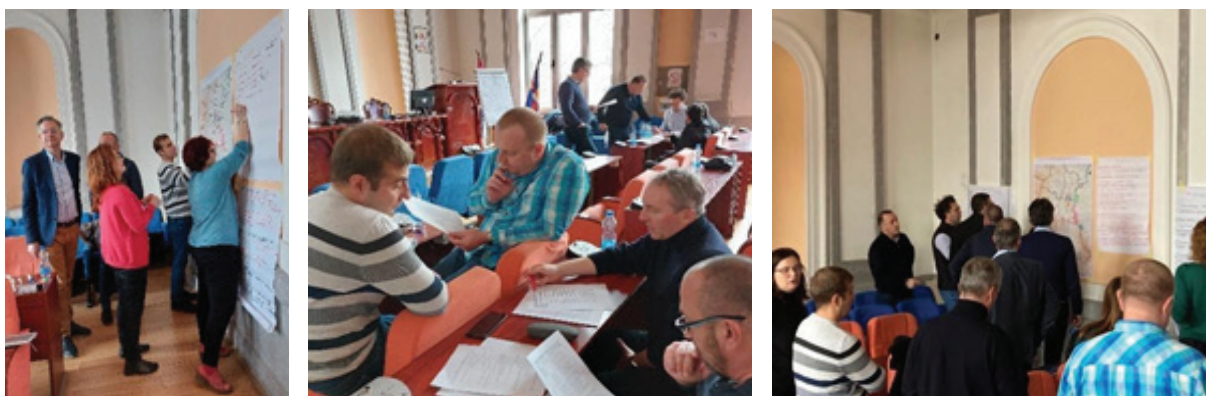


After this step, a preliminary SWOT analysis was prepared, which was presented, discussed and supplemented at the thematic round tables. Thematic round tables were held on the following topics: 1) Economic development (innovative, smart, low-carbon and circular economy); 2) Energy (clean and fair), green and blue investments; mitigating and adapting to climate change, preventing and managing risks; 3) Sustainable and multimodal urban mobility; 4) Social wellbeing - employment, education, housing, social and health care, culture, socio-economic inclusion and integration, social innovation; 5) Urban renewal and regeneration (urban structures, public spaces, etc.), development of landscape, cultural and architectural heritage, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and strengthening of urban-rural ties; and 6) Urban and territorial development governance. At the same time, the first ideas for projects and priority areas of intervention began to be recorded at the thematic round tables, for which the mapping technique was used.



Picture 1: *Thematic round tables - presentation of contextual analysis, SWOT, project proposals, Zaječar National Museum, 30 and 31 January 2023*

In the next step, after inputting all the participants' comments and consolidating the material, a final SWOT analysis was prepared with a needs assessment, as well as a proposal of objectives and measures, which was discussed and verified at the first workshop with members of the Development Council and Working Group.



Picture 2: *Objectives and measures workshop, Zaječar City Assembly, 3 April 2023*

The summarised results were presented at the Citizens' Forum, which followed. On that occasion, the participants of the forum gave proposals for the formulation of the vision of the development of the urban area, supplementation and reformulation of measures and

objectives. At the forum, the proposal of the area of intervention was discussed and additional proposals of ideas for projects were given. The meeting opened with an exhibition of children's drawings by elementary school students on the topic "My city/territory in the future", and the participants evaluated the children's works. At the end of the forum, the best children's works were awarded with awards and commemorative books.



Picture 3: Citizens' forum - vision, objectives and measures, project proposals, exhibition of children's drawings, Dom kulture Kotlujevac, Zaječar, 18 May 2023

At the next workshop on sources of funding for urban and territorial development, national and international sources of funding for urban and territorial development in Serbia were presented in detail. The participants of the workshop pointed to some other national funding sources, and expressed their satisfaction with the latest review of the possibilities for using various funds, donations, loans, etc. The prepared material in a broader version was delivered to all local and regional partners of the EU PRO Plus programme in all 99 LSGs.

At the third workshop in a row, mapped priority areas of intervention and consolidated strategic projects were presented. Here, too, after discussion with local partners, the materials were corrected and supplemented.



Picture 4: Workshop on priority areas of intervention and strategic projects, Zaječar City Assembly Hall, 19 July 2023

The last in a series of workshops was held on the topic of monitoring, evaluation, strategy implementation and governance mechanisms. It took place with a lively discussion on the necessary development of institutional capacities and considering the possibility of establishing a project coordination unit.

The prepared material of the Draft Strategy was presented at a public hearing, which took place in the form of a presentation and discussion, and submission of suggestions and objections by the public. After correcting the draft strategy in relation to the submitted suggestions and remarks, the material was sent to the assembly for adoption.



Picture 5: *Public presentation, Zaječar City Assembly Hall, 9 November 2023*

After its adoption, the important task of implementing the Strategy awaits the city and professional institutions in the field of urban and territorial development. Similar to international experiences, this Urban area territorial strategy aims to establish more effective and efficient funding of urban and territorial development.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRITORY

Urban areas in the Republic of Serbia are defined through the system of urban centres in the Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 and the report on the strategic environmental impact assessment of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035. Cities - centres of urban areas that can establish urban areas for the purposes of testing the application of the mechanism of integrated territorial investments (ITI) are defined by the Guidelines for applicants within the Public Call for submitting applications for the development of territorial strategies within the EU PRO Plus programme through two sets of criteria:

Basic criteria

- a) That the local self-government units (LSGs) are classified as an urban area - an integration centre of more than 100,000 inhabitants, or an urban area - an integration centre of more than 40,000 inhabitants as defined in the system of urban centres in the Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to in 2035 and the report on the strategic environmental impact assessment of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035,
and in the case of the wider territory:
- b) They fulfill the condition of spatial continuity of the territory,
- c) Ensure partnership with at least three (3) LSGs, which is confirmed by signing the application partnership statement and the partnership agreement between the LSGs, and
- d) Ensure partnership with the Regional Development Agency (RDA) covering the territory in question.

Additional criteria

- a) Capacities of the applicant to apply instruments of territorial development,
 - 1) Existence of internal institutional capacities, i.e. capacities for urban planning within the department, institute or public enterprise of the LSG; local offices for economic development or other similar capacities; departments/institutions for social and environmental issues, etc.
 - 2) Experience in similar actions - in implementing participatory processes, applying new methods and innovative approaches in urban development and related projects funded by the EU
- b) Socio-economic and spatial characteristics
 - 1) in the case of a narrower territory: industrial/business and commercial zones and brownfield locations: illegally built and undeveloped peripheral city zones (areas of uncontrolled expansion of urban settlements) and degradation of rural areas; endangered urban structures and central city zones; parts of urban settlements with a concentration of social problems - social inclusion and poverty reduction; settlements or parts of settlements exposed to problems of environmental protection and climate change; spatial entities with cultural and architectural heritage, important features

of the cultural and historical development of an urban settlement/group of urban settlements and

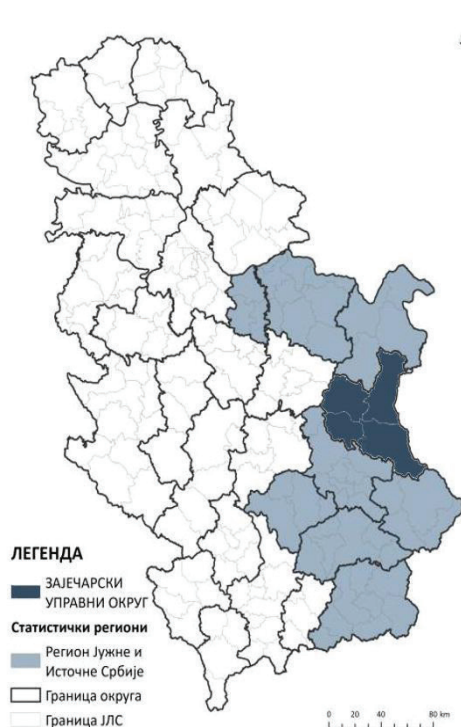
2) in the case of a wider territory: common characteristics – important infrastructure corridors, geography, morphology, industrial capacities; endogenous potential; common needs, problems and challenges and common development plans and initiatives.

c) Experience in partnerships (in the case of a wider territory)

1) Relevant partnerships established for the implementation of similar or related initiatives in the previous period, which can represent the foundations for the establishment of governance mechanisms that will ensure the implementation of the territorial strategy.

4 TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

From a physical-geographic point of view, the Zaječar region, i.e. the urban area of Zaječar includes the greater part of the Timok basin, the zone of its hilly and mountainous hinterland and the upper and middle part of the Sokobanjska Moravica basin. It is located between the Bor region in the north, the Republic of Bulgaria in the east, the Niš and Pirot regions in the south, and the Pomoravlje region in the west (Graphic representation 2). This area is characterised by a large height amplitude, i.e. it extends in height zones from 108 masl (exit of Veliki Timok from the territory of Zaječar) to 2070 masl (part of Stara planina on the territory of Knjaževac municipality).



Graphic representation 2: Position of the Urban Area (source of spatial data: Republic Geodetic Authority, GeoSrbija, 2023)

The observed area administratively belongs to Central Serbia, i.e. Eastern and Southern Serbia (NUTS 2 region). The urban settlement of Zaječar represents the geographical, administrative, economic, political and cultural center of the Zaječar region. The functional-hierarchical structure of the centers is defined by the valid Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia⁶ designates Zaječar as a center of regional importance, with a functional urban area of regional importance, which includes the entire territory of the LSG. According to the Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035⁷ it is classified as an urban area with an influence zone with more than 40,000 inhabitants. The network of urban settlements in eastern Serbia indicates the priority role of Zaječar and Bor, but also the possible greater role of Negotin, Kladovo, Majdanpek or Knjaževac in the case of their clearer economic orientation directed towards more modern forms of sustainable industrial production, tourism and other compatible activities. The functional

⁶ Spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2010 to 2020 (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 88/2010)

⁷ Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 (2021)

networking of these urban centers into developing regions, for the sake of greater possibility of realising regional projects, should attract people and funds to this part of the Republic of Serbia rich in resources and cultural and biological diversity.

In the economic and geographical sense, it has a relatively unfavorable position, i.e. it is characterised by a significant distance from the larger centers in our country. It is understood direct referral to the urban settlement of Zaječar itself, which is 251 km from Belgrade, 99 km from Niš, as the nearest town with a larger population than Zaječar, 90 km from Paraćin, as the nearest center in the Velika Morava valley. The border position towards Bulgaria (near the Vrška Čuka border crossing), as well as the proximity to the triple border of Bulgaria, Romania (both countries are members of the EU) and Serbia, are significant components of the position of the observed area. National roads of the IB order and sections of single-track railways form the basis of the traffic-geographical position and from the regional aspect make it favorable (Graphic representation 3).



Graphic representation 3: *Traffic connectivity of the urban area (source of spatial data: Map of state roads, PE "Roads of Serbia", 2022; Register of spatial units)*

The natural characteristics of the Urban area are very specific and determine the location of the settlement, the structure of activities, but also the accessibility to nearby or distant centers of development. A network of river valleys with permanent watercourses is formed between the mountains, while the sides of the river valleys and mountain slopes are dissected by a complex of shallow valley forms (ravines, gullies, etc.) created by occasional or periodic watercourses. The larger rivers (Veliki, Beli and Crni Timok) have extensive valley bottoms with alluvial plains that reach a width of over 1,000m, except for the gorge narrowing sections of those valleys (Jablanička Gorge and Baba Jona Gorge in the Crni Timok valley, Vratarnička Gorge of Beli Timok, Veliki Timok Gorge downstream of Zaječar). Of particular importance is the

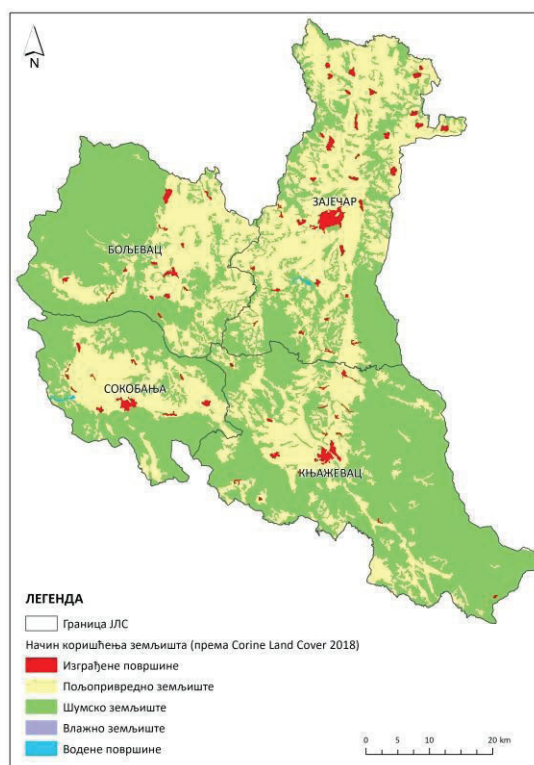
karst complex of morpho-hydrological phenomena represented in Kučaj, Rtanj and Tupižnica. The specific origin and complex geological composition of this area caused the existence of significant hydrogeological properties on the territory of the Urban Area. The degree of arrangement and capacity utilization of thermomineral springs varies widely. From a high level of arrangement, utilization and tourist valorization (Sokobanja and partially Gamzigradska spa, which were recognised by the decrees of the Government of the Republic of Serbia as official spa places) to almost completely neglected (Nikoličevski Izvor). Hydrological phenomena of importance for the economy, but also the state of the environment, are certainly represented by four artificial reservoirs (Lake Rgotsko, Grliško lake, Sovinsko lake - Sovinac, Bovansko lake, as well as the planned Bogovina reservoir) and the flow of the Bela Reka (with the Borska River as one of the rivers - a component).

The specificities of the climate of the Urban area are very visible. Two climatic regions are distinguished here: the Krajina region, which includes the Timočki Basin and Negotinska Krajina and which is characterised by the greatest continental climate in Serbia. In it, the average annual amplitudes and the greatest number of anticyclonic weather situations are most pronounced, especially in the winter months. That is why it is colder in the winter, and the duration of the snow cover is longer than in other lowland (valley and basin) parts of Serbia; and the Sokobanja-Knjaževac climate region, which includes the Sokobanja, Svrljig and Knjaževac valleys. It represents a zone of moderate continental climate with hotter summers and milder winters, as well as a lower amount of precipitation compared to the climates of the Carpathian and Stara Planina climate regions. In the last decade, the climate has changed significantly. Its variations are present, which indicate that there is no longer a precise period of time in which winter or summer lasts, as it was before. Now the summer months are extremely hot with daytime temperatures reaching up to 40°C, while the nights are cool on average. Due to the difference in day and night temperatures during the summer, in dry and hot summers, the climate in this region increasingly takes on the characteristics of a desert climate. Winters are mild and with little precipitation, but in some periods the temperature drops to over 15°C below zero. In the Urban area, winds similar to košava blow, mostly from the northeast, while occasionally winds blow from the direction of the Carpathians and Stara Planina. Winds are most common in spring and autumn. Hail occurs rarely. During the year, total precipitation amounts to an average of 560 mm.

The larger basins (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja, etc.) and the valleys of the largest watercourses (Timok system and Sokobanjska Moravica) are covered with fertile soil of accumulative origin, and it was there that favorable conditions were formed for the development of various branches of agriculture, which was achieved to a considerable extent. Forest land to the greatest extent surrounds the agricultural areas in the territory of this area, that is, it is most represented in the peripheral areas (at higher altitudes) of local self-government units. To a certain extent, parts of southern Kučaj (western part of Boljevac LSG), Rtanj and Tupižnica (central parts of the Urban Area), as well as the northernmost part of the Stara Planina range (southeast of Zaječar LSG and east of Knjaževac LSG) can be recognized.

There are 173 settlements on the territory of the Urban Area (Boljevac 20, Zaječar 42, Knjaževac 86, Sokobanja 21). According to the 2011 census, the degree of urbanization of the Urban area as a whole recorded growth (56.3%), mainly due to the decrease in the total number of

inhabitants (in the intercensal period 2001-2011). The number of dwarf settlements recorded a sudden increase (as many as 20 new dwarf settlements, a total of 51 dwarf settlements or almost a third of the total number of settlements which concentrate only 2.1% of the total population), with the fact that almost all of them are located on the territory of the LSG of the municipality of Knjaževac. According to the data of the Population Census conducted in 2011, no settlement of the Urban Area belongs to the category of very large villages. According to the data of the 2011 census, large rural settlements are located only on the territory of Zaječar Local Government Area, in the immediate vicinity of urban settlements (Veliki Izvor and Grljan). All settlements, except the centers of LSGs, are de facto rural, in official statistics they are classified as other. Rural settlements arose spontaneously (freely, without administrative and planning influence) on terrains of different topography, and depending on that, they formed different morphological types of broken and compacted settlements. Data from 2002 indicate a relatively intensive process of functional transformation of a large number of rural settlements. However, these settlements are mostly concentrated in the central parts of LSGs (in the vicinity of LSG centers), as well as along the main roads, which indicates their great development importance. The settlements in the extreme western and southeastern parts of the Urban Area remain largely excluded from this process, as well as the central area that coincides with the massif of the Tupižnica mountain and its slopes. Functional transformation in most settlements does not take place “in the normal way”, that is, with the actual transition of a certain number of inhabitants from primary to secondary or tertiary-quaternary activities. The data of the census conducted in 2011 largely indicate the opposite trend, that is, the transformation of a large number of settlements towards the agrarian type or one of its subtypes.



Graphic representation 4: Land use (source of spatial data: Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, 2022; Republic Geodetic Authority, 2020)

The average area of agricultural land per agricultural holding in the Urban area is 0.37 hectares less than the national average, while the largest number of households own between 2 and 5 hectares of agricultural land. LSGs Boljevac and Sokobanja deviate in a positive sense from the average of the Urban area and the Republic, because the largest number of agricultural households own between 5 and 10 hectares of agricultural land. The average area of land per agricultural holding of LSG Zaječar is approximately 5 hectares. The smallest property is represented in the territory of Knjaževac LSG, which is almost two hectares smaller than the national average. The total area under arable land and gardens is 61.17% in the Urban area. Just over half of the area of arable land and gardens on the territory of Boljevac LSG is under different types of cereals (51.86%), while Knjaževac LSG leads the way with 64.91%. The share of areas under orchards in the total area of agricultural land in the Urban Area (4.26%) is slightly lower than the national average (4.75%). On the territory of LSG Boljevac, this share is only 1.99%, while on the territory of LSG Zaječar and Sokobanja, it is 3.2% and 3.06%, respectively. Compared to the Republic (0.64%), this share is almost twice as large (1.17%) in the Urban area. Viticulture is largely concentrated in the eastern parts of the Urban Area (Valleys of Beli and Veliki Timok). With 0.3% and 0.36% respectively, LSGs Boljevac and Sokobanja are far below the republican average and the Urban area average. On the other hand, this share is 1.5% in the territory of Zaječar LSG, and in Knjaževac LSG (which is located on the Roman wine route), this share is as much as 2.3% (Graphic display 4).

The economy of the urban area is burdened by numerous problems that are a consequence of the process of transitional recession and changes in the wider environment, and which are reflected in the polarization and concentration of the development process. The key problems stemmed from an insufficiently competitive economy, the untransformed existing economic structure, the slowness of the transition process in privatization, restructuring and reorganisation of state-owned enterprises. The following problems are particularly pronounced: relatively low level of overall economic activity; slowing down of economic growth; considerable intra-regional spatial unevenness in the level of development and distribution of economic capacities; low level of investments; high level of unemployment (33.1%) and social tensions; low level of education, low level of economic competitiveness; lag in the application of factors of technical progress (innovation, know-how, new technologies); ineffective use of material inputs (raw materials, energy, technological water, construction land, etc.) and others. Key problems of economic development can include extreme depopulation, imbalance between age, migration, qualification, education and structure of the able-bodied population, as well as problems of insufficient infrastructural equipment of economic locations and areas, and others.

5 CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

5.1 SOCIETY

5.1.1 Demographics

According to the data from the 2022 census, a total of 97,748 inhabitants live in the territory of the Urban Area of the City of Zaječar and the municipalities of Knjaževac, Boljevac and Sokobanja (hereinafter: the Urban Area), of which 48,621 inhabitants live in Zaječar, 25,429 in Knjaževac, 10,373 in Boljevac and 13,325 in Sokobanja. Looking at the data from the 2011 census, when 119,967 inhabitants lived in the Urban Area, a decrease of as much as 18.52% is evident over the past 11 years. The most pronounced decline in population was in Boljevac, amounting to 20.17% (2011 - 12,994 inhabitants), followed by Knjaževac, where there was a decline of 19.24% (2011 - 31,491 inhabitants), Zaječar, where there was a 18.23% decline (2011 - 59,461 inhabitants) and Sokobanja, where there was a 16.83% decline (2011 - 16,021 inhabitants). Regarding the ethnic composition in the Urban area, according to the Census in 2011, the majority were Serbs, 87.72%, followed by Vlachs, 5.21%, Roma, 1.7%, and others, 4.73%.

The decrease in the population is influenced by the birth rate, negative natural increase, as well as pronounced migration of the population. According to the estimate for the year 2021, the rate of live births in the Urban area is 6, the rate of deaths is 29, while the rate of natural increase is -23. Migration of the population in the entire Urban area, and in particular in LSG Zaječar is very pronounced. The reasons for the departure of the population are mainly of an economic nature. A part of the population consists of the emigrated workforce on temporary work abroad (so-called economic emigration), in addition to which, unfortunately, there is also permanent emigration to other parts of the country, especially the larger urban centers of Belgrade, Niš and Novi Sad. There is another dimension of migration - from the village to the city, which continues for many years. The result of such migrations are derelict and aging rural households, even in villages that have an outstanding position and good preconditions for development. In 2021, the estimated number of immigrated population is 1,685, while the number of emigrants is 1,753.

The area of the Urban area is 3,624 km², with a total of 175 settlements, while the average population density is 28 inhabitants/km². However, there is a marked difference in the percentage of population of urban and rural areas in Zaječar, Knjaževac and Boljevac. In the urban settlement of Zaječar live 64.1% of the total number of inhabitants, while in the villages that percentage amounts to only 35.81%. The population density in the urban settlement of Zaječar is as high as 393 inhabitants/km², while in the villages it is only 22 inhabitants/km². On the other hand, 45.3% of all residents of LSG Sokobanja live in urban settlements, while the remaining 54.7% of the total population lives in 24 villages. The average population density in LSG Sokobanja is 35.4 inhabitants/km². According to the 2022 census, the total number of households in the Urban area is 37,922, of which 18,789 are in Zaječar municipality, 4,229 in Boljevac, 5,209 in Sokobanja, and 9,695 in Knjaževac.

In the age structure of the population aged 18-64, the working age population predominates with 57%. The participation of as much as 29% of the population over 65 years of age and

twice as low, only 14% of the population under 17 years of age is worrying. The age structure of the population is particularly bad in rural areas, where the aging process of the village is particularly pronounced. Some remote mountain villages are on the way to extinction, and in some villages there are no more inhabitants. Existing social indicators are also negative and indicate that is the largest number of households with two members (26%) in city/urban settlements, i.e. 29% in rural areas, with three-member households 29% in urban areas and 15% in rural areas, and the number of single-member households is particularly worrying, which is 21% in urban areas and even 28% in rural areas. The largest number of families have one child, a total of 59.5% of the total number, while the number of families with two children is 35.7%. The number of marriages concluded in 2021 is 373, and the number of divorced marriages, which is almost half the number and amounts to 152, is of particular concern.

5.1.2 Social inclusion and social protection

Average salary of inhabitants

The average salary of employees without taxes and contributions in the Urban area in 2021 was RSD 54,258, which is about 82% of the national average, which was RSD 65,864, although it is recorded constantly salary increase in the last three years: 2019 - 45,971 RSD, 2020 - 50,255 RSD. The difference in earnings is particularly pronounced between urban settlements where wages are higher and rural settlements where wages are significantly lower. There are also noticeable differences in earnings between LSGs in the Urban area. The biggest average salary is in Zaječar and amounts to RSD 56,615, followed by RSD 55,670 in Boljevac, RSD 52,990 in Sokobanja, and the lowest average salary is in Knjaževac and amounts to RSD 49,462.

Social protection services

Social protection services provided to users are diverse, but not the same throughout the Urban area. Most of the services provided are home help, exercising the right to material support, exercising the right to social protection services and other rights. In addition to these services provided by the Center for Social Work, users are provided with other types of help and support through the Soup Kitchen, the Red Cross and the non-governmental sector. In 2020, the total expenditures of users of budget funds for social protection in the Urban area amounted to RSD 611,025,000, i.e. 5% of the total budget, which is RSD 5,855 per inhabitant. The amount per inhabitant is lower than the national average, which is RSD 6,238. The total number of beneficiaries of social protection on the records of the Center for Social Work in 2021 is 11,641, of which women are more represented than men, 5,868 women and 5,773 men. The share of social protection beneficiaries in the total population is 11.4% and is higher than the national average of 10%.

The largest number of services with the largest number of users are provided in the Zaječar LSG, where the largest budget funds are allocated for help at home, housing in sheltered conditions and a club for the elderly. The need of the residents of the Zaječar LSG for social protection services is reflected in: the expansion of the Service for the provision of home help services for adults and the elderly, especially in the countryside; the increased number of requests for exercising the right to home help services; Counseling center for marriage and family - the reception office of CSW Zaječar is contacted daily by persons interested in the

counseling center for marriage, which has not been functioning for over 20 years; Counseling center for victims of violence - based on the number of reports for domestic violence (children, adults and elderly persons) filed for the current and previous year, an increase of over 60% is observed; Home for the elderly; Child personal companion service (in the phase of obtaining a license); Personal assistant service; Expanding the capacity of the Daycare service for children and young people with developmental disabilities. The most important services for LSG Knjaževac with the largest number of users are Home help for the elderly and people with disabilities and Home help for children with developmental disabilities. Both services are provided in urban areas and villages. In addition to these services, other measures are implemented, such as free public transportation on the territory of LSGs, free meals for school children, and free preparatory classes for enrollment in secondary schools. There are a total of 1,430 beneficiaries of social protection in LSG Boljevac, with a share of social protection expenditures of 5%, i.e. 23.5 million RSD. In Sokobanja LSG, it is necessary to improve the quality of services and ensure that services are provided in accordance with standards. In 2020 the total number of beneficiaries of social protection on the records of the Center for Social Work was 3,097, which is 22.5% of the total population. In addition to the existing services, there is an obvious need to introduce new services: Counseling centers for young people, Shelter for up to 30 days for people in a state of social need, Day care for people with developmental disabilities and Family counseling center.

Endangered zones, security

In the urban area, it is not possible to single out areas that are unsafe, that is, in which certain groups of the population do not feel welcome. There is no data that indicate the connection of the crime rate with other social aspects - ethnicity, migration, poverty, social exclusion etc. In the Sokobanja LSG, in 2021, the number of juvenile perpetrators of criminal offenses pronounced criminal sanctions according to the place of execution was 1, the number of legally convicted adults according to the place of execution was 98, while the number of legally convicted adults for theft according to the place of execution of the criminal offense was 20.

5.1.3 Housing

Housing offer

The total number of apartments in 2022 in the Urban area is 68,408, of which: in Zaječar 29,198 apartments, in Knjaževac 18,310, in Boljevac 8,625 and in Sokobanja 12,275 apartments.

There is a surplus of housing space in the rural settlement of Zaječar LSG, and according to experience after several tenders for the purchase of houses in the countryside, the houses do not have resolved property-legal relations and statuses in the Real Estate Cadastre. There are no substandard settlements. For LSG Zaječar, it can be stated that, in general, there is an excess of residential buildings in relation to the number of inhabitants. The last social apartments were built in the early 2000s while the housing construction fund still existed. Despite the rise in prices and mass construction on the market, the demand for real estate is higher in the urban settlement of Zaječar. In 2020, 49 apartments were built in private ownership, with a total area of 3557 m². In the urban settlement of Zaječar, there is a designated plot of land for apartments for members of the security services at Vanjin Jaz. The trend of building individual residential

buildings, buildings with a small number of apartments, and private investors, for the market is present in the territory of LSGs. According to the 2011 census, the total area of inhabited apartments was 1,503,413 m² in relation to the number of inhabitants in 2011 (59,230), the average housing space per inhabitant was 25.4 m². The average area of apartments in Zaječar LSG is 51 m². There is no precise or even approximate data on the number of social housing. Many apartments that were purchased a long time ago and are privately owned are in the Real Estate Cadastre registered as a social one, because the owners have not implemented the procedure for changing ownership.

In LSG Knjaževac, the surplus of housing space occurs in rural settlements. Substandard settlements in LSGs are two Roma settlements in Knjaževac and Minićevo. The trend of construction for the needs of tourist accommodation is present in settlements from Kalna to Babin Zub, due to the evident development of tourism on Stara Planina.

Offers for the sale of real estate are rare in LSG Boljevac, and demand has increased. There are no apartments for sale nor there is construction of new apartments. There are three zones that are substandard settlements: Gaj, Bogovina and Lukovo. There are social apartments under the jurisdiction of LSGs, currently only one person is placed in a social housing facility.

The supply and demand for houses and apartments has significantly intensified in the urban settlement of Sokobanja in recent years, primarily the construction of apartments for resale. Most of these apartments are empty during the off-season. The number of apartments built in the area of Sokobanja has been increasing in the last five years, from 40 apartments, which were built in 2016, to 108 apartments, which were built in 2020. There are 3 apartments in the LSG that are registered as social apartments. The share in the total housing stock is statistically completely negligible.

The price of housing

According to data for the first half of 2022, the average price of an apartment per square meter at the national level was RSD 200,989, while the average price in the Urban area is significantly lower. In Zaječar LSG, in the same period, the average price was RSD 74,227 per m², which represents an increase compared to the second half of 2021, in Boljevac was RSD 75,458, and the highest prices for residential space were in Sokobanja and amounted to RSD 115,541 per m². According to information, the average price per square meter of an apartment in Knjaževac LSG amounts 300 to 500€/m². Although the price is low, it is not affordable for the population.

Illegal construction

The number of illegally constructed buildings in the Urban area is quite large, amounting to around 35,000. About 22,000 legalization cases have been initiated in the Zaječar LSG, often two or more buildings on the same plot. The trend of illegal construction is decreasing because the legalization of buildings is also being carried out at the same time. In the Knjaževac LSG, the legalization procedure has been initiated so far for about 9,000 owners of illegally built buildings, who have one or more buildings for legalization. 1,100 illegal buildings have been registered in the Boljevac LSG, of which around 473 buildings have been legalised so far. According to submitted requests for legalization, the number of illegal buildings in the

Sokobanja LSG is 2,460. Requirements for legalization apply to both parts of buildings and auxiliary buildings.

5.1.4 Social standard facilities

Social infrastructure

Among the institutions of social protection in the urban settlement of Zaječar are: Day center for children and youth with developmental disabilities “Oblutak” (financed from the budget and apartments for socially vulnerable persons within the service “housing in protected conditions”), the Red Cross Zaječar, the Soup Kitchen, and more than 10 civil society organisations, i.e. citizens’ associations that implement some segment of social protection in their programmes. In the urban settlement, there is a pronounced lack of places in kindergartens, currently 110 children are on the waiting list.

In the urban settlement of Knjaževac, there are four social welfare institutions: the Center for Social Work “Dr. Mihajlo Stupar”, the Gerontology Center, the private Home for the Elderly “Vila Katarina” and the Institute for the Education of Children and Youth. Free suburban and urban public transportation is provided for the transportation of service users living in the countryside.

In the urban settlement of Boljevac, there is a lack of a day care center for the elderly and a home for students, there is no private sector in the municipality that deals with the provision of such services.

In addition to the Center for Social Work in the urban settlement of Sokobanja there is also a Shelter for up to 30 days stay for people in a state of social need and a Day care center for people with developmental disabilities. For now, the private sector does not meet the needs in this area.

Health infrastructure

Social care for the health of the population at the level of the Urban area is carried out in accordance with national policies and programmes of health care and public health. In Zaječar, there is the Timok Public Health Institute for Zaječar and Bor districts, which has been modernised with the opening of a PCR laboratory.

Health care is organised on two levels, primary and secondary, which are interconnected and cooperate in providing health care to citizens. The total number of doctors in the Urban area is 350, that is, 3.4 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, which is more than the national average of 3.0 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants.

There are no deficiencies in the primary and secondary health infrastructure in Zaječar LSG. There is a health center, hospital and village clinics that are in poor condition and without permanent doctors, as well as a significant number of private dental and medical practices and laboratories (27) and pharmacies in the urban area. Reconstruction of health care facilities in terms of energy rehabilitation is needed. The project documentation for the gerontological center within the health center in Zaječar was prepared. Project documentation for the extension and reconstruction of the Kotlujevac health clinic in Zaječar and project

documentation for the construction of the Health Center complex in Zaječar is currently being prepared. Free transportation from the village to the place where clinics and Health Center is located is provided by suburban and city public transportation. Specialised transportation is available for dialysis purposes. The outflow of medical personnel, poor road infrastructure to rural settlements and insufficient fleet of Health Centers make it difficult to provide preventive health care and help at home for the elderly and people with disabilities in rural areas.

In Knjaževac LSG, primary health care is organised and implemented by the Health Center, while secondary health care is implemented in the General Hospital, which together form the Knjaževac Health Center. The Knjaževac Health Center also has 2 outpatient clinics in rural municipalities (Minićevo and Kalna). There are two privately owned polyclinics in Knjaževac, and there are plans to open another polyclinic, as well as 5 dental surgeries. Free transportation from the village to places where clinics and the Health Center is located is provided by suburban and city public transportation. There is no specialised transport.

In LSG Boljevac, almost all local communities lack primary health care facilities. The LSG organises the provision of primary health care in several settlements with its own funds. There is no private sector providing health care services.

In the urban settlement of Sokobanja there are a total of 3 health institutions, namely the Health Center, the Special Hospital for Lung Diseases "Ozren" and the Special Hospital "Sokobanja". In addition, there are 2 more village clinics. There is a need for reconstruction of buildings and additional equipment. On the territory of the LSG, there is organised free transportation for all categories of the population in accordance with the Concession Agreement.

Educational infrastructure

The number of preschool education institutions in the Urban area in 2021 is 4, with a total of 36 facilities. The coverage of children aged 0 - 3 years in pre-school upbringing and education is 31.4%, which is slightly less than the national average (34.3%), while the coverage of children aged 3 years until starting preschool is 60.3%, which is less than the national average (65.8%). Out of a total of 2,300 admitted children, 2,131 are from urban settlements, while only 169 are from other settlements.

There are 18 primary (main) schools in the Urban area, 10 of which are in urban settlements, and 8 in other settlements, with a total of 64 regional branches. The net rate of inclusion in primary education is 91.6%, which is lower than the national average of 93.7%. There are a total of 8 secondary schools, with a secondary school graduation rate of 84.8%, which is slightly lower than the national average of 86%.

In Zaječar, pre-school education is organised and implemented in the "Đulići" Children's Institution. This institution carries out its activity by implementing educational, preventive health and social work programmes with children of preschool age. It has seven purpose-built facilities, dispersed in the town and villages of Grljan and Veliki Izvor. Children who attend primary school acquire this type of education in 40 school facilities, namely 11 elementary schools and 23 regional branches (which are part of those schools). There are five eight-year schools, a special school for primary and secondary education and a school in the urban settlement for elementary music education, while the remaining eight-year schools are located

in rural areas. For the needs of secondary education, four secondary schools were formed: Gymnasium, Economic and Trade School, Medical School and Technical School. There is a need to open new dual education programmes in tourism and economy. Since 1997, there has been a Faculty of Management in Zaječar for the needs of higher education. The preparation of project documentation for the legalisation procedure of the High School Center building in Zaječar, project documentation for the reconstruction of the High School Center building and project documentation for the extension of certain High School Center buildings is underway. There is a need for new higher education institutions and faculty research bases.

In Knjaževac, all buildings of primary (5) and secondary (2) schools were reconstructed and equipped. There are no private schools, no higher education institutions. Preschool education and education at the territory of the LSG is realised for children aged 6 months until starting school and is realised in the “Bajka” Preschool Institution, which includes 4 kindergartens and 3 educational groups in separate classes. Network of public primary schools at the territories of LSGs comprise four elementary schools, one of which is for students with behavioral disorders, as well as one school for elementary music education and upbringing. Functional basic education of adults in the first, second and third cycles are also realised in one elementary school. In addition to the main schools, there are 12 school branches in rural settlements where classes are held. There are two secondary schools in the LSG: Knjaževačka Gymnasium, with majors: natural-mathematical, language and general majors and Technical School (secondary vocational school) with 5 areas of work: mechanical engineering and metal processing; textile and leather industry; geodesy and civil engineering; trade, catering and tourism and economy, law and administration. Educational profiles are generally in line with the needs of the labor market.

An organised form of preschool upbringing and education takes place in the preschool institution “Naša radost”. The institution has facilities in Boljevac and Lukovo and preparatory preschool groups in regional schools in 10 settlements. The facilities do not meet the needs in relation to the contingent of children.⁸

The existing network of primary schools in LSG Boljevac meets the needs. The network of primary schools consists of three main schools (in the settlements of Boljevac, Podgorac and Sumrakovac) and regional four-year school branches (in the settlements of Bačevica, Valakonje, Ilino, Jablanica, Krivi Vir, Dobrujevac, Dobro polje, Mali izvor, Rujište, Lukovo, Rtanj, Bogovina, Podgorac-Timok, Savinac, Osnić-Timok, Osnić selo, Osnić-Bukovo and Vrbovac). The existing high school “Nikola Tesla” in Boljevac meets the needs.⁹

In Sokobanja, it is planned to establish a college of vocational studies for tourism and hotel management, in accordance with the needs of the main economic activities of tourism and hospitality. In recent years, there has been an evident lack of a significant number of professional staff, both with secondary and higher education levels in the mentioned activities, which in the perspective represents a significant limiting factor for economic development. Primary education is implemented within one primary school on the entire territory of the LSG, which also includes 21 school branches in rural settlements and one school for primary education of adults.

⁸ General regulation plan for the town of Boljevac, 2011; Spatial plan of the municipality of Boljevac, 2011.

⁹ Spatial plan of the municipality of Boljevac, 2011.

Cultural and scientific infrastructure

There are 4 cultural institutions in Zaječar, which work in 7 buildings, while the museum also manages the imperial palace “Felix Romuliana”. There is a need for a new facility, the “City Gallery” and an additional depot for the storage of art objects. There are no galleries and other cultural facilities in private ownership.

Knjaževac is the founder of three cultural institutions - the Homeland Museum, the House of Culture and the National Library. The “Homeland Museum of Knjaževac” includes the “Museum of the Town” in the house of Aca Stanojević, the “Archaeo-Ethno Park” in Ravna and the ancient site “Timacum Minus”. The “Knjaževac” Cultural center was founded in 1981 and is housed in an imposing building (with over 3,000 m² usable area) that dominates the center of Knjaževac. It houses a large theater hall with 490 seats and a rotating stage and appropriate wardrobes, a small hall with 160 seats, a social club with 120 seats, a so-called chess hall with 60 seats, as well as a large hall which is also a large gallery of the House of Culture. The House of Culture houses the National Library, as well as numerous amateur sections. There is no need for new facilities.

The network of cultural institutions in the LSG Boljevac consists of the Cultural and Educational Center in Boljevac and cultural centers in the rural area. The cultural and educational center has a cinema hall, a gallery of modern art, a weaving workshop, i.e. a workshop for traditional applied arts, a library and the “Timočka Buna” Museum. Houses of culture are active in the settlements: Bačevica, Bogovina selo and Bogovina naselje, Vrbovac, Dobrujevac, Dobro Polje, Ilino, Jablanica, Krivi Vir, Lukovo, Mirovo, Rujište, Podgorac, Savinac, Sumrakovac, Osnić, Osnić-Bukovo, Osnić-Timok, Valakonje and Boljevac village.¹⁰

The “Stevan Sremac” National Library is the only cultural institution on the territory of the Sokobanja LSG. It was founded in 1869 as the Spa Reading Room, and today it is an independent cultural institution. The library is given the management and use of the Homeland Museum, the Moravica cinema and the legacy of Milun Mitrović’s paintings (since 2018). The art colony “Sokograd” enriches the collection of the gallery every year. The native museum has exhibits from the fields of archaeology, ethnology and history. They regularly organise appropriate exhibitions of paintings, sculptures, books and other exhibits. In front of the museum there is an amphitheater that is used as a summer venue for performances and events. The Homeland Museum and Legat recorded 1,623 visits in 2021. In the course of 2021, several activities were carried out: exhibitions, panels, book promotions, workshops. Currently, the “Moravica” Cinema also functions within the library. The plan is to form a Cultural Center, as well as to build a new building for the “Stevan Sremac” National Library.

Sports infrastructure

A new city stadium is under construction in the urban settlement Zaječar, and the construction of an indoor swimming pool in the settlement “Kotlujevac” is also planned. The complex of sports fields exists in two locations, Kraljevica Forest Park and Popova plaža. In 6 out of 8 schools (including high schools) there are sports halls, some of them are used by sports clubs. There are sports halls in Kotlujevac and Kraljevica and an open Olympic swimming pool in

¹⁰ Spatial plan of the municipality of Boljevac, 2011.

Kraljevica. The private sector manages the tennis courts in Kraljevica. Renovation of the DRS “Partizan”, a sports hall in the very center of the urban area, suitable for basketball, volleyball and gymnastics is needed. There are also numerous sports fields in urban and rural areas.

In the urban settlement of Knjaževac, the reconstruction of the Olympic swimming pool in Banjica and the construction of an indoor swimming pool are planned. The complex of sports fields is located within the City Stadium. There are indoor sports halls and halls within schools and football fields in all major rural settlements. The participation of the private sector is negligible (tennis courts and shooting range).

In the urban settlement of Boljevac there are: Sports and recreation center Zmijanac, a football stadium with bleachers and playgrounds for basketball, indoor soccer and tennis, as well as the elementary school’s sports hall. The construction of an indoor and outdoor swimming pool is planned.¹¹

In order to ensure adequate conditions for the local population to play sports on the one hand, and also the development of sports tourism (maintenance of training camps, preparations, sports events) on the other hand, in the urban settlement of Sokobanja it is necessary to build new and reconstruct some existing sports infrastructure facilities - tennis courts, balloon halls, sports and recreational pool, and reconstruct and additionally equip the existing facilities, namely: build changing rooms with showers in the sports hall, add and equip sports gyms within the “Podina” Sports Center, reconstruct the football and basketball fields near the school. Reconstruction of the sports fields in the villages of Trubarevac, Resnik and Šarbanovac is also needed.

5.2 ECONOMY

5.2.1 General economic trends and the labor market

Employment and employee mobility

According to data for the year 2021, the registered number of employees in the urban area was 24,154 according to the municipality of work, and 27,444 according to the municipality of residence. Of this number, 15,431 are men (56.23%), while 12,013 are women (43.77%). The number of registered employees in relation to the number of inhabitants (per 1000 inhabitants) in the Urban area amounts to 274, while that number at the level of the republic is higher and amounts to 33.

The largest number of registered employees according to the municipality of work 11,800 and according to the municipality of residence 13,859 is in Zaječar, followed by Knjaževac, where the number of registered employees according to the municipality of work is 6,589, according to the municipality of residence 7,110, Sokobanja number of registered employees according to the municipality of work 3,531, according to the municipality of residence 3,728 and finally Boljevac in which the number of registered employees according to the municipality of work is 2,233, according to the municipality of residence 2,748.

When it comes to unemployment, at the Urban Area level in 2021, the number of registered unemployed was 8,447. The number of registered unemployed per 1,000 inhabitants was 84,

¹¹ General regulation plan for the town of Boljevac, 2011.

which is significantly higher than the national average, which is 67. The highest absolute number of registered unemployed is in Zaječar, 4025, where the number of registered unemployed per 1,000 inhabitants is 79, followed by Knjaževac, where the number of registered unemployed is 2,375, number of registered unemployed per 1,000 inhabitants 91, Sokobanja number of registered unemployed 1,209, the number of registered unemployed per 1,000 inhabitants is 90, and Boljevac, where the number of registered unemployed is 838, and the number of registered unemployed per 1,000 inhabitants was 80.

In recent years, there has been a uniform increase in the number of unemployed in all groups of education levels, and the largest share in the number of unemployed is held by unskilled workers. It should be noted that the real number of unemployed is probably lower than the official number due to the fact that a significant number of residents are engaged in agriculture or some form of gray economy (trade or some production activities in shops that are not registered). More and more, there is a uniform increase in the number of unemployed in all age groups, and there is a slightly greater increase in the unemployed over the age of forty, which is a consequence of the reduction of surplus labor in social enterprises. The largest number of unemployed persons in Zaječar, according to the NES records, according to the degree of professional education, namely the first degree of professional education, out of the total number of 1329, consists of 617 women and 712 men. The largest number of unemployed persons according to the duration of unemployment over ten years and that is 797 of which 475 are women and 322 men and the least from 8-10 years and that is 186 of which 110 are women and 76 are men. Zaječar did not have a single request for workforce retraining. On the territory of the Zaječar LSG is organised free suburban transport, to all villages, which is primarily intended for students, but also for all employed persons. There is no gender-disaggregated data on the use of suburban transport.

Observing the trend in the number of unemployed persons, the number of unemployed persons in the territory of Knjaževac LSG decreased from year to year. In 2012, 4,443 unemployed persons were registered, and in 2019, 2,712 unemployed persons were registered. In the last three years, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the number of unemployed persons continued to decrease. In the distribution and structure of the unemployed, there are slightly more women than men. The number of employed persons has recorded a slight increase in recent years. The employment rate is related to internal migration, as well as the age structure of the population. Bearing in mind the needs of the market for qualified labor in significant economic entities, there is a decrease of qualified workforce in the territory of LSGs. For this reason, various retraining programmes are implemented. In the territory of Knjaževac LSG, there is free suburban transport to all villages, which is primarily intended for students, but also to all employed persons. There is no gender-disaggregated data on the use of suburban transport. There are specific situations in terms of long-term unemployment and they refer mainly to unemployed persons, who have lost their jobs at the age of 50 and 55 and are at the registry of unemployed for a long period of time.

In 2021, the employment rate in the LSG Boljevac is 33.48%, while the unemployment rate is 28.26%. For workers traveling to Zaječar, the factory they work for has organised its own transport, other workers working in urban settlements in the region organise their own

transport. The Bogovina brown coal mine also organises the transportation of its workers by its own bus.

In the period from 2016 to 2020, the number of employees in Sokobanja grew at an average annual rate of 0.17%, which led to an increase in the number of employees aged 15 and over. The last local youth employment action plan was adopted in 2020, while in 2021, LSG independently implemented employment measures on public works, but only by engaging in public companies. In 2020, of the total number of employees, as many as 61.7% are employed by legal entities, 29.1% are private entrepreneurs and their employees, while only 9.2% of them are registered as individual farmers. The largest number of employees is in the health and social protection sector with a share of 18.0% of workers, which indicates the exceptional importance of this activity. A significant number of 14.9% of workers in 2020 are employed in the mining sector. When it comes to registered unemployment per 1,000 inhabitants, in LSGs that number is 90, i.e. a total of 1,209 persons in 2021. Higher unemployment of women than men was registered during all observed years, while the total unemployment of both sexes decreased until 2020, only to start increasing in 2021. Long-term unemployment is mainly a consequence of the shutdown of once large state/socially owned economic entities at the end of the 20th century, the consequences of which are still felt today, as well as inadequate educational structure of unemployed persons. During the tourist and construction season, cooks, waiters and construction workers are especially lacking.

5.2.2 Economy and business environment

Business entities

According to data from 2021, the number of active companies on the territory of the Urban Area was 833, while the number of active entrepreneurs was 3,230. The number of closed/newly established businesses in 2019 is 234/42, in 2020 59/36, in 2021 53/41, while the number of closed/newly established entrepreneurs in 2019 is 344/387, in 2020 277/329, in 2021 270/455.

Zaječar has the largest number of active companies 370 and active entrepreneurs 1216, followed by Knjaževac, where the number of active companies is 297, the number of active entrepreneurs 1126, Sokobanja, the number of active companies 90, the number of active entrepreneurs 645, Boljevac, the number of active companies 76, the number of active entrepreneurs 243.

According to data from 2022, the largest number of entrepreneurial businesses in Zaječar were engaged in the provision of services - about 49% (600 entrepreneurs), trade - about 30% (366 entrepreneurs), various forms of production - about 21% (267 entrepreneurs), while the largest number of companies engaged in providing services about 44% (145 companies), trade - about 35% (117 companies) and various forms of production - about 21% (69 companies). Zaječar's industry is diverse, and the more famous companies are: Measuring Transformers Factory - FMT Zaječar, brewery "Heineken Srbija" d.o.o. Zaječar, TF Kable - cable factory Zaječar, Delta agrar (pig farm, orchards, cold storage), "Aptiv" factory of electrical installations for passenger vehicles, small hydroelectric power plants "Gamzigrad" and "Sokolovica", mines of anthracite "Vrška Čuka" in Prlit, lignite "Lubnica" in Lubnica and quartz sand "Srbokvarc"

in Rgotina. Most of these industrial capacities are in private ownership. Large/medium/small enterprises represent drivers of economic development in the territory of LSGs, because they employ the largest number of the population.

The most important companies in Knjaževac are Falc East (Italy), Hatiba (Germany), as well as domestic companies Mobi, SCS Plus, Desing, Džervin, Šukom. The most represented economic sectors are: footwear industry, wood processing, textile, metal processing industry and agriculture. Large/medium/small enterprises are the drivers of economic development in the territory of the municipality, because they employ the largest number of the population. SMEs employ about 60% of the population out of the total number of employees in the economy. The free customs zone Timok doo was formed in Knjaževac.

In the period from 2018 to 2021, there is a downward trend in the number of active companies in Sokobanja. Namely, in 2021, the number of active companies decreased by 12.7% compared to 2018, due to possible consequences caused by the corona virus pandemic. Oscillations are present in the number of newly established companies. In 2021, the number of newly founded companies decreased by 66.7% compared to 2018. The number of deleted/discontinued companies is increasing in 2019, and in the following years it will decrease to 2-3 deleted/discontinued companies. In 2021, the number of active companies was 90, while the number of active entrepreneurs was 645. There was a pronounced decline in newly founded entrepreneurs, as well as a decline in deleted/closed entrepreneurs. In the observed period, the number of active entrepreneurs grew at an average annual rate of 2.39%. Except for PE Rudnik brown coal "Soko", which belongs to the group of large enterprises, all others belong to the sector of small or micro enterprises.

5.2.3 Tourism and culture

Tourist infrastructure

According to data for 2020, the Urban Area was visited by 165,857 domestic and 8,582 foreign tourists. Domestic tourists had a total of 780,813 overnight stays, or 5 overnight stays on average, while foreign tourists had 47,855 or 6 overnight stays on average. There are good natural potentials for the development of tourism in the Urban area. According to the valid Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: PPRS)¹² and the Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: Draft PPRS)¹³, Stara planina is classified as a primary tourist destination with a year-round offer. The favorable location between the Republic of Romania in the northeast and the Republic of Bulgaria in the east, with strong gravity centers (Belgrade, Niš, Sofia, Vidin) in the vicinity, is suitable for the development of various types of tourism. The tourist potential of the Urban area is unevenly developed. From the relatively developed - Sokobanja, the archaeological sites of "Felix Romuliana", the Stara Planina (Babin zub) Nature Park and Rtanj, the less developed - Gamzigradska Banja, to the underdeveloped - Zaječar and other urban settlements, with over 50 cultural-artistic and sports manifestations, natural and cultural-historical sights, hunting grounds, and beginnings rural tourism in a small number of villages. The existing tourist and recreational offer of the entire Urban area is not sufficiently

¹² Spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2010 to 2020 (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 88/2010)

¹³ Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, 2021

recognised and developed. The organisation and interconnection of the tourist offer of LSGs and the Urban Area in the region, as well as with neighboring municipalities in Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, is inadequate.

According to PPRS, Zaječar is a city tourist center of prospective national importance, and Gamzigradska Banja is a national spa tourist place in a secondary tourist area. According to the Draft PPRS, Zaječar is classified as a secondary city tourist center of national importance with mainly year-round offers and the role of leader of the secondary tourist area Zaječar - Negotin, and Gamzigradska Banja is classified as a secondary spa town of national importance with mainly summer offers. Tourism belongs to the priority economic sector of the Zaječar LSG with great potential for growth. The city tourist center is visited by about 9,500 people annually; The Felix Romuliana Imperial Palace, the most important cultural monument of Eastern Serbia, is visited by nearly 12,000 tourists a year, and all together they spend nearly 45,000 nights a year. The city tourist center of Zaječar does not have enough accommodation capacity, which is the main obstacle to significant income generated directly from tourism, but also to the development of new facilities and services that would significantly increase the inflow of money. Tourist products are not sufficiently developed and commercialised on the domestic market, as well as on the foreign market. Gamzigradska Banja is located 11 km west of Zaječar on the coast of Crni Timok, right next to the main road Zaječar - Paraćin, near the Felix Romuliana Imperial Palace. The specialised hospital located within the Gamzigradska Banja consists of two closed pools with warm water, and the applied therapies include electrotherapy and oxygenation therapy in hyperbaric chambers. The hospital also offers diagnostics and testing of the functions of peripheral blood flow, heart, lungs, and peripheral nerves and muscles.

The total number of hotels and lodgings in the Knjaževac LSG is 19 with 1,269 beds (of which there are 3 on Stara planina with 500 beds). There are 63 home-made rural tourist households and caterers with 819 beds, most of which are in Stara planina: 53 with 760 beds. The most significant tourist potential is the Ski Center on Stara planina, which is located at an altitude of 1,100 to 1,900 m.a.s.l. and has excellent possibilities for the construction of long slopes for alpine skiing. In addition to Stara Planina, which represents the backbone of the development of tourism in the municipality of Knjaževac, the second most important natural potential is the thermal spring Rgoška Banjica, which is located about 5 km from Knjaževac in the direction of Niš, in the village of Rgošte. There are also great potentials for the development of hunting tourism, given that it is surrounded by the massifs of Tresibaba, Tupižnica and Stara Planina. Four hunting grounds have a total area of about 60,000 hectares: "Tupižnica", "Srbija šume II", "Tresibaba" and "Midžor-Kalna". In the area of Tupižnica, a trend of development of rural tourism has been observed in recent years, which is followed by marked hiking and mountain trails. Tupižnica is known for dozens of speleological objects, the most famous of which are the "Tupižnica Glacier" and "David's precipice", about a hundred meters deep. Mountaineers are known for the national campaign "Lilac Days", which is held every year in mid-May. Since 2010, international paragliding competitions have been held here. In the vicinity of Knjaževac, there are a number of picnic spots, the most famous of which is Baranica (natural bathing place and fishing) on the right bank of Trgoviški Timok, in the gorge of the river itself, 5 km from the urban settlement, near the road Knjaževac - Piroć.

In LSG Boljevac, the number of categorised objects in the domestic industry amounts to 34, while the number of catering facilities that provide accommodation: 4 (hotels and hostels). In 2021, 29,000 tourists stayed overnight in hotels and hostels and about 15,000 overnight stays in categorised facilities for tourism. There is an initiative to enter the process of categorizing the tourist site of the Rtanj settlement. In the village of Rtanj, at the foot of the mountain of the same name, there is a Tourist Information Center. In the vicinity of Boljevac there are a number of picnic spots, the most visited of which are: Rtanj, Pećura (Source of Crni Timok) in the village of Krivi Vir, Miroštica in the village of Mirovo, Ilinsko vrelo in the village of Ilino, Bogovinska Pećina in the village of Bogovina. The picnic areas that have the potential to be arranged are: Grozničevac picnic area in the village of Jablanica, Vidovdan in the village of Rujište, Makavej in the village of Mirovo, Fundonj picnic area in the village of Podgorac.

According to the PPRS and the Draft PPRS, Sokobanja is ranked among the most important spa tourist places of national and prospective international importance, with a year-round offer. In the period 2016-2021 year there is a growing trend in the arrivals of domestic tourists in Sokobanja. Arrivals of domestic tourists grew at an average annual rate of 30.83%. Until 2019, there is a growing trend of foreign tourists, with minor fluctuations in 2017, and in 2020, the number of foreign tourist arrivals dropped significantly due to the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic. From 01.01.2022 until October 2022, Sokobanja achieved a growth of 34.2% in the number of arrivals and 35.7% in the number of overnight stays. Measured by the number of overnight stays and the average stay, for the first 9 months of 2022, Sokobanja achieved the highest tourist traffic in the Republic of Serbia. Based on statistical data, it can be concluded that Sokobanja has been recording a permanent growth in tourist traffic for the last 5 years, as well as being among the top 5 tourist destinations in Serbia. The backbone of the tourist offer in the last couple of years is an active holiday, which is highlighted in the promotional activities of the Sokobanja tourist product. Tourists can choose from numerous contents and activities, depending on their preferences and affinities.

Cultural heritage

The urban area has a very rich cultural material and intangible heritage.

One of the best-preserved Roman monuments in Serbia from the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 4th century, the Imperial Palace Felix Romuliana, located near the village of Gamzigrad, 11.5 kilometers from Zaječar, is a cultural asset of exceptional importance inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the urban area there are also cultural assets of great importance: the Church of St. Virgin Mary from the 14th century in Donja Kamenica, Monastery of St. Trojice from the 13th century in Gornja Kamenica, the archaeological site "Ravna - Timacum Minus" (LSG Knjaževac) and the medieval Soko town from the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th century on the foundations of a Roman fortress from the 6th century (LSG Sokobanja).¹⁴

On the List of Elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Serbia¹⁵ there are numerous customs and skills that are represented in the Urban area, and only the "molitva" - St. George's Day custom in the village of Vrtovac is related to this area.

¹⁴ Regional Spatial Plan of Timok Krajina (Official Gazette of RS, 51/2011), Draft PPRS (2021)

¹⁵ Intangible cultural heritage, Ministry of Culture and Information and Ethnographic Museum, <https://nkns.rs/cyr/elementi-nkns>

On the territory of the Zaječar LSG, there is also an immovable cultural property, Radul-begov konak, part of the Zaječar Museum, built at the end of the 18th century. Konak represents old Turkish architecture, which has been preserved to this day. In the valley of the Selačka river, in the atar of the village after which the river takes its name, there is the Suvodol monastery dedicated to the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Military bastions from the 19th century in Kraljevica Park are classified as cultural and historical heritage.

Among the sacred buildings in the Knjaževac LSG, the Church of St. George in Knjaževac from the 19th century, built in the Moravian-Byzantine style with elements of Romanesque architecture. The Džervin villa, built in 1939 on a hill above the center of Knjaževac, modeled after a castle in the Czech Republic, is classified as a cultural and historical heritage. After several decades of decay, at the beginning of next year, the building is planned to be reconstructed and returned to its original state. In the center of the urban settlement is the Memorial Park, the work of Bogdan Bogdanović, which is part of the cultural and historical heritage and is a monument to the people of Timok who died in the wars. The arrival of Corbusier at the beginning of the 20th century was recorded in Knjaževac.

Protected immovable cultural assets in Boljevac are monasteries. The Krepičevac monastery is located 4 km north of the village of Jablanica in the gorge of the Radovan river. It is dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, popularly known as the Velika Gospojina. The monastery was built at the beginning of the 15th century (according to academician Đurđ Bošković). The frescoes are of exceptional artistic value. The Lapušnja Monastery is a half-ruined cultural monument next to Vučja Glava hill, 4 km west of the village of Lukovo, next to the main road Paraćin-Zaječar, and is dedicated to the Transfer of Relics Saint Nicholas, popularly known as the “summer” Saint Nicholas. Lozica Monastery at the foot of Rtanj, 3 km from Krivi Vir, is dedicated to Saint Archangel Gabriel. In addition, the native house of the sculptor Ljubinka Savić - Grasi in the village of Ilino and the old “apsana” in Boljevac, which houses the “Timočka Bune” Museum, are also protected immovable cultural assets.

Sokobanja is rich in cultural resources and cultural heritage, which attracts a large number of visitors. The Turkish bath “Amam” is located in the central spa park, and was built by the Turks on the foundations of the Roman baths in the 15th century. It was restored for the first time in 1834 by order of Prince Miloš Obrenović, and last time in 2005. Directly next to the men’s bath, there is a bathtub belonging to Prince Miloš Obrenović, which is under the protection of the state by a special act. Milošev Konak is located in the center of Sokobanja, on the marble promenade. It was built by Prince Miloš Obrenović, in the first half of the 19th century, for the needs of his administration. The Church of the Holy Transfiguration in the center of Sokobanja was built in 1892 in the Serbo-Byzantine style. It was built by Italian masters, according to the design of the architect Svetozar Ivacković. Gallery - Legacy of Milun Mitrović was founded in June 2001 by the academic painter Milun Mitrović, a native of Sokobanja who is also the founder of the Art Colony “Sokograd”. The ethnic corner of Grudonjska Vodenica is located in the Gradašnica settlement, 2 km from the center, on the river of the same name. It has 2 mills, more than two centuries old. In the courtyard there is an amphitheater where various programmes related to the history and traditions of the Sokobanja region are held. Ten meters from the big one is the reconstructed Small Water Mill. The Church of the Assumption of the

Blessed Virgin Mary is located in Jošanica, 15 km from Sokobanja, and is the oldest church in this part of Serbia. Dating from the 11th century, it is built of stone, with a striking iconostasis, which has been partially restored and canned. Jermenčić Monastery was built in the 14th century, 8 km from Sokobanja. According to tradition, Armenians raised the monastery, fleeing from the invasion of the Turks, and found refuge in Ozren. The preserved church of the monastery is dedicated to the archangels Gabriel and Michael.

The protection and preservation of architectural heritage from the 19th and 20th centuries, especially urban architecture from the socialist period (examples of brutalism in modern architecture), industrial heritage (mines with accompanying facilities and an industrial railway in the Sokobanja LSG) and traditional village architecture, has been neglected.

The urban area has a wide and rich offer of cultural manifestations. Zaječar has a rich tradition of cultural manifestations. According to the data of local cultural institutions, the number of visitors to these manifestations is close to 85,000 per year, and of that number, about 23,000 are guests. Gitarijada is the oldest festival of unaffiliated rock bands. Gathering tens of thousands of participants and visitors from the country and abroad, this festival is one of the most important musical events in the region. Since 1993, every fall at the end of October, an acting festival called “Zoran Radmilović Days” has been organised, in which the most famous theaters participate.

The most famous and most visited cultural manifestations in Knjaževac Local Government Area is the Serbian Youth Culture Festival, which will be held for the 61st time in 2022, and the Prayer under Midžor in Balta Berilovac. Over the years, the Serbian Youth Culture Festival gathered young amateurs from Serbia, who competed in all areas of artistic creativity in the competitive part of the programme. Prayer under Midžor is a touristic ethnic event that takes place every year before St. George’s Day in the old mountain villages of Vrtovac and Balta Berilovac.

In Boljevac LSG, the traditional manifestations are: festival of folk creativity “Crnorečje u pesmi i igri”, assembly of children’s folk creativity “Ilinsko vrelo”, folklore event “Meetings of villages of Boljevac municipality”, festival of alternative rock Mount of Artan etc.¹⁶

Sokobanja has always had a wide range of cultural, artistic and entertainment events such as sports tournaments, cultural events and artistic meetings. One of the most significant manifestations is the First Harmonica of Serbia festival - Sokobanja, which has been held since 1962. It is the only festival of Serbian folk music in the country that is of a competitive nature, but also has a revue part in which the most famous folk music singers from Serbia and the countries of the region perform. A significant event is the Golden Hand, which has been held since 1982. Participants compete in the preparation of old dishes, as well as in the skills of old crafts and in the preparation of folk handicrafts. Since 2018, “Golden Hands” has become the Serbian council of folk creativity, i.e. a manifestation of national importance and is the holder of the highest recognition in tourism in this category - the Tourist Flower.

¹⁶ <http://www.boljevac.org.rs/category/vesti/kultura/>

5.3 URBAN ENVIRONMENT

5.3.1 Historical overview of the spatial and urban development of the city

The urban area has elements of urban identity in its urban centers, which are worth highlighting.

The urban settlement of Zaječar is located in eastern Serbia, in the central part of Timočka Krajina in the Zaječar basin, in the middle of the river and at the junction of the Crni and Beli Timok, 11 km from the border with Bulgaria. It originally lay on the right bank of Crni Timok, extending to Kraljevica hill, and over time it expanded on the left bank of Crni Timok and towards the west. In terms of traffic, it is located at the crossroads of the state roads Paraćin - Zaječar - Kula (from where this state road branches off to Vidin, Romania and Sofia, Bulgaria), Paraćin - Zaječar - Negotin - Kladovo - the Romanian border, Paraćin - Zaječar - Knjaževac - Niš and Negotin - Zaječar - Knjaževac - Niš, which is crossed by the railway (Niš) Crveni Krst - Zaječar - Prahovo Port. The urban settlement experienced the largest volume of construction in the period of the 60s and 80s of the last century, during the intensive development of industry, but also of other economic and non-economic activities. The first urban matrix of the urban core of Zaječar was formed spontaneously at the meeting point of the roads from the direction of Paraćin, Knjaževac and Negotin. Around the triangular area "Veleka pijaca", with a memorial fountain in the center (built in 1889), ennobled by rows of chestnut trees, administrative and commercial and craft buildings were built: the city tavern "Europa", the building of the District Head Office (today's Court), and then the building of the Museum, the hotel "Zadruga" (in the place of today's Department Store), the Rajković Palace. These objects, built according to the existing urban situation and tradition, planimetry and milieu, achieve "visual continuity" in their space and time. The builders of these buildings respected the cultural heritage and respected the environment so that these houses, streets and squares, in terms of function and form, communicate harmoniously with each other. In 1936, according to eyewitness accounts, Zaječar was one of the most beautiful cities in Serbia, the center of Timočka Krajina. In Zaječar, in the 1960s and early 1970s (on the basis of the General Urban Plan of architect Mihajlo Mitrović from 1958), modernist buildings sprung up, which with their functionality, consistent with the spirit of their time, rationally replace old and ruined houses: SUP building, two seven-story buildings on Trg oslobođenja, hotel "Srbija", department store "22. decembar". Some of these buildings were built on the foundations of demolished buildings, the values of which exceed the values of newly built buildings: "Belgrade" department store on the site of the "Zadruga" hotel, "modernist" Post Office on the site of the "pre-modernist" post office building.

The intensive development of Sokobanja began in the first half of the 19th century, with the arrival of Prince Miloš Obrenović (1833). By his order, the Turkish bath, built on the foundations of the Roman baths, was rebuilt in the same year. The beginning of organised tourism in Sokobanja is counted from 21 June 1837, when the office of Prince Miloš Obrenović in Kragujevac issued the first written instruction - a voucher to ensign Lazarević for rest and use of healing water in Sokobanja. The most intensive demographic, physiognomic, socio-economic and functional changes in this settlement are related to the second half of the 20s, that is, the end of the 70s and 80s of the last century. The territorial development of Sokobanja is conditioned by the morphology of the terrain, i.e. relief predetermination and spatially develops in the altitude zone from 300 to 350 m.a.s.l. and next to the main communication route in this area. It

developed unplanned and spontaneously, and at the beginning of the 20th century it belonged to the category of semi-compacted irregular settlements, with an irregular scheme of winding streets of different widths, shapeless blocks and housing. The settlement was developed on both sides of the regional road Aleksinac-Sokobanja-Knjaževac, which is also the main street in the town and on the valley sides of Moravica, i.e. at the junction between Moravica in the north, Gradašnica in the south and Železovac in the east. The contemporary urban and physiognomic composition of Sokobanja unites several settlement units: Sokobanja, Banjica, Čučunje, Drenjar, Glogan, Koviljača, Podina, Čuka, Kršina. The area of the urban settlement has been constantly increased since the beginning of the 20th century, and according to the GRP, today it is 1,198 ha. The spatial and morpho-physiognomic structure of the settlement did not change significantly in the second half of the 20th century. This was influenced by unfavorable demographic processes in LSGs and the weak functional capacity of Sokobanja to accommodate a larger number of immigrants. With the strengthening of tourist and administrative functions in the 80s of the last century, the territorial and urban development of Sokobanja was significantly intensified. During that period, large socially owned hotel facilities were built, as well as several industrial facilities, which in the 90s experienced economic ruin.

The urban settlement of Knjaževac was created on the site of the current “Old Market” and in its immediate surroundings next to the right and left banks of the Svrljiški Timok at the intersection of the roads to Niš, Zaječar, Soko Banja and Boljevac. The remains of the “Old Bazaar” originate mainly from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century and from the period between the two wars. In the period between the two wars, Knjaževac developed and various craft shops and workshops were opened, as well as the first industrial capacities: a tannery, a brick factory, a wine cellar, so that Knjaževac received all the elements of an urban settlement. Although Knjaževac (Gurgusovac) was first mentioned much earlier (17th century), the relatively poor quality of buildings (wood, brick) and the frequent destruction of the settlement in many wars resulted in the fact that today there are almost no buildings from earlier periods. The largest volume of construction took place in the 1970s and 1980s, during the period of intensive development of industry, but also of other economic and non-economic activities in the city.

The village of Boljevac was created as an independent rural settlement, while the urban settlement of Boljevac developed later under the influence of external factors, primarily the intersection of important roads and the turbulent social circumstances of the first half of the 19th century. The bazaar at the crossroads gives the impression of a transit settlement, which is more focused on others than on itself. Boljevac does not have a rich tradition of planned construction. We can talk about the tradition of planning only since the sixties of the last century, when the first General Urban Plan was created, upgraded by the new General Plan from 1979 and amendments from 1986. In the meantime, some important regulatory plans were made that formed the axes of the residential development of Boljevac at the locations Ilinsko polje and Stanično brdo. Despite the small tradition of planning, Boljevac has demonstrated a high degree of respect and implementation of plans, which is best seen in the representation and development of public service facilities. The continuity of planning has never been drastically interrupted, so that all regulatory plans made in the past thirty years are still usable and enforceable to a large extent.

5.3.2 Urban area

Network of settlements

The network of settlements and their structure on the territory of the Urban Area differs significantly between the town of Zaječar and the municipalities of Knjaževac, Sokobanja and Boljevac.

Structure of the Zaječar LSG settlement network¹⁷ it is based on the community model of settlements formed according to the principles of territorial and functional networking, with the following hierarchy of centers in the network of settlements: 1st rank - city center; II rank – secondary centers; III rank - community centers of settlements; IV rank - rural centers of local character and V rank - other rural settlements. The urban settlement of Zaječar represents the city center with the settlements that gravitate to it, and it is specific due to the urban agglomeration, which includes peri-urban settlements that represent the points of connection between the urban and rural parts of the LSG. Secondary city centers represent the central places for a larger functional spatial unit, namely for the western part - Zvezdan, the northeastern part - Veliki Izvor and the southern part - Grljan and part of the central area of the LSG. Settlement community centers are centers for gravitating rural settlements. The centers of the settlement community are: Salaš with the settlements of Glogovica, Dubočane, Mala Jasikova, Velika Jasikova, Tabakovac, Brusnik, Klenovac and Metriš; and Rgotina with the settlements of Trnavac, Jelašnica Koprivnica, Čokonjar and Nikoličevo. Village centers of local character are: Gamzigrad with a settlement of specific functions Gamzigradska Banja; Grlšte with the settlements of Lenovac, Leskovac and Gornja Bela Reka; Vratarnica with the settlements of Zagrađe, Marinovac, Mali Izvor, Borovac, Vrbica and Selačka; and Mali Jasenovac with the settlements of Gradskovo, Veliki Jasenovac and Šipikovo. In addition to this hierarchical level of settlement division, two settlements with specific tourist functions - Gamzigradska banja and Nikoličevo - were singled out.

In the hierarchical-structural sense, the network of settlements of the Knjaževac LSG¹⁸ the following hierarchy of centers in the settlement network was established: the municipal center - Knjaževac with Trgoviste with the gravitating suburban settlements of Berčinovac, Glogovac, Gornje Zuniče, Grezna, Kaličina and Štipina, and the primary villages of Aldinac, Balinac, Vidovac, Dejanovac, Drvnik, Gornja Sokolovica, Gradište, Lokva, Kandalica, Radičevac, Staro Korito, Žukovac, Štitarac, Šarbanovac and Bulinovac; sub-municipal centers - Minićevo with the gravitating settlements of Vitkovac, Drenovac, Debelica, Jakovac, Koželj, Manjinac, Novo Korito, Ošljane, Petruša and Trnovac; and Kalna with the gravitating settlements of Aldina reka, Balta Berilovac, Vrtkovac, Gabrovnica, Inovo, Jalovik Izvor, Tatrarnica, Ravno Bučje, Stanjinac, Crni Vrh, Čuštica and Šesti Gabar; local centers - Donje Zuniče/Gornje Zuniče (with settlements: Jelašnica, Potrkanje and Ravna), Donja Kamenica (with settlements Gornja Kamenica, Paprtana, Pričevac, Repušnica and Štrbac), Žlne-Crvenje (with settlements Krenta, Mučibaba and Ponor), Rgošte-Podvis (with settlements Miljkovac and Orešac), Vasilj (with settlements Balanovac, Beli Potok, Božinovac, Svrlijska Topla, Skrobnica and Šuman Topla),

¹⁷ Spatial plan of the territory of the City of Zaječar, 2011

¹⁸ Spatial plan of the municipality of Knjaževac, Official Gazette of the municipality of Knjaževac no. 9/1, dated December 5, 2011.

Vina (with the settlements of Banjski Orešac, Slatina and Zorunovac), Valevac/Kaličina (with the settlements of Donja Sokolovica, Drečinovac, Lepena and Stogazovac) and Bučje (with the settlements of Vlaško Polje and Zubetinac); settlements with a specific function - Vina with the function of a mining place, Rgošte with the function of a spa town and 4 settlements with a tourist function - Vrtovac, Balta Berilovac, Ćuštica and Crni Vrh (Bučje Tupižnica).

The structure of the settlement network of LSG Sokobanja is formed by the center of the first level, village community centers and other rural settlements. Urban The settlement of Sokobanja is the center of the first level to which the settlements of Trgovište, Beli Potok, Nikolinac, Dugo Polje, Blendija, Jezero, Novo Selo, Radenkovac, Poružnica and Resnik gravitate. The centers of the village community are Jošanica with the settlements of Vrmdža, Mužinac, Šarbanovac and Žučkovac; Čitluk with the settlements of Sesalac, Milušinac, Levovik, Cerovica, Vrelo and Bogdinac; and Trubarevac with the settlements of Rujevica, Vrbovac and Muzinac. The two centers of the settlement community are also settlements with specific functions: Jošanica - oriented towards the development of tourism and Čitluk - oriented towards coal production. The spatial development of Čitluk depends on the position and expansion of the mines.¹⁹

Structure of the settlement network of LSG Boljevac²⁰ it is based on traditional connections between settlements and the spatial distribution of settlements, with the following hierarchy of centers in the network of settlements: 1st rank - the center of the municipality; II rank - community centers of settlements; III rank - settlements with specific functions; IV rank - other settlements, i.e. primary villages. The urban settlement of Boljevac has the function of a municipal center to which the settlements of Bačevica, Valakonje, Ilino, Dobrujevac, Dobro Polje, Mali Izvor, Rujište, Rtanj and Vrbovac gravitate. The centers of the settlement community are Podgorac with the settlements Bogovina selo and Bogovina naselje; Sumrakovac with the settlements Osnić Bukovo, Osnić Timok, Osnić selo and Savinac; and Lukovo with the settlements of Krivi Vir, Mirovo and Jablanica. Settlements with specific tourist functions are Rtanj, Mirovo, Bogovina selo and Bogovina naselje.

Rural settlements in the Urban Area with preserved morphology of compact and scattered villages and traditional construction well integrated into the landscape have the potential to be revitalized and transformed into tourist settlements.

According to the Draft PPRS, urban systems in urban areas in Serbia, and therefore in the Zaječar Urban Area, need to be transformed from a hierarchical model of urban centers to a model of urban areas with a “general urban context”, according to which urban areas and the centers that build them are qualitatively equal in providing the conditions necessary for a quality life for the population, and are complementary in the offer of jobs and services, both for the residential population and for daily and other migrants. In this way, elements of the quality of urban life, such as a basic set of services and quality infrastructure, as well as safety, are felt in almost every settlement of the urban system, regardless of its distance from the center and demographic size.

¹⁹ Amendments to the Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Sokobanja, 2021

²⁰ Spatial plan of the Municipality Boljevac, 2011

Main characteristics of urban entities

There is a long-standing trend of expansion of construction land at the expense of agricultural land in the territories of LSGs. The existing construction land in Sokobanja has a surface area of 17.40 km², and an increase to 21.74 km² is planned. Agricultural land has a surface area of 276.22 km² and its reduction to 261.27 km² is planned²¹. In Boljevac, the construction land in 2010 included 1970.82 ha, and the planned increase for 2024 is 2308.80 ha. This follows the reduction of agricultural land from 2010, when it was 38,718.87 ha, and the planned for 2024 is 37,752.73 ha²². In Knjaževac, agricultural land was 69,194.6 ha in 2011, and it is planned to decrease to 50,316.6 ha in 2022.²³ The planning documentation for the territory of the city of Zaječar does not contain consolidated data on surface balances²⁴.

In the urban settlement of Zaječar, the area formed by the street Crvene Armije and Gačić Stojana in the north and Crni Timok in the south completely includes the settlements “Kotlujevac” and “Ključ” as well as the settlement “Pikovo imanje” and represents the central zone with all public urban functions. South of the central zone, a large sports and recreational zone was formed, which together with the Kraljevica Forest Park forms the green core of Zaječar. The biggest housing densities are achieved in the central zone and decrease with distance from that zone. In the peripheral part of the construction area, there is individual housing of low density. Industrial zones were formed on the entrance-exit roads to urban settlements and around the railway station and railway. The general urban plan of Zaječar from 2012 foresees an enormous expansion of the construction area in the marginal zone for the needs of low-density housing and a significant expansion of work and business zones along state roads in the direction of Niš, Bor, Paraćin and the Vrška Čuk border crossing. A bypass around the urban settlement is also planned.

The basic features of the spatial structure of Knjaževac are the configuration of the terrain on which it was built, the environment of two rivers, as well as the proximity of the hilly and mountainous hinterland. The urban settlement has three distinct spatial units, separated from each other by watercourses (Svrljiški and Trgoviški Timok), which coincide with the administrative division into three local communities. Svrljiški Timok connects rather than separates the first two spatial entities, as well as local communities, thanks to road and pedestrian bridges. The third spatial unit, also the local community, is to a significant extent separated from the first two (Trgoviški and Beli Timok), which is the condition of its partially peripheral position in relation to the existing center of the urban settlement. In the past, the challenge of building high-rise buildings was avoided, with few exceptions, as well as a high concentration of buildings and a high level of land development. The greatest intensity of construction was manifested in the center of the urban settlement, where many significant buildings of public and commercial purpose (post office, court, cultural center, hotel, department stores, etc.) were built, as well as the largest part of collective residential buildings. Individual housing construction is, for understandable reasons, directed to the peripheral areas of the urban settlement, although there are family houses in the center as well. The intensive development of the secondary sector

21 Amendments to the Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Sokobanja, 2021

22 Spatial plan of the Municipality of Boljevac, 2016

23 Spatial plan of the Municipality of Knjaževac, 2011

24 Spatial plan of the territory of the City of Zaječar, 2021

has engaged large areas for industrial and supporting facilities, warehouses and services. Three industrial zones were created, two downstream and one upstream from the urban settlement, as well as a smaller complex of technical services. The industry was mainly oriented to flat terrains, where there is land of high credit quality. The tertiary sector, especially commercial activities, is mostly located in the center of the urban settlement, primarily in Knjaza Miloša Street and Karađorđeva Street. In the past, Knjaževac had mainly planned spatial development and construction, although there are several examples of unplanned construction, such as the settlements “Lastavičko Polje”, “Kasarna” and others.

The urban fabric of Sokobanja is characterized by a large number of buildings of varying quality, mostly multi-storey and subject to regulation, but the occupancy of plots is not high due to the significant amount of greenery. The condition of free, green and park areas is satisfactorily maintained, especially in the center, around public buildings and tourist facilities with landscaped grounds and tall vegetation. A major problem is the parking of motor vehicles, as well as the lack and small width of sidewalks.

Since its inception, the settlement of Boljevac, as one of the key traffic intersections of Timočka Krajina, has been developing a town, urban structure and way of life, and it is developing radially along the course of the Arnaute River, which through itself the center of the regulated settlement, and the Zmijanac stream, which together with the smaller Grnčarski, Šipak and Drenovački streams and the Ilinski river form the hydrological basis of the settlement. The urban settlement is linearly organised around the intersection of the two road routes Bor - Zaječar - Paraćin and Žagubica - Zlot - Boljevac - Rtanj - Sokobanja. All central functions are located in the linear part of the urban settlement, while on the other hand there is insufficient urban development of the hinterland of the linear center surrounded by medium and low density housing.

Brownfield sites

On the territory of the Urban Area, there are a number of brownfield sites - former military or industrial areas - that represent the potential for urban regeneration. In Zaječar, near the main road M-25, the center and the railway station, there is a former textile factory “Timočanka” with an area of 32,451 m² with 14 buildings with a total area of 7,821 m². The complex is owned by the LSG, it is equipped with infrastructure, well connected with the highway at 80 km, 100 km from the airport in Niš, and 70 km from the port in Prahovo. In Knjaževac, there is a military complex “Knjaz Miloš Obrenović” next to the state road DP IB number 35 Niš-Zaječar, fully equipped with communal infrastructure, but which is no longer in operation and has not been settled with the Ministry of Defense, so it is not used for other purposes. LSG Sokobanja bought the PKB Trebič complex from bankruptcy, which represents a potential brownfield location, with an area of 4.25 ha with 9 buildings with a total area of 6,900 m².

5.3.3 Natural environment

Protected natural assets

On the territory of the Urban area, there are five larger protected natural assets: Stara Planina Nature Park (for which the process of declaring it a national park has been initiated), Ozrenska Livade Area of Exceptional Characteristics, Lepteriya - Sokograd Area of Exceptional Characteristics, Rtanj Nature Reserve²⁵ and Natural area around Gamzigrad - Romuliana archaeological site. According to the draft PPRS, the areas of Ozren and Devica mountains and Deli Jovan mountain are planned for protection in the urban area.

The Stara Planina Nature Park includes 62.95 km of the territory of the Zaječar local authority and 422.93 km of the territory of the Knjaževac local authority, i.e. about 36.85% of the area of protected natural property. Protection zones in the area of the Stara Planina Nature Park include: zone I degree of protection 3.63 km of the territory of LSG Knjaževac, zone II degree of protection 3.29 km in LSG Zaječar and 57.68 km in LSG Knjaževac, and zone III degree of protection 59.66 km in LSG Zaječar and 361.62 km in Knjaževac LSG.²⁶

The Landscape of outstanding features “Ozrenska livada”, with an area of 828.52 ha, is part of the Ozren mountain on the territory of the Sokobanja LSG with 80 species of plants, some of which are endemic, and there is also the source “Đerzelez” known from the Ottoman Empire period. The landscape of outstanding features “Lepteriya-Sokograd” includes the gorge of the Moravica River on the territory of the Sokobanja LSG, with an area of 405.71 ha, with a level II protection regime on an area of 320.50 ha and a level III protection regime on an area of 85.48 ha. It has a great diversity of flora and fauna. The gorge of the Moravica River has been placed under protection as an asset of great importance and is classified in the II category.²⁷ The Special Nature Reserve “Rtanj”, in the area of the Sokobanja and Boljevac LSGs, is a protected area of exceptional importance of the I category, with an area of 4,997.17 ha, where all three protection regimes are established. It has a specific relief with the conical peak Šiljak and very steep slopes, karst relief with deep pits and different forms of karst. In the area of SPC Rtanj, the following were identified: 11 strictly protected species of plants, representatives of amphibians, frogs, reptiles, fauna with 89 species of birds, insectivorous²⁸.

Smaller protected areas include the “Velika i Mala Ripaljka” nature monument, with the Ripaljka waterfall on the Gradašnica river on the Ozren mountain, which has been designated as a protected natural asset of category I as one of the largest bigrain waterfalls in the Republic of Serbia, with a series of waterfalls and giant pots in the bed of that river.

Ecologically important areas are Rtanj, which is an important plant zone of international importance and a protected area for birds, as well as Ozren and Devica - protected areas for butterflies. According to the Draft PPRS, a significant part of the Urban area will be included in the planned IBA areas.²⁹

²⁵ Regional spatial plan of Timočka Krajina, 2011

²⁶ Spatial plan of the special purpose area of the Nature Park and Stara planina tourist region (Official Gazette of the RS, number 115/2008)

²⁷ Decree on the Protection of Landscapes of Exceptional Characteristics Lepteriya - Sokograd (Official Gazette of RS, No. 25/2002)

²⁸ Decree on the Proclamation of the Rtanj Special Nature Reserve (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 18/2019)

²⁹ Draft PPRS, 2021, thematic map 16.

Protected natural monuments include Bogovinska Pećina (a protected natural asset of category III in the area of the village of Bogovina) and the source of Crni Timok (in the regime of the first degree of protection in the area of the village of Krivi Vir), both on the territory of the LSG Boljevac.

Green infrastructure

According to the wealth of forests and forest land, in the urban area, the LSG Boljevac leads with 41,537 ha or 50.2% of the territory, then the LSG Sokobanja with 24,704 ha or 47.1%, Knjaževac with 43,321 ha or 36%, while in the LSG Zaječar only 30,172 ha or 28.2% of the territory (below the national average of 30.9% and the average for NSTJ 2 Southern and Eastern Serbia of 40.3%)³⁰.

In the construction area of the Zaječara urban settlement, there are about 25 ha of public green areas, including the “Kraljevica” forest park, and the proportion of green areas is 8.6%. In the center of Knjaževac, there are relatively few organised public park areas, while the streets with a larger profile have tree-lined streets, and the amount of greenery per inhabitant is only about 0.07 m². In Sokobanja, the area of public greenery is 51.37 ha, i.e. 4.29% of the construction area of the urban settlement. There are several parks: the central city park of 2.17 ha (the oldest, with an original Turkish bath, flower beds and rose gardens and a massif of high greenery); a park on Banjica with an area of 2.05 ha (with two thermal springs whose temperature is 28 and 32 degrees Celsius) and a botanical garden. In Sokobanja, there are also several park-forests Borići, Lepterijska and Čuka 2, which are designed for recreational use, and the original structure of the forest has been preserved. There are 98 ha of public land in Boljevac of green areas, which is 26% of the construction area of the urban settlement or about 2.50 m² per inhabitant. Park public green areas are lacking the most.

5.3.4 Quality of environmental factors, exposure to environmental risks and climate change risks

Quality and levels of air, water and soil pollution

Air

Zaječar has the status of a territory with air of the third category due to exceeding the tolerance value for suspended particles PM10 in the winter heating period, which ranks it among urban settlements with excessive pollution and the obligation to create an Air Quality Plan. During 2019, there were 83 days exceeding the permitted limit values of the PM10 parameter, while in 2020 this exceedance was present on 139 days. Due to geographical features (basin position) and unfavorable meteorological parameters (temperature inversions, air humidity, wind rose), the communal area of Zaječar is exposed to pollution during the winter heating period from the combustion products of a large number of individual fireplaces and boiler houses that use mostly solid fuels (wood and coal). Also, four city boiler houses of the municipal utility company use fuel oil as fuel. Monitoring is carried out within the automatic station in the national network of measuring points. An initiative was launched to switch the city's heating plant to wood chips through PPP.

³⁰ Draft PPRS, 2021

Air pollution and monitoring of air quality in the environment in Knjaževac for the period from 01.08. - 31.12.2019 year, for different sampling sites is as follows: MM1- measuring point, the “Home of Secondary School Students”, Kaplarova 10; MM2 - measuring site, Gerontology Center Knjaževac, Karađorđeva 55; MM3 - measuring point Kindergarten “Crvenkapa”, Kaplarova 6. For all measuring points for the total test period, the measured values exceeded the prescribed values for Sulfur Dioxide -SO₂ in three days. The cause of exceeding the prescribed values is the self-ignition of the city’s unsanitary landfill. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) values were within the prescribed limits for all measuring points for the total test period. For the total test period, the measured values exceeded the prescribed values for soot in one day at MM1 and MM3 and in two days at the measuring point MM2. The cause of exceeding the prescribed values is the self-ignition of the city’s unsanitary landfill. Suspended particles PM₁₀, Arsenic, Cadmium, Nickel and Lead were examined at the MM2 measuring site and for the entire period of examination the values were within the prescribed limits.

Sokobanja is characterised by clean air and a healthy environment, and is a thermal and air spa³¹. On the other hand, air pollution in Sokobanja originates from boiler houses, individual fire pits from the territory of the entire municipality, traffic and the city landfill, which is located 3 km from Sokobanja and is a major source of air pollution, especially in the winter months, because it is often ignited due to hot ash that is brought along with garbage. LSG Sokobanja performs air monitoring from January 2022, and after the end of the one-year period, air quality data will be available.

In Boljevac, by measuring the parameters of air quality - NO₂, SO₂ and soot, it was determined that SO₂, soot and NO₂ do not exceed the limit values prescribed by law. Analyzing the results of measuring PM₁₀ particles (indicative measurements) it was determined that the deviations from the emission limit values are very small. The highest number of days above the limit values was recorded in February, nine days, one day in June, three days in September and in the measurement period November/December, two days the values exceeded the GVI.

Water

All sanitary fecal and atmospheric waste water on the territory of the Zaječar Local Government Area is discharged into the recipient - the Timok River without treatment, with the exception of certain industrial plants that have waste water treatment devices. LSG Zaječar participates in the Clean Serbia project within which there is planned construction of 65 km of sewage network and WWTP. Drafting of a conceptual solution with a hydrological study for the project of arrangement of canals and gullies for the collection of storm water in Zaječar is underway. Hydrogeological research and preparation of studies on underground water reserves are underway. Continuous monitoring of water pollution is not carried out in Knjaževac and Sokobanja. However, the problem of Knjaževac is the discharge of wastewater without purification directly into the recipient, in the Svrlijski Timok, which affects the poor quality of the water of the entire course of the Beli Timok and leads to the mass death of fish.³² The situation is similar in Sokobanja, where the Moravica river, in addition to municipal waste water from the city center of Sokobanja, is also loaded with water from numerous tributaries,

31 Sustainable Development Strategy of the Municipality of Sokobanja 2015-2025, from 2015

32 Development plan of the municipality of Knjaževac for the period from 2021-2027. from 2021

which pass through smaller urban settlements and carry certain amounts of dangerous water from septic tanks from rural households, and pesticides and artificial fertilizers from agricultural land.³³ Sampling takes place in Boljevac and analysis of water from watercourses comes from Crni Timok, Arnaut from two localities, Zmijanac and the swimming pool on the river Zmijanac. Pursuant to the Rulebook on parameters of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and parameters of the chemical and quantitative status of underground waters, watercourses belong to waters II and III class, i.e. waters that are moderately organically polluted and polluted. As for the ecological status waters are - betamesosaprobic - water of class II - moderate organic pollution and alphamesosaprobic - Class III waters - polluted water. There were no extraordinary cases of high pollution.

Land

Continuous soil monitoring has not been established on the territory of Zaječar LSG. Land degradation in terms of historical pollution was caused in the fifties of the 20th century by the spilling of pyrite tailings from the RTB Bor flotation tailings on over 700 ha of fertile agricultural land in the Timok Valley. Soil, underground and surface water are polluted. Indirect damages were caused by the blowing of dried pyrite under the influence of the wind to the surrounding areas, which caused crop damage and environmental pollution. Continuous soil monitoring has not been established in the Knjaževac, Sokobanja and Boljevac LSGs, and no precise data is available. However, there is soil pollution from unsanitary landfills next to most rural settlements, on the outskirts or in urban settlements (such as the Lug landfill in Knjaževac). In Boljevac, agricultural areas, abandoned quarries and village pits in several locations with a total area of about 8.18 ha are used for waste disposal.³⁴

Noise

The noise level on the territory of Zaječar LSG does not represent a significant problem, as shown by the deviations from the permitted limit values, which amount to 11% during the day and evening, while the noise during the night is slightly higher and amounts to 42% of the total number of measurements. Noise deviations from the permitted level are relatively small and range from 1 dB during the day and evening to a maximum of 9 dB at night. These exceedances are characteristic for the center of the urban settlement and the proximity of intersections and major roads. The noise level in the vicinity of schools and in the parts of the city intended for rest and recreation does not exceed the permitted limit values. Acoustic zoning was not performed for the urban settlement of Zaječar. In the urban settlement of Knjaževac, on the basis of established acoustic zones, determined according to the existing state of construction, land use, and according to the planned uses of the space, systematic monitoring of the noise level began in 2019. Noise level measurements at six measuring points in a period of 12 months from 08. 2019. - 08. 2020 gave the following results: MM1 - The courtyard of the nursing home in the hospital area and the rest and recreation area, noise levels do not exceed the permitted limit values (hereinafter DGV) only for the evening hours in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th months of 2020; MM2 - The courtyard of the elementary school "Dimitrije Todorović Kaplar" in the school zone, with a high intensity of traffic during the day in the surrounding area, noise levels exceed

33 Sustainable Development Strategy of the Municipality of Sokobanja 2015-2025, from 2015

34 Sustainable Development Strategy of the Municipality of Boljevac 2010-2020.

DGV for all time intervals in all periods of 2019 and 2020; MM3 - "Vojne bašte" in a residential area, with low traffic intensity, noise levels do not exceed DGV during the day in the July 2020, and in the evenings on October and December 2019 and January, May and June 2020. MM4 - Square near the House of Culture in a business-residential area with children's playgrounds, i.e. on the plateau in front of the Cultural Center, away from traffic roads. Noise levels do not exceed DGV only during the night of the August, September and October 2019, while DGV do not pass during the day on the January, February, March and May 2020 for the evening, for the night on the January, February, March and May and June and for the night in January 2020. MM5 - The space on the roundabout in the center in the area of the city's busiest roads, noise levels exceed DGV for day and evening in January 2020 and night on the August, September and December 2019, and on the February, March, June and August 2020. MM6 - Boševo in the industrial zone next to the main road at the entrance to an urban settlement with high traffic intensity. Noise levels exceed DGV for all time intervals in all measurement periods in 2019 and 2020. The causes of noise pollution come mainly from traffic. In 2015, the Elaborate on the acoustic zoning of the urban settlement of Sokobanja was prepared. During the measurement period, the measured noise levels at the observed locations had significantly higher values for day, evening and night, primarily at locations located in the center, along highways and city roads, and in the school zone. Noise originates mainly from traffic, especially at the observed points which are the main traffic routes, as well as from the usual activities of passers-by and restaurants. The implementation of the Noise Monitoring Programme in the urban settlement of Sokobanja is in progress, after the completion of the measurements, data on the average noise levels in the defined zones will be available. The noise level is not measured in Boljevac.

Heat islands

None of the LSGs within the Urban Area has microclimate data and no measurements were made to document locations with increased temperatures, so the existence of thermal islands. The assumption is that the most endangered locations are the narrow centers of urban settlements, due to excessive construction with a small percentage of open and green areas, a large amount of built and occupied land with solid and non-porous materials, such as concrete and asphalt, as well as increased motor traffic.

Vulnerability from floods, landslides, earthquakes, erosion and climate risks

The threat from floods, landslides, earthquakes, erosion and climate risks is diverse in the territory of the Urban Area. The level of danger from earthquakes is moderate and acceptable in Knjaževac and Sokobanja. In Sokobanja, the risk level for blizzards, drifts, ice and cold waves, landslides, landslides and erosion, as well as for fires, explosions and open fires is low and acceptable.

The level of threat from floods is low and acceptable in Sokobanja, moderate in Knjaževac, and very high in Boljevac, from the large waters of Crni Timok, Zlatska river, Radovanska river, Velika Arnauta river and Bogovinska river. The overflow of water causes flooding of about 200 ha of agricultural land, and the overflow of torrential streams on about 150 ha. Inhabited places on the territory of the municipality of Boljevac are also threatened by the occurrence of underground water, especially settlements that are in depression due to poor regulation of storm water and poor communal infrastructure.

Waste management and illegal landfills

On the territory of the Urban Area, each LSG has its own utility company for the management of municipal solid waste. PUC “Zaječar” collects and transports municipal waste in Zaječar from households and deposits it at the unsanitary Halovo landfill, for which there is a rehabilitation and remediation project, but it has not yet been implemented. The coverage of organised municipal waste export services from urban settlements is 93.73%, while in rural areas it is 69.5% of active households (16 rural settlements out of a total of 41 are covered by municipal waste collection). In Knjaževac, organised collection of municipal waste from urban settlements and 80% of rural settlements is carried out once a week by special garbage trucks, and the waste is disposed of at the temporary unsanitary Lug landfill without prior treatment. PUC “Napredak” Sokobanja provides the service of collection, transport and disposal of waste from households, industry, various business entities, institutions, facilities of public importance and public and green areas, using containers for disposal of mixed municipal waste. PUC “Usluga” Boljevac carries out the collection, transport and disposal of waste at the unsanitary landfill “Obla”, which is 9 kilometers from Boljevac along the highway IB-36 Paraćin-Boljevac-Zaječar, and there are also four operators who store non-hazardous waste in the work zone.

In Zaječar, there is no primary selection of waste, while in Knjaževac, only five packages are selected from containers from specific locations, after which they are sent to the plant where they are baled and handed over to the operator. In Sokobanja, the situation is completely different, because since 2010 organised separate collection of PET packaging and cans in 50 wire containers at different locations, and in 2018 a new system for the primary selection and recycling of packaging waste was started in the project of the municipality of Sokobanja, PUC “Napredak” and Sekopak - packaging waste management operator. 350 containers of different colors are provided for the collection of PET packaging, paper and glass, as well as 4,000 bins for the collection of packaging waste for every household in the territory of Sokobanja.

On the territory of Zaječar LSG, a Regional Center for Municipal Waste Management is planned for Zaječar, Bor, Majdanpek, Negotin, Knjaževac, Kladovo and Boljevac at the location “Halovo 2”, but it has not yet been implemented.

On the territory of the Urban Area, there are a large number of illegal landfills that pose a risk for soil, underground and surface water, air, plant and animal life, and human health. 49 illegal landfills were recorded in Zaječar LSG, near or in riverbeds, in the vicinity of at least one settlement, in areas of special purpose - the catchment area of the water supply reservoir “Grište”, the protective zone of the protected cultural property “Romuliana” and the Nature Park “Stara Planina”; and others. In Knjaževac, there is an unsanitary Lug landfill where collected waste is disposed of, although there are generally no zones with a high risk for illegal landfills. In the Sokobanja Local Government Area, there are 33 larger illegal landfills and 103 with more than 5 m³ of waste, namely 8 in urban settlements and 93 in rural landfills. There are also several locations of illegal landfills that directly threaten watercourses and water intakes: on the Nikolinačka River; on the Milušinac river and on the Urdeški stream. There are 48 in Boljevac, of which 15 have a significant negative impact on human health and the environment.

5.3.5 Primary utility infrastructure

Plumbing and sewerage

Water supply in the territory of the Urban area is mainly from springs. The water supply system for the urban settlement of Zaječar and certain rural settlements consists of two sources of the reservoir “Grlišće” and the karst spring “Tupižnica” and a plant for water and reserve source purification - a well on the coast of Beli Timok, a part of the Bor - Zajčar subsystem of the Timočki regional water supply system. The water from the “Grlišće” reservoir is subject to a complete purification treatment, while the “Tupižnica” karst spring and the well on the coast of Beli Timok are only chlorinated. The accumulation of “Bogovina” on Crni Timok is planned as part of the Bor - Zajčar subsystem of the Timok regional water supply system for settlements, for the needs of water supply for settlements in the municipalities of Boljevac, Zaječar, Bor and Negotin.³⁵

In Knjaževac, the basic way of supplying drinking water is a captured karst source and drainage of the alluvium of the river with a well, but there is no water factory. In addition to the source of underground water, the accumulation “Žukovac” on the Aldinačka river is planned as part of the Knjaževačka sub-system of the Timok regional water supply system for the settlement.³⁶

Boljevac is supplied from the Miroštica catchment and the Mrljiš source, which forms a system of wells and is treated with chlorine. Sokobanja is supplied with water from three captured sources: “Vrelo”, “Ozren” and “Bele Vode”, and a part of the water is obtained directly from the course of the Moravica river, via the pumping station to the WWTP “Carina”, from where the largest amount of drinking water is obtained. The problem is that in times of great turbidity in the river, this WWTP is not able to purify the water to the quality of drinking water, and in those periods it is shut down. During 2002, a well was built on Lepterija and another WWTP next to it. It should be added that about 8,000 inhabitants live in Sokobanja, while in the tourist season the number of users increases to 20,000.

All three sources of water supply in Zaječar have sanitary protection zones, and in 2014, around 150 objects, objects and things were removed from the sanitary protection zone of the “Grlišće” water supply reservoir, except for five wooden jetties due to the high water level on the lake. Water quality tests of tributaries and reservoirs have shown that the Lasovačka and Lenovačka rivers are significant polluters of the reservoir, given that they pass through rural settlements where the problem of wastewater and solid waste disposal is not fully regulated (Leskovac, Gornja Bela Reka, Lenovac, Lasovo). The municipal inspection has prohibited the discharge of sanitary fecal and waste water from garbage pits and the construction of watertight septic and garbage pits has been ordered. Erosion of the surrounding soil also contributes to the pollution, as arable land is treated with artificial fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, as well as the activities of fishermen who throw food for fish into the reservoir. In Sokobanja, there are no established sanitary protection zones for the springs, which are located near the area burdened by illegal construction and potential pollution from septic tanks. In Knjaževac and Boljevac, the protection of water sources has been fully implemented and is not threatened by construction or poor maintenance, and there are no current pollutants.

³⁵ Regional Spatial Plan of Timočka Krajina (Official Gazette of RS, No. 51/2011)

³⁶ Ibid.

In Zaječar, all households are connected to the city's water supply network, and in rural settlements, this possibility exists in 24 out of 42 villages. The construction of the water supply network in the urban settlement of Knjaževac is complete and all households are connected to the public water supply system. In Boljevac, 60% of residents are connected to the water supply system, and 40% do not have a built-in water supply system. The percentage of households that are not connected to the public water supply network in the urban settlement of Sokobanja amounts to 6%, as well as households in rural settlements on the territory of the municipality. The Sokobanja water supply network is divided into two altitude zones: Zone I - from 290 to 340 meters above sea level and Zone II - from 340 to 400 meters above sea level. The maintenance of the water supply network is at a satisfactory level in Knjaževac, and the capacity is sufficient with a reduction in losses on the network, while in Sokobanja there are about 60% losses in the network, as well as in Boljevac, where the Mirvštica system has 77% losses and the reconstruction and automation of the system is needed. The total annual water consumption in Knjaževac is 1,115,000 m³, of which 90% refers to household consumption and 10% to the economy, and the average water consumption is about 110 l/inhabitant per day. Average water consumption in Boljevac is about 600 l/user per day. The total water produced annually in the urban settlement of Sokobanja is 188,4500 m³. The total amount of water billed to households in Sokobanja in 2021 is 459,307 m³ and to the economy 364,609 m³.

There are no water restrictions on the territory of the Urban Area in the summer period, but due to frequent breakdowns in the water supply network and overloading of the network due to the large number of tourists in the summer period, some parts of Sokobanja remain without water.

The system of removal of atmospheric and sanitary fecal waste water in the territory of the Urban area is such that in the urban settlement of Zaječar, about 90% of the territory is covered by sewage infrastructure, and in the territory of the LSG it is 59.2%, which is below the average for cities in Serbia. None of the 41 rural settlements, as well as the spa settlement (Gamzigradska Banja), is included in the waste water drainage system. In Knjaževac, 16% of households are not connected to the public sewage system, and in some parts of the urban settlement there are no conditions for connection to the sewage system because it is gravity-fed without wastewater pumping. In some parts of the urban settlement, there is an insufficient construction of storm sewers, so the citizens introduced rain sewers into the fecal one, even though the sewers are of a separate type, which creates a problem for the unhindered use of fecal sewers because spills occur on rainy days. In Sokobanja, 80.8% of households are connected to the network, and in some parts of the Sokobanja settlement - "Čuka" and "Čair" - there is no sewage system due to illegal construction and the position of the terrain in relation to the constructed collectors. Atmospheric water is drained by rain sewers that exist in certain streets, canals and streams, and the final recipient for all atmospheric water is the Moravica river. Due to the configuration of the terrain, in times of heavy rainfall and snowmelt, the canal becomes clogged and silted with sand, mud and other material, and after that, increased maintenance and cleaning is required. In Boljevac, rainwater and fecal sewage networks are separated, and 30% of the sewage network is missing. It is necessary to expand the storm sewer system, as well as to build a sewer network in the settlements of Rtanj and Bogovina.

In Zaječar and Knjaževac, there is no built-in wastewater treatment system, while there is one in Boljevac, but it is not in operation and needs reconstruction and the construction of

a WWTP in Rtanj. In 1974, a Mechanical and Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was built in Sokobanja with a projected capacity of 35 l/s, which was later increased to 60 l/s. At the plant, waste water is treated to class IIa quality and discharged into Gradašnica, the left tributary of Moravica. However, the existing WWTP is inadequate capacity and is irregularly in operation, and to solve problems in the removal and processing of waste water, the Sokobanja local authority has been carrying out activities on the reconstruction and construction of a new plant on the site for many years.

Energy

The system of district heating with thermal energy in the territory of the Urban area supplies users in three urban settlements, namely: 2,890 households and 145 objects of the category of institutions and institutions in Zaječar; in Knjaževac, 746 apartments and 86 institutions and bars are supplied; in Boljevac, residential buildings and public buildings are connected and the system consists of several smaller boiler houses. In Sokobanja there is no remote heating system. On the territory of the Urban area, individual fireplaces are an alternative source of heat energy.

The gas pipeline network does not exist on the entire territory of the Urban Area, but a Decision was made on the development of the Spatial Plan of the special purpose area of the network of main and distribution gas pipelines of Eastern Serbia with elements of detailed regulation ("Official Gazette of the RS", no. 84/2022), which shows the intention to build the gas pipeline, which covers a significant amount of the territory Urban area.

The basic power supply of the Zaječar local government is via 110kV transmission lines from the direction of Bor (Đerdap I) and Đerdap II, but a connection with the direction from Knjaževac (Niš) and Boljevac is also possible. The connection with the direction from Bulgaria serves as a reserve and for the exchange of electricity in certain periods. Corridors are planned for these power lines that are aligned with the purpose of the areas through the areas included in the General Plan of Zaječar. According to the transmission system development plan for the period from 2016 to 2025 and the Investment Plan, it is foreseen that the future wind power plant Nova Vrška Čuka will be connected to the transmission network to the 110 kV transmission line (No. 1157) of the substation T.S. Zaječar 2 – T.S. Knjaževac, according to the entrance-exit principle, near T.S. "Zaječar 2" and the reconstruction of the 110 kV transmission line no. 148/2 T.S. Bor 2 – T.S. Zaječar 2 in double section 240/40mm². Another important parameter about the planned medium voltage power supply system is the gradual abandonment of the 35 kV voltage level and the introduction of the 110/10 kV direct transformation. Bearing in mind the high level of necessary investments for the transition to direct transformation 110/10kV, these activities will take place gradually, with the fact that in the near future the two-stage transformation 110/35/10kV, i.e. the use of substations T.S. 110/35/10kV. In Sokobanja, there is no data on the ratio of electricity consumption at the level of the urban settlement for housing and the economy. The capacities for electricity distribution are insufficient and represent a significant limitation to the further development of the Sokobanja LSG, while in the Boljevac LSG there are sufficient capacities for electricity distribution, but the distribution network is old and in poor condition and needs reconstruction.

There are possibilities for using alternative sources of energy in the territory of the Urban Area. In the last two years, LSG Zaječar has made several decisions in this direction. One is for the construction of the solar power plant “Solarina”, the Decision on joining the development of the DRP from 2021, the area covered by the plan is about 1,702 ha. The second one is for the construction of a solar photovoltaic power plant in KO Mali Izvor, the Decision on joining the development of the DRP from 2021, the area covered by the plan is about 70 ha. Then the decision to initiate the public-private partnership procedure without concession elements for the provision of services for the conversion of the city’s heating plant to biomass in Zaječar, with the construction of a new heating plant from 2020. The situation is similar in Sokobanja, where the possibilities of building wind power plants are defined in the planning documents of the local government; solar energy, using various types of passive solar systems for individual buildings, and active solar systems for energy accumulation by installing special equipment for larger consumers; and geothermal energy using energy from biomass and cellulose waste - use of wood waste in wood processing. For the construction of buildings of renewable energy sources, preparation of DRP is mandatory. Currently, two factories are working on the construction of their own solar collectors in Boljevac.

The energy passport for buildings was issued in Zaječar LSG for “Hajduk Veljko” Primary School; in Knjaževac for 5 objects of the categorization of buildings with several apartments (4) and a building with one apartment (1), and a total of 3 family houses and 2 residential buildings for collective housing (<https://crep.gov.rs/PregledPilotPasosa.aspx>). In Sokobanja, according to the CEOP from 1.1.2017 115 usage permits have been issued, which in accordance with the Law on Planning and for construction, they must have an energy passport, but there is no record of buildings and categories of energy passports. An energy passport was issued to Boljevac for 4 reconstructed public buildings.

5.3.6 Primary transport infrastructure and traffic

Traffic network

The most important road traffic in the Urban area are:

1. IB State Roads:

35: state border with Romania (Đerdap border crossing)–Kladovo–Negotin–Zaječar–Knjaževac–Svrljig–Niš–Prokuplje–Kuršumlija–Pristina–Štimlje–Suva Reka–Prizren–state border with Albania (Vrbnica border crossing)

36: Paraćin–Boljevac–Zaječar–state border with Bulgaria (Vrška Čuka border crossing)

37: Selište–Bor–Zaječar

2. State roads of the IIA order:

165: Poreč Bridge–Klokočevac–Miloševa–Kula–Zagrađe–Rgotina–Vražogrnac–Zaječar–Zvezdan

169: connection with state road 33–Veljkovo–Šipkovo–Zaječar–Lenovac–Bučje

217: Vukanja–Aleksinac–Soko Banja–Knjaževac

218: Boljevac–Rtanj–Soko Banja–Vrelo–Gornja Toponica

219: Boljevac–Bučje–Knjaževac

220: Minićevo–Novo Korito

221 Knjaževac–Kalna–Temska–Piroć–Visočka Ržana–Mojinci–Dimitrovgrad

3. State roads of the IIB order:

391: Brestovačka Banja–Zlot–Boljevac

394: Brestovac–Metovnica–Gamzigradska Banja–Gamzigrad

395: Zaječar–Lubnica–Boljevac

422: connection with state road 219–Manjinac–Debelica–connection with state road 35

423: connection with state road 219–Štipina–Debelica–Borovac–Vratarnica

425: Knjaževac–Beli Potok–connection with state road 222.

A large number of municipal roads in the Urban Area require reconstruction, rehabilitation or some other type of construction intervention. In the urban settlement of Zaječar, the biggest load is due to transit traffic, and the construction of the bypass would relieve the existing traffic network. Reconstruction is needed in all suburban settlements and in villages where roads are in a very bad condition. Until the construction of the Zaječara bypass, it is necessary to reconstruct the street Crvene Armije, and in Boljevac the streets in the settlements of Karaula, partly Stanično Brdo and Ilinska Brdo, sporadically in the central part as well.

In the Urban area, there are sections of single-track railways Niš–Knjaževac–Zaječar–Prahovo (no. 75) and Zaječar–Bor–Majdanpek–Požarevac (no. 45). The state of the railway infrastructure is not satisfactory, as indicated by the fact that the permitted speeds are in the range of 40 to 80 km/h, and the tracks are not electrified. Endangered and unsafe places are railroad crossings, especially in urban settlements, as well as railroad crossings on state roads that do not have bumpers. There is no rail traffic in Boljevac and Sokobanja.

There is no river traffic, air traffic infrastructure and multimodal hubs in the Urban area. The nearest airport, Konstantin Veliki, is located in Niš, about 60 km from the centers of Sokobanja and Knjaževac, 90 km from Boljevac and about 100 km from Zaječar.

Traffic safety

In terms of traffic safety, the urban settlements of Zaječar and Sokobanja are the least safe, which is understandable in relation to their size and tourist importance, in Knjaževac there are no particularly endangered or unsafe zones, while in Boljevac not all sections are traffic safe due to the need for reconstruction. In the urban settlement of Zaječar, the intersection on “Izvorski put” is the most endangered due to the lack of adequate traffic signals. In Crvene Armije Street, the traffic signalization project foresees only one pedestrian crossing at the “OMV” gas station, it is necessary to revise the project and provide for pedestrian crossings according to the needs of the citizens. In Sokobanja, safety is reduced due to the lack of sidewalks, and in the last few years sidewalks have been intensively built in the streets in the center of the settlement in the most vulnerable areas: around the school, towards the bus station, towards the market, in streets Alekse Markišić, Vuk Karadžić and others. Intensive work is also being

done in other locations, but most of the urban settlement is still not sufficiently covered by sidewalks, primarily: Dositejeva Street, Vojvode Mišića, Dragovićeva, etc.

Public city and suburban transport

Public city transport (JGP) is adapted to the needs of the residents and is financed from the budget of the local government in Zaječar. Knjaževac and Sokobanja and it is free for all citizens, while it does not exist in Boljevac. The JGP service is provided by the private sector through a concession contract, i.e. public-private partnership in Knjaževac. The vehicles are not adapted for people with disabilities, and there is no universal accessibility of the public transport system. In Sokobanja, the problem is that the JGP is aligned with the working regime of the elementary school and is implemented on a reduced scale during school holidays and weekends. There is no data on the number of passengers, since tickets are not charged.

Suburban transport is also adapted to the needs of residents, with the fact that in Boljevac it is provided by the private sector and the villages are partially covered by the same, the quality of services is at a satisfactory level, but the key problem is the wide spread of populated areas in the municipality and low profitability.

Traffic coordination exists only in intercity transport, and this area is organised by the carrier itself, according to market needs.

Pedestrian zones

There is a pedestrian zone in Zaječar in Timočke Bune Street, it exists and in Sokobanja, the so-called The marble promenade, the reconstruction of which is planned in the coming period, but there are no occasional pedestrian zones. Knjaževac doesn't lack them, while in Boljevac there is a lack of permanent and occasional pedestrian zones.

Bicycle traffic

In Zaječar, there is a bicycle path from the roundabout in the center to the settlement of Dva Brata, and there is also a lighted, and in one part covered with new asphalt, bicycle path from Zaječar to the suburban settlement of Grljan. Zaječar needs bike lanes. In the rest of the Urban area, there is no network of bicycle paths, but in Sokobanja it is planned along the banks of the Moravica River to Bovansko jezero, with the biggest obstacle to the realisation of bicycle paths being unresolved property issues.

Parking

Zaječar is well covered by closed parking lots and garages and there is a public charge, but there is a lack of street parking in the center of the urban settlement. There is a lack of parking in Knjaževac, especially in the center, as well as in Sokobanja, especially during the summer tourist season from May to September, with the fact that GRP Sokobanja has several public parking spaces planned, but the problem for implementation is unresolved property relations. Boljevac has a problem with a lack of parking, and planning documentation for the construction of a new public parking lot is currently being prepared.

Internet and digitalization

There is no public free internet on the territory of the Urban Area, except for the one in the city park in Knjaževac. Some smart systems have been introduced, so in Zaječar there is a parking payment system via SMS, vehicles in the city administration have a collision prevention system, all entrances to urban settlement have video surveillance, and there is a radar in Nikola Pašića Street, as well as cameras for detecting passing through a red light. In Sokobanja, there is an electronic parking payment system, while in Knjaževac and Boljevac there is not a single smart system.

5.4 URBAN AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE

5.4.1 Access to governance

In the framework of sustainable and integrated urban development, management refers to the methods used by the administration and various relevant actors in planning, financing and managing the development and implementation of the strategy. The key aspects of urban development management are: 1) a multi-level management approach, which refers to the coordination and harmonization of activities between different levels of management; 2) multi-stakeholder approach, which refers to the inclusion of all relevant actors during the public policy development cycle; and 3) “bottom-up” and participatory approach, which refers to initiatives led by the local community and encouraging the involvement of local actors.

Multi-level governance and partnerships

On the territory of the Urban Area, multi-level management in terms of coordination and coordination of actions between different levels of administration from local, through the national until international level is implemented through several programmes and projects. The following actors and levels collaborate on those programmes and projects as partners:

- Local level in type of partnerships Zaječar LSG and SCTM, Zaječar LSG and Knjaževac, Sokobanja, Boljevac; LSG Knjaževac and Rila (Bulgaria); LSG Sokobanja and Vršec (Bulgaria); TO Sokobanja and Local Initiative Vršec (NGO, Bulgaria); LSG Sokobanja and Boljevac, Water Directorate of RS and MEI; LSG Sokobanja and Knjaževac, LSG Boljevac, RARIS - Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia, Center for Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship Rural Hub (NGO), National Employment Service - Zaječar branch, Gymnasium “Branislav Nušić”, Sokobanja, and GENIUS - Center for the Protection of Human Rights and Development of Youth Policy, Knjaževac (NGO); Cultural and educational center Boljevac; Association “ROM”; and TO Boljevac.
- The national level of administration in the form of ministries of the Republic of Serbia, namely the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Mining and Energy, the Ministry of Environmental Protection; Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure; Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Rural Care; Cabinet of the Minister without portfolio in charge of demography and population policy, Cabinet of the Minister for Innovation and Technological Development, Office for Public Investments, Cabinet for the Promotion

of Development of Underdeveloped Areas, as well as the Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; and

- International level in the form of the EU and world development and donor agencies and foreign countries that build management capacity through various projects and programmes, such as the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme of Bulgaria and Serbia, Swiss Pro, UN Women, Council of Europe, UNOPS-EUPROPLUS, EU PRO and EUPRO+ projects, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The types, topics and names of the projects of the local government of Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja and Boljevac and international agencies are:

- Construction and reconstruction projects, such as “Renovation and digitization of the kindergarten “Đurđevak” in Zaječar”; Construction of the sewage system on the right bank of the Arnauta river; Completion of the water supply network in the village of Podgorac - LSG Boljevac;
- Projects in the field of management and capacity building, such as “Management of human resources in local self-government - phase 2”; Project for the introduction and development of GIS in the territory of Zaječar LSG; eZaječar; Formation of joint internal audit service;
- Environmental projects, such as “Measures for establishment of flood prevention and quick reaction conditions in Chiprovci and Bolevac”, Preservation and attractive exhibition of the Natural and cultural heritage of Belogradchik and Boljevac municipalities;
- Socially responsible projects, such as “When women lead”; “When women lead phase 2”; “Open doors behind closed doors” and “Let’s bounce together”; Grounds for a better future of our youth; “Forest firefighters (FFF)”; “Youth network for sport and health”;
- Projects in the field of culture, such as “Street art”;
- Projects in the field of tourism, such as Winter cross-border tour - Varšec-Sokobanja; Balneological tourism - the future of health, Tourism and futurism; and
- Drafting of territorial development documents, such as the Project for the Drafting of DRP Nikoličevo.

The types, topics and names of projects of national agencies and partnerships of the local government of Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja and Boljevac are:

- Construction and reconstruction projects, such as renovation and adaptation of the National Theater of Timočka Krajina-Cultural Center “Zoran Radmilović” Zaječar; Children’s playground development project in the “Kraljevica” Memorial Park-Forest area; Adaptation and renovation of the office building in Dositejeva street no. 1 in Zaječar; Remediation of land and renewal in a modern children’s playground in Oskoruša settlement in Zaječar; Carrying out works for the construction of a youth camp in Kraljevica and southern roads with public lighting in the “Kraljevica” complex in Zaječar; Reconstruction/construction of the system for water supply and water distribution and collection and processing of waste water in Sokobanja, and Water for Investments; Reconstruction of primary and secondary schools in Sokobanja; The

project of procurement and renovation of boiler houses for heating in the municipality of Boljevac in 2021; Regulation of the Zmijanac stream and reconstruction of the anti-erosion barrier; Regulation of the Osnička River bed;

- Projects in the field of management and capacity building, such as Modernizing the work of the Zaječar LSG Assembly through the introduction of a modern E-Assembly system for conducting the session and counting votes; A package of technical support for the improvement of anti-corruption policies at the local level; Land compaction project; A package of technical support for the preparation of the Development Plan;
- Environmental projects, such as the Regional Center for Communal Waste Management for the Zaječar Local Government Area, Bor, Majdanpek, Negotin, Knjaževac, Kladovo and Boljevac at the location "Halovo 2", Project of energy rehabilitation of the School for elementary and secondary education "Jelena Majstorović"; Project of energy rehabilitation of residential buildings, family houses and apartments - LSG Zaječar and Boljevac; Illegal dumping prevention project and removal in 2022; Afforestation of the memorial park-forest "Kraljevica"; Lighting for "Sunčana staza", Project for rehabilitation and reclamation of the existing landfill "Halovo; Turning the landfill into a children's national park; Energy rehabilitation of the administrative building of the municipality of Boljevac; Energy rehabilitation of Elementary School "Đorđe Simeonović" Podgorac; Energy rehabilitation of PU "Naša radost";
- Socially responsible projects, such as the launch of an educational center and the implementation of the "Izađi mi na teglu" manifestation; Improvement of the population policy of the Zaječar LSG; and Trim trail on Kraljevica - "Sunny trail"; Real-time notification system to reduce traffic accidents on the territory of Zaječar LSG; Start - up innovation center in Sokobanja; Support for the future - Initiative for inclusion; Acquisition of real estate for young married couples;
- Drafting of territorial development documents, such as Drafting of a plan for the detailed regulation of wastewater treatment plants on the territory of the city; DRP economic zone "West"; Development of the conceptual project - road Salaš-Dubočane-M. Jasikova;
- Projects in the field of culture, such as the project of restoration and adaptation of the national theater of Timočka krajina - Center for Culture "Zoran Radmilović" - Metamorphosis; Acquiring real estate in order to provide adequate space for the library;
- Projects in the field of tourism, such as the improvement of tourist infrastructure in Sokobanja; Mihaljski susreti 2022; and,
- Agricultural and entrepreneurial projects, such as "Youth in Business" (with the Ministry of Youth and Sports); "Femino" - Project for the promotion of women's innovative entrepreneurship (with the Cabinet of the Minister without portfolio in charge of innovation and technological development); Connecting the urban units of Work Zone 7 in Boljevac.

Participatory approach

The application of citizen participation and the initiative of the local population was realised during the development of urban and spatial plans through public consultations and public inspection, which are required by law, and the best examples are the General Urban Plan of the city of Zaječar, the General Urban Plan of the Sokobanja area and the Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Sokobanja.

Additionally, in the process of creating public policies, plans and projects, non-governmental organisations and citizens actively participate in working groups, through the Partnership Forum and during public hearings, etc, and the best examples are the Development Plan of the City of Zaječar 2021 - 2027, the Development Plan of the Municipality of Knjaževac 2021 - 2027, the Development Plan of the Municipality Sokobanja 2022-2030, Local waste management plan in the territory of the municipality of Sokobanja 2022-2032, and Development Plan of the Municipality of Boljevac.

Participatory working groups are used for developing strategies, focus groups, round tables, proposing projects, etc. In addition, more interested parties are involved in all development planning activities through the formation of participatory working groups. Also, the civil and private sectors are involved in the work of permanent parliamentary bodies. For the LSG budget, public consultations, citizen information and participation in public debates are carried out on an annual basis.

LSG capacities for urban development management

On the territory of the Urban Area, capacity development programmes for managing urban development are implemented, which are externally financed by international agencies. In addition to those programmes, employees of LSG units also participate in training organised by the National Academy for Public Administration and SCTM. In Knjaževac, capacity development programmes are implemented through the programmes Relof - reform of local public finances, Council of Europe - Implementation of a special professional training programme and Council of Europe - Organisational and functional improvement of local self-government - a single administrative place. The key shortcomings in the capacities of LSGs to manage urban development are reflected, above all, in the absence of human resources.

5.4.2 Sources of funding

There are different types of urban development financing in the territory of the Urban Area, from national and international funds, public-private partnerships, and private funds in the form of loans from investment and commercial banks in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

The main domestic sources of funding urban development are the own funds / budget of LSGs, programmes of various ministries of the Republic of Serbia, namely the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, The Ministry of Mining and Energy, the Cabinet for the Promotion of the Development of Underdeveloped Areas, as well as the Office for Public Investments.

International funds are realised through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and donor programmes, mostly through EU funds and programmes. It should be mentioned the EU cross-border cooperation programmes, the Bulgaria-Serbia CBC programme, and the EUPRO and EUPRO+ projects, GIZ, the Council of Europe, the Bilateral Development Fund of Poland and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, as well as the bilateral and multilateral cooperation and donor programmes of Swiss PRO and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as the use of international financial instruments, such as KfW.

5.4.3 Transparency and information

According to the LSG transparency index for 2021, Zaječar was in 134th place (with an index of 33 and an increase to 44 in 2022 which is an increase of 33.3%); Knjaževac was in 29th place (with an index of 55 and a decrease to 55 in 2022, which is a decrease of 9.1%); Boljevac was in 13th place (with an index of 64 and a decrease to 55 in 2022, which is a decrease of 14.1%); and Sokobanja was in 5th place, and in 2022 in 3rd place (with an index of 75 and growth to 84 in 2022, which is an increase of 12%).

In Knjaževac, there is a system of electronic communication between the administration and citizens in the form of a decision prescribing those procedures, as well as in Boljevac, while in Sokobanji has a special section with calls for public discussion on the internet presentation LSG <https://sokobanja.ls.gov.rs/archives/category/javne-rasprave> and the possibility for citizens to report various communal problems on the site Report a problem http://161.97.132.206/sb_kp.

The Geographical Information System (GIS) in the management of urban development was established in Zaječar in 2020 and is only in the initial phase of use. In Knjaževac it exists, but it is not used, in Boljevac there is a GIS for fire management, and in Sokobanja there is an urban investment GIS.

6 SWOT ANALYSIS AND NEEDS

6.1 IDENTITY OF THE URBAN AREA

advantages/strengths

- Favorable climatic conditions and good quality air (except in the urban center of Zaječar where the air quality is of the third category)
- Preserved identity of the Urban area (part of Timok Krajina) - wealth of natural resources and ecological preservation of the greatest parts of the area (preserved biodiversity, available water resources, representation of forests, Stara Planina Nature Park - proposed for the National Park, Landscapes of exceptional features Lepterija - Sokograd and Ozrenske livade³⁷, the surroundings of the Romuliana archaeological site - Gamzigrad, Rtanj Nature Reserve, planned for the protection of the Ozren and Devica mountains and the Deli Jovan mountain³⁸ and other protected areas, Sokobanja, Bovansko jezero)
- Rich cultural heritage (Imperial Palace of Felix Romuliana on the UNESCO World Heritage List, cultural assets of great importance - Church of the Holy Virgin, Monastery Gornja Kamenica, archaeological site "Ravna - Timacum Minus", "Soko grad"³⁹ and other immovable cultural properties, especially sacred architecture, as well as military bastions from the 19th century in Zaječar) and a large number of cultural manifestations
- Introduction of digitization, improvement of accessibility of archaeological heritage
- Urban settlements with recognizable modernist heritage and visual continuity in relation to the context - bearers of identity, under the influence of architectural pioneers (such as Corbusier and Bogdanović in Knjaževac, etc.)
- Rural settlements with preserved morphology and traditional construction well integrated into the image of the landscape, especially on Stara planina
- Developed tourism in Sokobanja and development of winter tourism on Stara planina
- The development of the tourist resort and hotel on Rtanj and the tourist categorisation of rural households in the Boljevac LSG (30 households) have begun.
- The existence of the regional brand of eastern Serbia "Balcanica Superior" which also covers the Zaječar district
- International cooperation through projects

weaknesses/deficiencies

- Unfavorable position in Serbia > distance from larger centers
- Intangible cultural heritage and some natural monuments (e.g. Bogovinska Pećina) are not sufficiently valorised
- Neglecting the value and endangering the architectural heritage from the 19th and 20th centuries, especially urban architecture from the socialist period (examples of brutalism in modern architecture)

37 RPP Timochka Krajina (2011)

38 Draft PPRS (2021)

39 RPP Timochka Krajina (2011), Draft PPRS (2021)

- Inadequate planning documentation for protected natural assets
- Insufficient and uneven development of tourist potentials (weak and uncategorised accommodation facilities, insufficient valorization of the rural settlements of Stara Planina for the development of tourism), lack of tourist facilities and tourist signage, poor networking and poor infrastructure
- The expansion of settlements, the usurpation of agricultural and forest land mainly by illegal construction, the destruction of nature (especially for the needs of tourism on Stara planina), an ineffective system of legalizing illegal construction
- Underutilization and slow transformation of former industrial and military brownfields (owned by the Ministry of Defense)
- Investor planning and conversion of construction land without arguments in Soko Banja, primarily for residential construction (the largest after Zlatibor)
- Abandonment of agricultural land and depopulation of rural settlements
- Inadequately processed and presented authentic and traditional products that can be identified with the region
- Deterioration of air quality in the heating season in urban settlements

potentials/possibilities

- Development of sustainable tourism - cultural tourism (based on tangible and intangible cultural heritage and cultural events), rural tourism, mountain tourism (summer offer of activities in nature), spa tourism (Gamzigradska Banja) and tourism of special interests (e.g. religious tourism, equestrian tours) and tourist destinations with cultural and natural heritage
- Revitalization of certain traditional rural settlements into tourist settlements
- Brownfield regeneration > former industrial and military complexes (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja)
- Branding of tourist and agricultural products (e.g. donuts with thorn jam) and place branding (e.g. branding of the archaeological site of the Imperial Palace of Felix Romuliana and the museum in Zaječar)
- Connecting cross-border municipal centers in order to develop tourism
- Strengthening urban-rural connections
- Valorization and presentation of preserved natural and cultural landscape, industrial heritage (Belgium railway, Kristal factory, etc.)

threats/risks

- Abandoned military complexes > without new purposes and with unresolved ownership
- A large number of illegal buildings
- Further endangerment of natural and cultural assets by illegal and excessive construction
- Uncontrolled expansion of settlements and usurpation of agricultural and forest land
- Insufficient connectivity tourist offers in the Urban area and with tourist offer of surrounding destinations
- Better enforcement of regulations
- "Rocking the boat in place" - inconsistent implementation of development policies
- Low level of awareness about the importance of cultural heritage

needs

- Strengthening the identity of the urban area - a network of urban and rural settlements, cultural heritage and natural resources
- Urban regeneration of the city structure and rehabilitation of buildings of architectural heritage - from the socialist period, city architecture, etc.
- Adequate transformation and reactivation of a brownfield site
- The need for renovation and maintenance of the network of public urban spaces
- Continuous expansion regulation of the built-up area of urban and suburban settlements and more effective prevention of unplanned construction
- The need to strengthen urban-rural links, offers of jobs and services in urban and rural areas
- Integrating the tourist offer in the Urban area and linking it with the offer of tourist destinations in Lower Danube and Bor (e.g. culture and wine routes, hiking and cycling trails, etc.)
- Revitalization and transformation of certain traditional rural settlements into tourist settlements

6.2 GREEN AND ENERGY TRANSITION AND MOBILITY***advantages/strengths***

- The tradition of using renewable energy sources for heating in households
- The tradition of using circular economy principles
- Representation of forests and forest land in the Zaječar Urban Area, and public green areas in urban settlements
- New system for primary selection and recycling of packaging waste (Sokobanja - every household)
- Effective work of the inspection on the protection of the narrow protection zone of the Grljste water reservoir (LSG Zaječar)
- Developed traffic network
- JGP free and adapted to the needs of residents, suburban unprofitable because dissoluteness

weaknesses/deficiencies

- Insufficient green areas and polluted air in urban settlements > traffic and heating in winter, excessive construction, landfills (Zaječar, Sokobanja)
- Discharge of wastewater into recipients - rivers, without purification (Timok, Svrlijski Timok > Beli Timok, Moravica)
- Endangerment of water sources by wild construction, pollution from septic tanks, (Zaječar, Sokobanja), soil erosion > artificial fertilizers and food from fishermen (Zaječar)
- Parts of the urban area without water in summer (Sokobanja) > large number of tourists
- Spillage of fecal sewage on rainy days (Knjaževac)
- Flooding in the area of the village of Lukovi and on the agricultural land around Timok
- Land degradation > tailings, unsanitary landfills (most rural settlements)

- Primary waste selection is small (Knjaževac - only selection of five packages) or non-existent (Zaječar)
- Wild landfills near rivers, settlements, in special purpose areas > risk for soil, underground and surface water, air, plant and animal life and human health pollution
- Unsanitary landfills Halovo (Zaječar) and Lug (Knjaževac)
- Overcrowding of unsanitary landfills
- Weak implementation and alignment with existing Halovo regulations
- Insufficient parking and sidewalks
- Low coverage or lack of free Internet

potentials/possibilities

- Potential gasification of almost the entire territory of the Urban Area
- Potentials for the use of solar power plants (Solar and photovoltaic power plant in KO Malo Izvor in Zaječar, solar collectors in Boljevac), transition of the city heating plant to biomass (Zaječar)
- Introduction of heat pumps within the WWTP
- EU funds have been secured for the construction of WWTP in Sokobanja
- Adequate flood protection in critical sections of watercourses
- Planned Bogovina water reservoir as part of the Timok regional water supply system for settlements
- Planned Regional Center for Communal Waste Management Halovo 2
- Introduction of incentive measures and incentives (wild landfills)
- Potentials of the circular economy on the examples of cooperatives for waste management
- Freeing the central zones of urban settlements from motorised traffic, expanding public pedestrian and cycling areas, developing public transport and using alternative-powered vehicles
- Application of management mechanisms - public private partnership, participation, privatization of services

threats/risks

- Underutilization of the potential of natural resources and renewable energy sources
- Previous study of biomass assessment for the needs of switching heating plants to biomass
- Endangerment of water sources by illegal construction, landfills, waste water, septic and garbage pits and disposal of solid waste
- Soil erosion by agricultural production, danger from floods and landslides
- The concept of development of urban contents that favors the greater use of passenger cars
- Penal policy inadequate, weak potential
- Inconsistency of law
- PPP can be unfavorable for LSGs (experiences with the energy efficiency project in LSG Boljevac)
- Failure to comply with regulations and plans, lack of finances

needs

- Establishment of sustainable energy (by applying energy efficiency measures, using renewable energy sources, and applying norms for environmental protection and reducing the harmful effects of climate change)⁴⁰
- It is necessary to increase the capacity for electricity distribution (Sokobanja) and for the reconstruction of the distribution network (Boljevac)
- Reconstruction and automation of the water supply system (Boljevac)
- Construction of water supply and WWTP in Knjaževac in rural areas
- Necessary construction of a sewage network in the settlement (Boljevac: Rtanj and Bogovina)
- The need for construction (Zaječar and Knjaževac) and reconstruction (Sokobanja, Rtanj) of wastewater treatment systems and facilities
- Removal of illegal landfills
- Harmonization of JGP work with the needs of residents and tourists during school holidays and weekends (reduced capacity of Sokobanja)
- Reconstruction / rehabilitation of the traffic network, detour required (Zaječar)
- The need for permanent and occasional pedestrian zones, bicycle paths, parking (street parking, public parking spaces) in urban and spa settlements and the construction of sidewalks in most settlements

6.3 INNOVATIVE AND SMART ECONOMY***advantages/strengths***

- A diverse industry
- The sector of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)
- Support for youth and women's entrepreneurship
- Free customs zone Knjaževac
- Existence of institutions to support development in business (Timočki club, Resource Center Bor, KLER, Regional Chamber of Commerce, RARIS) and the involvement of the NGO sector in project implementation
- Free suburban transport
- Fair of medicinal plants

weaknesses/deficiencies

- Lack of skilled labor
- Low labor mobility
- Cheap labor
- Insufficient willingness to innovate
- Lack of better quality and better paying jobs
- Fragmented agricultural holdings and poor use of available non-reimbursed and subsidised sources of financing
- Incompatibility of education with the needs of the economy

⁴⁰ The Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025 with projections until 2030

- Incubator centers are not active (Bor and Majdanpek are still functioning)
- Reduced role of entrepreneurs' association (except Boljevac)
- Negative promotion of youth education

potentials/possibilities

- Good natural potential for tourism development
- Development of organic food production, considering the natural prerequisites for this type of agriculture
- Transition from the "raw material base" to the processing industry, primarily in the agriculture and forestry sectors
- Entry of agricultural holdings into processing, use of non-reimbursed and subsidised sources of financing (IPARD, etc.)
- Creative industry, film industry
- Consolidated data on investment companies, brownfields and greenfields
- Dual education
- Development of the green economy and support for start-ups
- Border cooperation and EU projects
- Technological incubator in Bor

threats/risks

- Decline in the number of companies
- Migrations of the working age population
- Government owned brownfield sites
- Lack of scientific and research institutions, connection with the economy, innovation
- Underdeveloped non-formal education
- Difficult acceptance of the concept of lifelong learning

needs

- Harmonization of educational programmes and the needs of the market for qualified labor (needs for further training and retraining)
- Connecting science, economy and society to encourage innovation⁴¹
- Supporting food production (sustainable agriculture and value-added food production) and creative industries (creative digital audio-visual production, including branding and marketing)⁴²
- Green and circular economy with the aim of contributing to environmental protection and minimizing the amount of produced waste (tourism, renewable energy sources)⁴³
- The need for categorization of tourist places (the settlement of Rtanj)

41 Strategies of scientific and technological development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2020 - "Research for innovation"

42 Strategy of smart specialization of RS. https://prosveta.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Strategija-pametne-specijalizacije_SR_WEB.pdf

43 Green agenda for the Western Balkans, 2020 https://api.pks.rs/storage/assets/Zelena%20agenda%20za%20Zapadni%20Balkan_info.pdf

6.4 SOCIAL WELLBEING

advantages/strengths

- The existence of awareness and readiness for continuous improvement of all actors of social protection in the public and civil sector
- The existence of a PCR laboratory (Institute for Public Health Timok for Zaječar and Bor districts)
- Free support for families
- Infrastructural and organisational capacities for sports activities (example of the development of equestrian sports)
- Cultural institutions of local and regional importance with existing infrastructure and content

weaknesses/deficiencies

- Lack of capacity to care for the elderly in the Urban area
- Low level of availability and lack of capacity of primary care services in rural areas (90% of non-conditional clinics)
- The doctor's departure
- Insufficient capacities for field work of social and medical services
- Licensing of social service providers
- Absence of records on residential premises, record of construction of residential buildings for the needs of tourism development, not for social housing
- Lack of higher education institutions - colleges and faculties
- Low level of policy implementation, insufficient strengthening of management capacities

potentials/possibilities

- Inclusion of the private sector as a service provider in the field of social protection (Knjaževac)
- Establishing better cooperation between institutions and institutions between local self-governments in order to exchange experiences and knowledge
- A large number of cultural institutions
- Monitoring of environmental parameters and population health by municipalities, an important PCR center
- Inclusion of the private and civil sector as providers of social protection services
- Innovative approaches - cooperatives

threats/risks

- Population decline (18% for the last 11 years)
- Unfavorable demographic structure (29% over 65, 14% under 17)
- Citizens' lack of information about available rights in the field of social protection
- The absence of a system for monitoring the effects and results of projects in the field of social policy and spontaneous implementation of projects
- Insufficient support to the civil and private sector in licensing services
- Lack of professional staff in the field of tourism and catering

- Insufficient education of all actors in the field of tourism
- Non-compliance of laws (service providers) on education and social services

needs

- Developing measures to support employment (LAP, local programmes and projects)
- Establishment of scientific teaching cooperation - higher education (e.g. existing in Boljevac and new scientific bases of state faculties in Zaječar)
- Establishment of services in the area of social infrastructure: Counseling centers for young people, Shelter for up to 30 days for people in a state of social need, Day care for people with developmental disabilities and Family counseling center (Sokobanja); Expansion of the Service for providing help at home for adults and the elderly, especially in the countryside, and the re-establishment of the Counseling Center for Marriage and Family and the Counseling Center for Victims of Violence, Home for the Elderly (Zaječar); Day care for the elderly and home for students (Boljevac); Kindergarten construction; Needs for geronto-housewives, home treatment, sanitation
- Reconstruction of health infrastructure institutions (Sokobanja) and energy rehabilitation (Zaječar)
- Formation of a cultural center (Sokobanja), behind the new building "City Gallery" and an additional depot for the storage of art objects, and a closed museum (Zaječar)
- Lack of sports facilities (Boljevac) and construction of sports facilities (Sokobanja)

6.5 URBAN AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE

advantages/strengths

- Multi-level governance > international, national and regional actors through various programmes and projects
- Different international and domestic types of urban development financing
- Participation in EU-funded projects (Danube Strategy, Romuliana Visitor Center 5 million euros)
- Joint projects with surrounding institutions (Đerdap National Park)
- RARIS, Offices for Local Economic Development, Local Action Group (LAG) Rtanj
- Cooperatives, networks in their infancy, tourist organisations
- Cooperation of municipalities on the implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan
- Regional tourism product - digital platform digital promotion - tourism, cultural heritage, Visit East Serbia
- A developed system of electronic communication between the administration and citizens (web application of communal problems, Sokobanja)
- Involvement of citizens in the adoption of the HELVETAS budget (Knjaževac)
- Great transparency of local self-government for 2022 (Sokobanja in 3rd place, Boljevac in 35th place, Knjaževac in 56th place and Zaječar in 93rd place)
- Use of GIS in urban development management (urban investment, Sokobanja, fire management, Boljevac)

weaknesses/deficiencies

- Absence of a stimulating legal framework for inter-municipal cooperation
- Formal participation of citizens through legally mandated public consultations and public inspection
- Lack of human resources in the capacities of LSGs to manage urban development
- Weak (Zaječar) or no (Knjaževac) use of GIS in urban development management
- Lack of capacity for GIS application
- Incomprehensible administration, complicated procedures

potentials/possibilities

- International and national programmes and projects for building and increasing management capacity
- Networking and partnerships with actors on international projects
- Public-private partnerships in various fields > infrastructure, place branding, sustainable mobility and JGP, sustainable tourism development
- Strengthening the cooperation of LSGs within the Urban Area for joint care of the environment, implementation of regional landfills, and other projects
- Strengthening transparency in decision-making in the management of urban development
- Realisation of the planned

threats/risks

- Centralised development management system
- Insufficient institutional capacity to solve key problems,
- Slow governance reform for multi-stakeholder management processes
- Low level of citizen participation in the process of urban development
- The departure of young, highly educated people to bigger cities
- Moving away from the rapprochement of the EU and the economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine > reduced number of EU projects and additional sources of funding

needs

- Capacity building for integrated and sustainable management of urban/territorial development
- Providing financing for the development of the Urban Area from various sources - local, national, international, and the application of various management instruments
- Better use of the potential of intersectoral, interinstitutional, intermunicipal and interstate cooperation, cooperation at multiple levels of management, and transdisciplinary cooperation with scientific and research institutions
- Essential participation of citizens and interested parties in the planning process beyond formal forms for quality development management
- Greater use of ICT tools and e-services
- More intensive application of GIS

7 VISION, OBJECTIVES, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

7.1 VISION

THE URBAN AREA OF ZAJEČAR IS A MODERN, OPEN AND ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE REGION WITH A RECOGNISED CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE, DEVELOPING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The urban area of Zaječar is a tightly connected and well-organised multicultural environment with a clear identity and a unique development goal. Center of healthy food production, creative industries, sports, spa and cultural tourism. Easily accessible, well networked and connected, an active area, focused on people, nature and tradition, within which cities help each other, cooperate and share obligations and responsibilities. A center of social welfare with a high level of social and health services, attractive public spaces and a quality education system.

7.2 THEMATIC OBJECTIVES, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

The starting framework for formulating the goals, specific goals and measures of the urban area strategy (SUP) is the new legislation of the European Commission, which establishes common output and result indicators for the European Fund for Regional Investments (investments in jobs and growth and Interreg) and the European Cohesion Fund⁴⁴ (EC, 2021). The goals of the new EU Cohesion Policy for the period 2021-2027 are: 1) A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and ICT regional integration; 2) A greener, more resilient, low-carbon Europe, transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy by promoting the clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investments, circular economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk management and its prevention, and sustainable urban mobility; 3) A more connected Europe by strengthening mobility; 4) A more inclusive Europe with a prominent social component by implementing the EU pillar of social rights, and 5) Europe closer to citizens by encouraging sustainable and integrated development of all types of areas and local initiatives.

The National framework for SUP consists of public policies, which are prepared and adopted in the process of Serbia's integration into the EU. They are listed chronologically starting from the most recent, namely: Draft Law on the Establishment and Functioning of the Cohesion Policy Management System, 2023⁴⁵; Sludge management programme in Serbia from 2023 to 2032⁴⁶ (Government of RS, 2023); Low-carbon development strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2023 to 2030 with projections until 2050⁴⁷; Strategy for young people in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030⁴⁸ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 9/2023); Strategy of

44 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN>

45 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/vesti/2811/detaljnije/w/0/nacrt-zakona-o-uspostavljanju-i-funkcionisanju-sistema-za-upravljanje-kohezionom-politikom-na-portalu-ekonsultacije/>

46 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/lat/saopstenja/vesti/prvi-put-usvojen-vazan-planski-dokument-%E2%80%93-program-upravljanja-muljem-u-republici-srbiji>

<https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/735156/usvojen-program-upravljanja-muljem-u-srbiji-od-2023-do-2032-godine.php>

47 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/saopstenja/vesti/vlada-republike-srbije-usvojila-strategiju-niskougljenicnog-razvoja-do-2030-godine>

48 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2023/9/1/reg>

deinstitutionalization and development of social protection services in the community for the period 2022-2026 year⁴⁹ ("Official Gazette of the RS", no. 12/2022); Air protection programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030 with an action plan⁵⁰ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 140/2022); Circular economy development programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2022-2024 year⁵¹ ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 137/2022); Waste management programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2022-2031 year⁵² ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 12/2022); Programme of adaptation to changed climatic conditions with Action Plan, Draft⁵³; Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035, Draft⁵⁴; Strategic priorities for the development of the culture of the Republic of Serbia from 2021-2025 year⁵⁵ (Ministry of Culture and Information of the RS, 2021); Integrated national energy and climate plan of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021 to 2030 with a vision until 2050⁵⁶; Strategy for the development of information society and information security in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026⁵⁷ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 86/2021); Strategy of scientific and technological development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 "Power of knowledge"⁵⁸ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 10/2021); Strategy for the development of the startup ecosystem of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025⁵⁹ ("Official Gazette of RS", number 125/2021); Industrial policy strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030⁶⁰ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 35/2020); Employment strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026⁶¹ ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 18/2021, 36/2021); Strategy for the development of education and upbringing in Serbia until 2030⁶² ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 107/2021); Strategy of smart specialisation in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2027. year⁶³ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 21/2020); Strategy of sustainable urban development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030⁶⁴ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 47/2019); Artificial intelligence development strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025. year⁶⁵ ("Official. Gazette of the RS", no. 96/2019); Public health strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2026 year⁶⁶ ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 61/2018); Tourism development strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025⁶⁷ ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 98/2016); Strategy of agriculture and rural development of the Republic of Serbia for the

49 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2022/12/1>

50 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2022/140/1>

51 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2022/137/1>

52 http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2022_02/SG_012_2022_010.htm

53 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/informacije-od-javnog-znacaja/javne-rasprave/javni-poziv-za-ucese-javnosti-u-procesu-konsultacija-u-vezi-sa-izradom-programa-prilagodjavanja-na-izmenjene-klimatske-uslove-sa-akcionim-planom-0>

54 <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/PPRS%20Nacrt.pdf>

55 <https://www.kultura.gov.rs/extfile/sr/6132/Strate%C5%A1ki%20prioriteti%20razvoja%20kulture.pdf>

56 <https://www.mre.gov.rs/dokumenta/strateska-dokumenta/integrirani-nacionalni-energetski-i-klimatski-plan-republike-srbije-za-period-2021-do-2030-sa-vizijom-do-2050-godine>

57 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2021/86/1/reg>

58 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2021/10/1/reg>

59 http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2021_12/SG_125_2021_011.htm

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

61 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/ispravka/2021/36/1>

62 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2021/63/1/reg>

63 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2021/10/1/reg>

64 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/47/1/reg>

65 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/96/1/reg>

66 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/61/1/reg>

67 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2016/98/1>

period 2014-2024 year⁶⁸ (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 85/2014); Strategy for supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and competitiveness for the period from 2015 to 2020⁶⁹ (“Official Gazette of RS”, number 35/15).

By harmonising the objectives and measures from the EU and national policies, a framework for sustainable and integrated territorial development of urban areas was formulated, which consists of the following objectives:

- 1) Strengthening the urban identity and renewal of the urban area by encouraging sustainable and integrated development;
- 2) Promoting the transition to clean and fair energy, green and blue investments, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;
- 3) Promoting innovative and smart economic transformation, circular and low-carbon economy and ICT integration;
- 4) Improvement of social wellbeing, and
- 5) Improvement of urban development governance.

The “localization” of objectives, specific objectives and measures was checked for each territory and adapted to the local context. It took place through workshops with local actors - members of working groups and strategy councils, as well as in public forums with citizens. After the cycle of checks on individual strategies, the next iteration was carried out where the proposals were sublimated and the specificities of local territories, problems, needs, project proposals were considered, and where the final correction of specific objectives and measures was made. The following text presents the objectives, specific objectives and measures for the urban area.

Table 1: *Thematic objectives, specific objectives and measures*

Explanation of abbreviations used: O – objective, SO – specific objective, M – measure

O 1. Strengthening the urban identity and renewal of the urban area by encouraging sustainable and integrated development
SO 1.1 Improved and uniform quality of arrangement and accessibility of the urban area
M 1.1.1 Development, renovation and regeneration of underutilised buildings, zones and units (unused and unequipped buildings, unresolved property-legal relations) including the revitalization of brownfield sites
M 1.1.2 Urban regeneration of parts of the settlement that are exposed to devastating processes, including the consequences of climate change (flooding, heat islands, etc.)
M 1.1.3 Establishing measures to improve the management, maintenance and promotion of the culture of housing in residential communities (multi-apartment buildings)
M 1.1.4 Improving security in urban settlements
M 1.1.5 Arrangement, preservation and connection of public spaces (surfaces and buildings) in accordance with the concept of accessibility
M 1.1.6 Support for urban design (facilities and ground floor) of the central zone in urban settlements. Poa

68 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2014/85/1>

69 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/35/1/reg>

SO 1.2 Encouraging the protection of cultural and architectural heritage
M 1.2.1 Identification of tangible and intangible cultural heritage
M 1.2.2 Active protection of cultural heritage and recommendations for the character and intensity of acceptable activities in urban development planning
M 1.2.3 Restoration and protection of buildings and wholes of architectural and urban heritage that are not protected cultural assets (traditional types, vernacular architecture, industrial buildings, architecture and urban planning before and after World War II, etc.)
M 1.2.4 Preservation of cultural landscape diversity
M 1.2.5 Unified presentation and promotion of the cultural and architectural heritage of the urban area at the international and national level (signaling, web presentation, etc.)
SO 1.3 Encouraging the development of sustainable tourism and a unified tourist offer
M 1.3.1 Identification and valorization of existing tourist resources and contents
M 1.3.2 Diversification of the tourist offer based on the identity of the urban area with the sustainable use of natural and cultural assets, their more effective and comprehensive protection, and mitigation of the negative impacts of tourism
M 1.3.3 Branding of the urban area by connecting the cultural and tourist offer
SO 1.4 Encouraging an integrated and sustainable approach in remediation of illegal construction and its prevention
M 1.4.1 Controlling the expansion of construction land at the expense of agricultural, forest and water land
M 1.4.2 Rehabilitation and renovation of existing substandard or unorganised residential areas and units through their infrastructural equipment, construction of public facilities and improvement of the quality of public spaces
M 1.4.3 Removal of illegal structures in zones under protection regimes (sanitary protection of sources of drinking water, floodplains, wetlands, protected cultural and natural assets,...)
SO 1.5 Strengthening and improving the management of urban-rural links
M 1.5.1 Development of public service services, traffic and technical infrastructure, suburban public transport (bus and railway) and communal activities in the entire Urban area
M 1.5.2 Identification projects and monitoring programmes of ecosystem services that rural areas provide to urban settlements
M 1.5.3 Restoration of underutilised buildings (in different forms of ownership) in rural areas and their conversion into museums (Ilino selo, Boljevac), tourism facilities, clinics, housing, sports and entertainment (Vražogrnac), etc.

O 2. Promoting the transition to clean and fair energy, green and blue investments, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility

SO 2.1 Improvement energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
M 2.1.1 Establishing sustainable energy (using energy efficiency measures, using renewable energy sources and applying norms and innovative materials for environmental protection and reducing harmful effects on the climate)
SO 2.2 Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources
M 2.2.1 Integration use of renewable energy sources (electrical and thermal energy)
M 2.2.2 Educational and informative campaigns

SO 2.3 Development of smart energy systems, networks and storage
M 2.3.1 Smart networks, advanced systems for energy storage and distribution, energy efficiency monitoring, development of smart cities, energy-efficient lighting, sustainable biomass production, etc.
SO 2.4 Adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, strengthening resilience to climate change, taking into account an ecosystem-based approach
M 2.4.1 New or improved risk monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems for natural disasters and natural hazards
M 2.4.2 Protection measures against natural disasters related to climate change (except floods and forest fires)
M 2.4.3 Protection against flooding by external waters (rivers and lakes)
M 2.4.4 Newly built or improved protection against landslides and landslides
M 2.4.5 Built or improved green infrastructure to adapt to climate change
M 2.4.6 Protection measures against forest fires
SO 2.5 Ensuring equal access to sanitation and water supply and promoting sustainable water management
M 2.5.1 New or improved systems to improve the quality of drinking water delivered to consumers in public water systems
M 2.5.2 New or improved public distribution water systems
M 2.5.3 New or improved public sewage collection systems
M 2.5.4 New or improved capacities for wastewater treatment and sewage sludge treatment
M 2.5.5 New or improved stormwater flood protection systems, including rainwater harvesting systems
SO 2.6 Improvement of waste management
M 2.6.1 Improvement of the municipal waste management system in accordance with the Law
M 2.6.2 Establishment of a hazardous waste management system in accordance with the Law
M 2.6.3 Primary waste selection and support for incentive measures for households and the economy in urban areas
SO 2.7 Strengthening the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, and reducing all forms of pollution
M 2.7.1 Green and blue infrastructure
M 2.7.2 Identification of areas within the framework of preparation for NATURA 2000 networks covered by protection and restoration measures
M 2.7.3 Reclaimed land (for green areas, housing support, economic or other purposes)
M 2.7.4 Areas covered by the installation of air quality monitoring systems
M 2.7.5 Areas covered by the protection against major chemical accidents and the limitation of the consequences of those accidents on human health and the environment through the control of the Seveso plant/complex
SO 2.8 Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility
M 2.8.1 Development and improvement of intercity public transport
M 2.8.2 Environmentally acceptable vehicles for collective public transport

M 2.8.3 Development and connection of infrastructure intended for bicycle traffic
M 2.8.4 Infrastructure for the supply of alternative fuels
M 2.8.5 A new or modernised digitised urban transport system
M 2.8.8 Improvement of the car-sharing parking system
M 2.8.9 Establishing the infrastructure for the park-and-ride system with public transport (park and ride)
SO 2.9 Development of a smart, safe, sustainable and multimodal transport network of international and national importance that is resistant to climate change
M 2.9.1 Inclusion of population impact assessment in technical and planning documentation
M 2.9.2 Harmonization of spatial and urban planning documents at the level of LSGs and urban areas with the development of the traffic network of international and national importance
SO 2.10 Development and strengthening of sustainable, smart and multimodal national, regional and local mobility that is resilient to climate change, including better access to the transport network of international and national importance and cross-border mobility
M 2.10.1 Improvement of the road network and road traffic
M 2.10.2 Improvement of the road traffic management system
M 2.10.3 Improvement of the railway network and railway traffic
M 2.10.4 New and modernised multimodal connections
M 2.10.5 Displacement of freight and road traffic and rail traffic outside urban settlements

O 3. Promoting innovative and smart economic transformation, circular and low-carbon economy and ICT integration
SO 3.1 Development and strengthening of research and innovation capacities and application of advanced technologies
M 3.1.1 Supporting companies and creating jobs, strengthening innovation capacities and applying advanced technologies in micro, small, medium and large companies
M 3.1.2 Support to researchers and scientific research organisations participating in joint research projects that have applications in the economy and public sector
M 3.1.3 Increasing the number and support of companies cooperating with scientific research organisations
M 3.1.4 Encouraging interregional investment for innovation
M 3.1.5 Development and strengthening of the network for the promotion and development of the start-up innovation ecosystem and technological entrepreneurship
M 3.1.6 Strengthening organisations for business support in the development of innovative and technological entrepreneurship
M 3.1.7 Support for the development of youth entrepreneurship
SO 3.2 Using the benefits of digitization for citizens, businesses, research institutions and public administration bodies
M 3.2.1 Improvement of citizens' digital knowledge and skills, raising the capacity of employees in the public and private sector to use new technologies and digital improvement infrastructure in educational institutions
M 3.2.2 Digitization of services and business in the public and private sector

M 3.2.3 Improvement of information security of citizens, public administration and economy
SO 3.3 Strengthening sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation
M 3.3.1 Improved operations and development of SMEs, improved business infrastructure, strengthening of innovation and stimulation of business association and creation of value chains
SO 3.4. Development of competences for smart specialization 4S, industrial transition and entrepreneurship, within the quadruple spiral of innovation (economy, education, science, public and civil sector - institutional participants)
M 3.4.1 Developing the competences of SMEs and institutional participants oriented towards innovation and entrepreneurship
M 3.4.2 Participation of SMEs and institutional participants in competitive calls
M 3.4.3 Connecting to a platform for the promotion of services, technologies and products in the areas of digital, innovative and creative activities
SO 3.5 Strengthening digital connectivity
M 3.5.1 Provision of broadband access with high data transmission capacity
SO 3.6 Encouraging and promoting the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy
M 3.6.1 Education of business entities and connection with other actors in the process of transition to a circular economy
M 3.6.2 Support the creation of regulatory bodies that encourage the transition to a circular economy
M 3.6.3 Financial support and encouragement of investments and circular economy solutions
SO 3.7 Encouraging and promoting the transition to a net zero carbon economy
3.7.1 Encouraging investments in low-carbon economy solutions as generators of growth, more efficient use of material resources and energy efficiency

O 4. Improvement of social welfare

SO 4.1 Improving the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the labor market and access to quality employment and dignified work and encouragement of social entrepreneurship
M 4.1.1 Development of new or modernization of existing employment services and encouragement of social entrepreneurship
M 4.1.2 Establishing a support system for the more employable categories of the population
SO 4.2 Development of social infrastructure and services and encouragement of social inclusion and social innovation
M 4.2.1 Integrated action for persons at risk of security
M 4.2.2 Support for the construction and operation of nursing homes
M 4.2.3 Finding a sustainable solution for continuous financing of geronto housewives in accordance with the real needs of the population (establishment of services)
M 4.2.4 Development of counseling services (for young people, etc.) of various supports (for single mothers, etc.)
M 4.2.5 Education in the field of inclusion
M 4.2.6 Strengthening actors in the local community for the provision of social services

SO 4.3 Promoting socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged social groups, including persons with special needs, through integrated action that includes housing and social services
M 4.3.1 Increasing the volume, quality and variety of housing solutions for housing support users through the construction and other ways of acquiring new housing units in public ownership intended for lease, as well as through the development of alternative housing solutions
M 4.3.2 Support for the construction of social housing in the Urban area
SO 4.4 Improving equal access to inclusive and quality education services
M 4.4.1 Development of new or modernization of existing preschool childcare services, primary and secondary education
M 4.4.2 Establishment of continuous and comprehensive support for children in the inclusive programme and their families
M 4.4.3 Education on non-violent communication for parents and staff of preschool and school institutions
M 4.4.4 Strengthening and promotion of dual education
M 4.4.5 Developing non-formal education programmes
M 4.4.6 Development of higher education
SO 4.5 Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering health system resilience
M 4.5.1 Development of new or modernization of existing health and social care services (establishment of service of outreach workers)
M 4.5.2 Rehabilitation, renovation and construction of rural clinics
M 4.5.3 Formation of mobile medical teams for providing health services in rural areas
SO 4.6 Ensuring equal access to cultural services, programmes and facilities
M 4.6.1 Development of new or modernization of existing programmes and facilities
M 4.6.2 Establishment of continuous cooperation of cultural institutions and exchange of cultural content in the urban area
SO 4.7 Ensuring equal access to sports and recreation services, contents and facilities
M 4.7.1 Development of new or modernization of existing services and facilities
SO 4.8 Creating an encouraging environment for youth initiatives and activities
M 4.8.1 Designing and organising the offer of programmes and content for the quality use of young people's free time
M 4.8.2 Development of the "Youth Club" model
M 4.8.3 Encouraging young people to volunteer in various fields

O 5. Improving the management of urban/territorial development
SO 5.1 Encouraging development management at multiple levels - local, national, international, EU, etc.
M 5.1.1 Establishing and strengthening administrative capacities for development management at local and higher levels
M 5.1.2 Strengthening public dialogue, more effective implementation of networks, partnerships, programmes and projects of urban development management at multiple levels in order to improve the quality of work and introduce innovations in accordance with the principles of good management and standards of open administration
M 5.1.3 Strengthening the principle of obligation in the adoption and implementation of mutually harmonised contents of planning documents
M 5.1.4 Management and strengthening of the principle of mandatory content in planning documents
SO 5.2 Encouraging a multi-stakeholder approach - economy, education, science, public and civil sector
M 5.2.1 Application of the quadruple and quintuple helix model of innovation within the knowledge economy (Quadruple and quintuple Helix Model of innovation)
SO 5.3 Encouraging a participatory approach and community-led initiatives involving local actors
M 5.3.1 Raising the awareness of citizens and stakeholders about their right to be included in the decision-making process on urban development through information, consultation and active participation
M 5.3.2 Directing participation towards strengthening social responsibility and balancing public and private interests in decision-making processes
M 5.3.3 Improvement of citizen participation procedures and stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes in accordance with the Decree on the Promulgation of the Law on Confirmation of the Additional Protocol to the European Charter on Local Self-Government on the Right to Participate in the Affairs of Local Authorities ⁷⁰ and standards of open administration
SO 5.4 Encouraging mixing (<i>blending</i>) urban development financing from different types of financing (domestic and international)
M 5.4.1 Support for the use of various sources of funding for the priority areas of intervention of the urban area development strategy
M 5.4.2 Application of EU Cohesion Policy instruments and others. - integrated territorial investments (IN - Integrated Territorial Investment), sustainable urban development (SUD – Sustainable Urban Development), local development managed by LSGs (CLLD – Community Led Local Development)
SO 5.5 Strengthening the transparency of decision-making at the level of the urban area
M 5.5.1 Development and implementation of digital literacy models intended for specific groups to improve the use of information systems for the needs of development management
M 5.5.2 Development of information and communication systems for the needs of territorial development management (monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the urban area strategy)
M 5.5.3 Establishment of registers (registries/records of public property and public goods, brownfield sites, underutilised sites and facilities, mapping of illegal construction, traffic monitoring, water management infrastructure, risk management, etc.)
M 5.5.4 Disclosure of public interest data of importance to local communities in accordance with the standards of open administration

⁷⁰ Official Gazette of the RS - International Agreements, No. 8/2018-1

8 PRIORITY AREAS OF INTERVENTION

8.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH AND SPATIAL DIMENSION

The central zones of cities and urban areas with different degrees of urbanization, in the network of rural settlements and areas of extensive agricultural production and natural landscapes, require increased capacities for the implementation of development policies. The overarching context, which is the framework for this condition, can be broken down into several key aspects. First, the different local contexts and conditions make it extremely difficult to formulate a single approach for policy making in these urban areas⁷¹. These areas have a unique territorial capital, so this requires different strategies for conceiving potential directions of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development.

Second, these areas are predominantly under the influence of national and even supranational policies that are primarily organised by sector. And the understanding of their socio-economic and spatial dynamics and adapted policies are often limited to their main advantages or only sectoral issues: subsidies for industrial restructuring initiatives, investment promotion, preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage, etc.⁷². In the long term, this approach can foster the status quo and hinder flexibility in the implementation of innovative policies.

Finally, a movement advocating greater sensitivity to this diverse range of urban areas has emerged in the last few decades and has encouraged research focused on lagging regions and processes of spatial marginalization. The result has been several attempts to formulate recommendations for alternative policies. This change has led to an increased emphasis on spatial complexity and the application of a tailored approach to directing national and international (e.g. EU) resources to the different characteristics of each place.

In response to criticism of the neglect of the spatial aspect within territorial policies, a new orientation emerged. Place-based approach supports the development of specific locations, adapting interventions and investments to unique spatial contexts with the intention of releasing their underutilised potential. This approach accelerated a significant transition towards a strategically oriented attitude, with additional emphasis on participatory processes and extensive engagement of various actors. The approach is based on a clear understanding of different contexts, their vulnerabilities or their unique complexities, and implies a more comprehensive strategic orientation in shaping development policies. In this sense, two dimensions are important: the importance of the geographical context and the key role of actors' knowledge in the creation of spatial initiatives.

First, planning urban areas requires a thorough understanding of local characteristics and adapting strategies to local resources and capacities. This implies looking at the appropriate

⁷¹ It is interesting that large cities tend to collect opportunities and challenges that are closer to each other than to the environment. This is reflected in the similarities between internationally propagated urban policies and the dissemination of best practices through academic and political networks. In contrast, a series of natural, geographical, socio-cultural and economic circumstances, along with functional relationships and local administrative competences, depict urban areas with a low degree of urbanization as a kaleidoscope of characteristic places and situations.

⁷² Although these are necessary pillars of support, this operational framework does not provide consistent visions capable of facing contemporary challenges and countering the prevailing trends of underdevelopment that have affected Europe in recent decades. Furthermore, the sectoral distribution of funds usually takes place through established subsidy mechanisms, which can foster a reciprocal dynamic for the electoral support of current local elites.

territory, with appropriate spatial coverage, to create a critical mass and effectively mobilise resources in a coherent manner.

Second, the knowledge of actors is crucial in shaping the structure and implementation of territorial policies. Given that no level of management possesses all the necessary knowledge for effective action, the interaction between different administrative entities and actors becomes the most important. Knowledge is exchanged in numerous dialogue spaces of local communities, and this knowledge, rooted in everyday activities, is an invaluable resource.

These dimensions find their way to effective expression through a strategic approach, which serves as an operational framework for better utilising the potential of urban areas by adopting a “challenge-oriented” mindset. This approach includes the formulation of transformative processes within public action, together with the definition of relevant socio-spatial objectives that can be achieved within a limited time frame, all based on social agreement and activities that unite the efforts and resources of stakeholders.

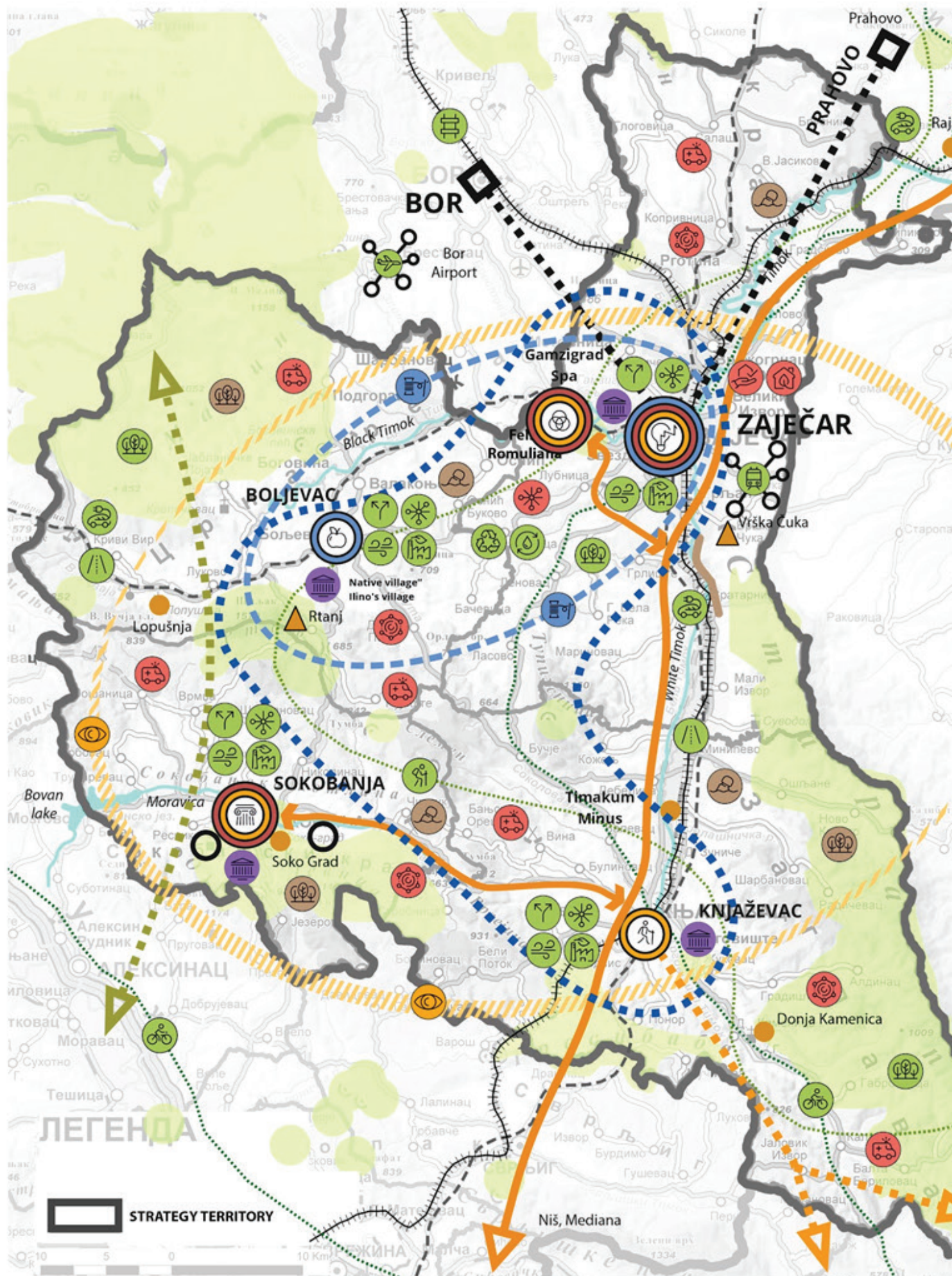
This approach must be inherently pragmatic. A strategy cannot solve all development issues at once, and while it is crucial to strategically address selected problems, it should also aim to create an effective learning environment and testing ground for refining and evaluating vision and objectives. Accepting the strategy implies monitoring the decision-making process and the operational process, in which tangible actions and projects arise from a common spatial vision of the urban area. This process is created through the interaction of different actors.

Based on the above approach, the following are graphical representations:

- priority areas of intervention (development generators, intervention areas, development routes and hubs, protection and development zones, development points and networks) and
- strategic projects (according to thematic objectives), which were reached through the participatory process of creating a territorial strategy.

8.2 PRIORITY AREAS OF INTERVENTION - GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

TERRITORIAL STRATEGY OF ZAJEČAR AND KNJAŽEVAC, SOKOBANJA AND BOLJEVAC URBAN AREA





DEVELOPMENT GENERATORS

ZAJEČAR - smart specialization centre: creative industries, centre of innovative economic development (connection with Bor and Prahovo); cultural identity development centre, scientific research and educational centre (establishment of faculties: medical, technical, economic, DIF)

SOKOBANJA - centre of sustainable and health tourism, centre of cultural tourism

BOLJEVAC - smart specialization centre: food for the future, production based on clean water and the environment

KNJAŽEVAC - sustainable tourism centre of the Old Mountain (Stara Planina), (connection with Piroć)

GAMZIGRAD SPA - health rehabilitation centre and cultural tourism centre (Felix Romuliana)

PRIORITY AREAS

Smart specialization zone: creative industries - music, film industry (Zaječar); food for the future and herbs (Rtanj)

Tourist axis: Danube (Danube Limes) - Zaječar (Belgium railway - Vrška Čuka - Rajac, Magure, Zaječar bastions, Gurgusovačka tower) - Felix Romuliana - Timakum minus - Sokograd - Niš

Zone of unique tourist offer: connecting tourist resources; products branding and protection; supplying schools and hospitals with homemade food; filming locations

Zone of sustainable tourist offer: Sokobanja - Rtanj - Malinik

Smart specialization zone: machines and production processes of the future - metal sector (business zone) "Boljevac - Zaječar - Knjaževac"

Zone of sustainable tourist offer of the Old Mountain - Knjaževac - Babin Zub - connection with Piroć

Connection zone of Zaječar with Bor and Prahovo

PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT ZONES

green infrastructure: zones and individual locations

blue infrastructure

solution for torrential water (Zaječar and Vražogrnac)

areas threatened by deforestation

areas threatened by illegal dumping (rural areas)

DEVELOPMENT ROUTES AND HUB

state road of the IB order

regional railway

E4 pedestrian corridors

EURO VELO 13 cycling route

DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS

Landmarks and National Cultural Heritage of great / extraordinary importance

Afforestation and greening of the Urban Area and centres of local self-governments units

Integration of different types of road traffic and a unique transport ticket

Relocation of transit traffic from urban centres and railway from Zaječar

Infrastructure for electric vehicles

Regional water supply and waste water management

Regional waste management system

Heating with environmentally acceptable fuels

Gasification (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja, Boljevac)

Revitalization of underutilized buildings in rural areas and conversion into multifunctional centres and other public purposes (health and social care, culture, education)

Mobile health care network in rural areas

Scientific - research station Felix Romuliana

Training and Retraining Centre

Regional safe house and gerontology centre for the entire Urban Area

Regional counselling centre for the prevention of violence and other forms of deviant behaviour and promotion of socially beneficial and volunteer work

Small school of youth politics

○ areas threatened by unplanned construction



8.3 LIST OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS

8.3.1 Identity of the urban area

1. Connecting the cultural and historical heritage in the urban area (Hamam, Romuliana, Timakum minus, Sokograd, Magure, Zaječarski Bastioni, Gurgusovačka Tower)
2. Establishment of a network of museum spaces - Zaječar National Museum, Knjaževac Native Museum, Crystal Museum, Porcelain Museum, Timočka Buna Museum, Rock Museum (Youth Center), Beer Museum - Zaječar Brewery, Archeo-Ethno Park "Ravna", "Native Village" museum space in authentic houses (Ilina selo, Boljevac)
3. Transformation of the Belgian railway into a bicycle corridor
4. Rehabilitation of sub-standard settlements (Gaj, Bogovina, Lukovo and Avramica)
5. Creation of tourist products in accordance with the needs of modern tourists and promotions on the domestic and international market (network of bicycle and pedestrian paths; construction of new tourist attractions such as Sky Walk, gondolas, viewpoints, rock museum, etc.; themed tours, etc.)
6. Preservation and valorization of intangible cultural heritage

8.3.2 Green and energy transition and urban mobility

1. Construction and reconstruction of city heating plants in order to switch to ecological energy sources (CNG and pellets)
2. Gasification (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja, Boljevac)
3. The establishment of Regional system for waste management
4. Regional water supply and waste water management
5. Afforestation and greening of the urban area (including LSG centre)
6. Relocation of the railway line in Zaječar
7. Integration of different types of road traffic and introduction of a single transport ticket
8. Relocation of transit traffic outside urban centers (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Boljevac, Sokobanja)
9. Development of infrastructure for electric vehicles
10. Regional asylum for dogs

8.3.3 Innovative and smart economy

1. Establishing a zone of smart specialization Food for the future - connecting production, processing and storage, branding of medicinal plants and others,
2. Establishing a zone of smart specialization for the metal sector (business zone) "Boljevac - Zaječar - Knjaževac"
3. Establishing a zone of smart specialization for creative industries - music, film industry and others
4. Establishment of a Regional Guarantee Fund for the business sector
5. Establishment of the Regional Tourist Organisation (center for the promotion of traditional culture and tourism)
6. Formation of a network of innovative centers in urban centers
7. Establishment of infrastructure to support entrepreneurship (eg: Start-up center of the food industry in Knjaževac, Innovation center in Zaječar, etc.)

8.3.4 Social wellbeing

1. Encouragement of social entrepreneurship and social innovations (difficult to employ categories, persons with intellectual disabilities and others)
2. Formation of Regional safe house
3. Formation of the Gerontological Center
4. Regional counseling center for the prevention of violence and other forms of deviant behavior and the promotion of socially beneficial and volunteer work
5. Establishing a mobile healthcare system in rural areas
6. Renovation of underutilised buildings in rural areas and their conversion into multifunctional centers and other public purposes (health and social protection, culture, education)
7. Formation of the Center for training and retraining
8. Formation of the Scientific Research Station Felix Romuliana
9. Encouragement of social entrepreneurship and social innovations (difficult to employ categories, persons with intellectual disabilities and others)
10. Creating a stimulating environment for youth initiatives and activities and volunteerism by creating a Youth Center (Museum of Rock), designing and organising the offer of programmes and content and a common digital portal

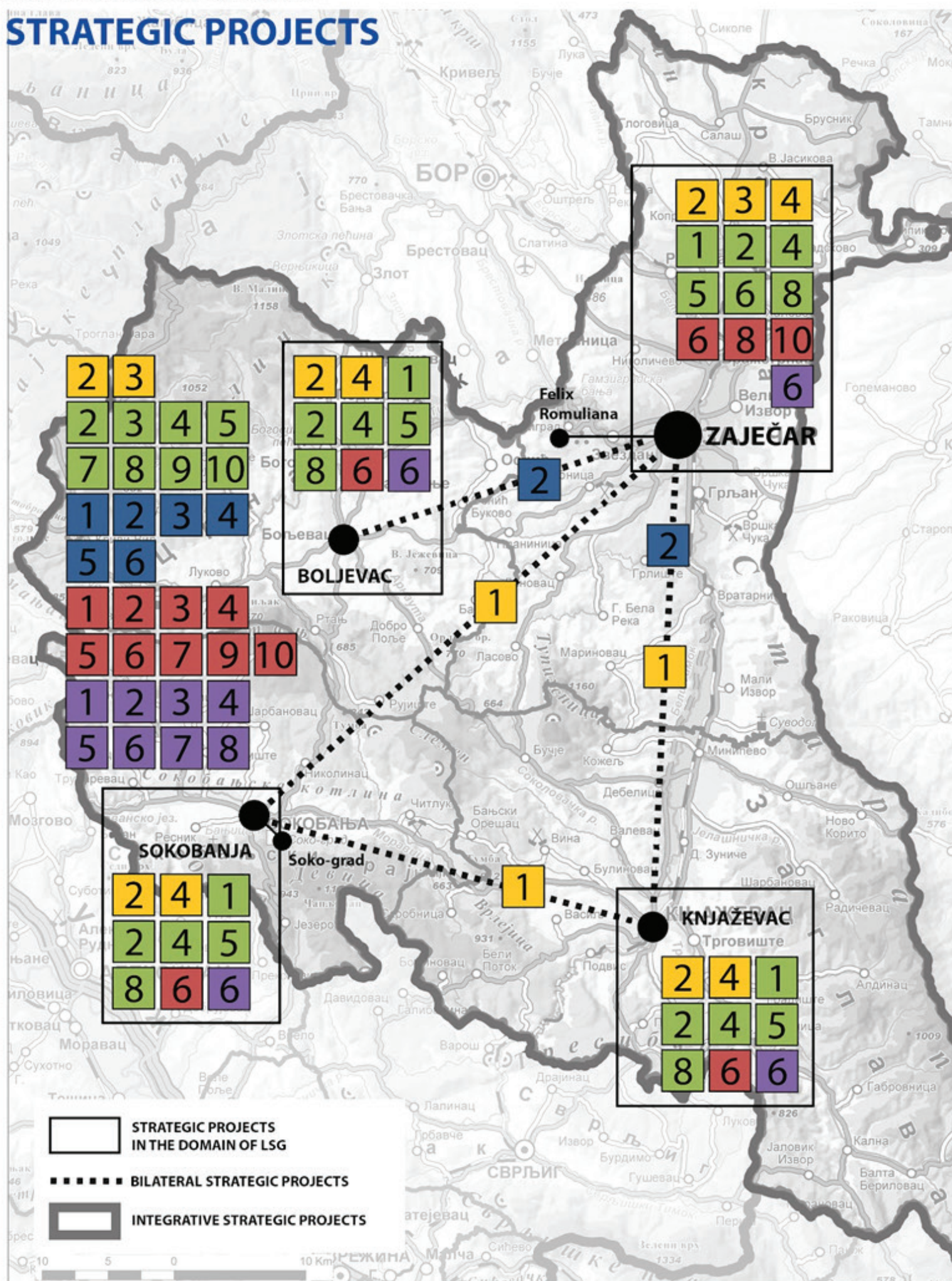
8.3.5 Urban and territorial development governance

1. Improving the capacity for managing integrated territorial investments, including the formation of a project coordination unit
2. Strengthening existing and creation of new LAGs
3. Creation of integrated projects and training on the application of various sources of financing
4. Digital literacy of the population
5. Encouraging the application of public - private - civil citizenship
6. Establishing a platform for the participation of citizens, the private and civil sector in making important decisions and strengthening public dialogue
7. Regional GIS development project (historic sites, accommodation facilities, illegal landfills...)
8. Small school of youth politics
9. Capacity building for green transition, energy efficiency, circular economy, sustainable mobility, etc.

8.4 STRATEGIC PROJECTS - GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

TERRITORIAL STRATEGY OF ZAJEČAR AND KNJAŽEVAC, SOKOBANJA AND

STRATEGIC PROJECTS



BOLJEVAC URBAN AREA



URBAN AREA IDENTITY

- 1 Connecting the cultural and historical heritage in the urban area (Hamam, Romuliana, Timakum minus, Sokograd, Magure, Zaječarski Bastioni, Gurgusovačka Tower)
- 2 Establishment of a network of museum spaces - Zaječar National Museum, Knjaževac Native Museum, Crystal Museum, Porcelain Museum, Timočka Buna Museum, Rock Museum (Youth Center), Beer Museum - Zaječar Brewery, Archeo-Ethno Park "Ravna", "Native Village" museum space in authentic houses (Ilina selo, Boljevac)
- 3 Transformation of the Belgian railway into a bicycle corridor
- 4 Rehabilitation of sub-standard settlements (Gaj, Bogovina, Lukovo and Avramica)

GREEN AND ENERGY TRANSITION AND URBAN MOBILITY

- 1 Construction and reconstruction of city heating plants in order to switch to ecological energy sources (CNG and pellets)
- 2 Gasification (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Sokobanja, Boljevac)
- 3 Establishment a Regional system for waste management
- 4 Regional water supply and waste water management
- 5 Afforestation and greening of the urban area (including LSGs centre)
- 6 Relocation of the railway line in Zaječar
- 7 Integration of different types of road traffic and introduction of a single transport ticket
- 8 Relocation of transit traffic outside urban centers (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Boljevac, Sokobanja)
- 9 Development of infrastructure for electric vehicles
- 10 Regional asylum for dogs

INNOVATIVE AND SMART ECONOMY

- 1 Establishment a zone of smart specialization: Food for the future - connecting production, processing and storage, branding of medicinal plants and others
- 2 Establishment of a smart specialization zone for the metal sector (business zone) "Boljevac - Zaječar - Knjaževac"
- 3 Establishment a zone of smart specialization for creative industries - music, film industry and others
- 4 Establishment of a Regional Guarantee Fund for the business sector
- 5 Establishment of the Regional Tourist Organization (centre for the promotion of traditional culture and tourism)
- 6 Establishment of a network of innovative centres in urban centres

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

- 1 Encouragement of social entrepreneurship and social innovations (difficult-to-employ categories, persons with intellectual disabilities and others)
- 2 Establishment of the Regional Safe House
- 3 Establishment of the Gerontological Centre
- 4 Regional Counselling Centre for the prevention of violence and other forms of deviant behaviour and the promotion of socially beneficial and volunteer work
- 5 Establishment a mobile healthcare system in rural areas
- 6 Renovation of underutilized buildings in rural areas and their conversion into multifunctional centers and other public purposes (health and social protection, culture, education)
- 7 Establishment of the Centre for training and retraining
- 8 Establishment of the Scientific Research Station Felix Romuliana
- 9 Encouragement of social entrepreneurship and social innovations (hard-to-employ categories, persons with intellectual disabilities and others)
- 10 Creating a stimulating environment for youth initiatives and activities and volunteerism by creating a Youth Centre (Museum of Rock), designing and organizing the offer of programs and content and a joint digital portal

URBAN/TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

- 1 Improving the capacity for managing integrated territorial investments, including the establishing of a project coordination unit
- 2 Strengthening existing and creating new LAGs (Local Action Groups)
- 3 Creation of integrated projects and training on the application of various sources of financing
- 4 Digital literacy of the population
- 5 Encouragement the application of public - private - civil citizenship
- 6 Establishment a platform for the participation of citizens, the private and civil sector in making important decisions and strengthening public dialogue
- 7 Regional GIS development project (historic sites, accommodation facilities, illegal landfills...)
- 8 Small school of youth politics

9 SOURCES OF FUNDING

Urban and territorial development requires significant financial resources for project implementation. Currently available financial resources in LSGs in the Republic of Serbia (RS) are only sufficient to cover smaller projects. The situation regarding the possibility of developing long-term investment projects (Strategy of Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030) is slowly changing, as evidenced by the data in the following text.

On the basis of concluded bilateral and multilateral international framework agreements on development cooperation and agreements on the implementation of various instruments and programmes financed from international development aid funds, LSGs in the RS have at their disposal funds from various national and international funds that finance the implementation of strategic reforms in the process accession to the EU and their socio-economic development.

Domestic sources of funding are: funds, agencies, commercial banks, projects, programmes of various ministries, budgets of LSGs, own funds of activity holders (companies), funds of interested domestic investors, and loans from investment and commercial banks in the territory of RS.

In particular, the possibility of using funds from the following sources is pointed out:

- Programmes and incentive funds of the ministries of the RS (Ministry of Finance⁷³; Ministry of Economy⁷⁴; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management⁷⁵; Ministry of Environmental Protection⁷⁶; Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure⁷⁷; Ministry of Mining and Energy⁷⁸; Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade⁷⁹; Ministry of Justice⁸⁰; Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government⁸¹; Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue⁸²; Ministry for European Integration⁸³; Ministry of Education⁸⁴; Ministry of Health⁸⁵; Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs⁸⁶; Ministry of Family Care and Demography⁸⁷; Ministry of Sports⁸⁸; Ministry of Culture⁸⁹; Ministry of Rural Care⁹⁰; Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation⁹¹; Ministry of Tourism and Youth⁹²; Ministry of Information and Telecommunications⁹³; Ministry of Public

73 <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/>

74 <https://privreda.gov.rs/>

75 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/>

76 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/>

77 <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/projekti>

78 <https://www.mre.gov.rs/>

79 <https://must.gov.rs/>

80 <https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/>

81 <https://mduls.gov.rs/category/projekti-i-programi/>

82 <https://www.minljmpdd.gov.rs/>

83 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/>

84 <https://prosveta.gov.rs/>

85 <https://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/>

86 <https://www.minrzs.gov.rs/sr>

87 <https://minbpd.gov.rs/>

88 <https://www.mos.gov.rs/>

89 <https://www.kultura.gov.rs/>

90 <https://www.mbs.gov.rs/>

91 <https://nitra.gov.rs/>

92 <https://www.mto.gov.rs/>

93 <https://mit.gov.rs/>

Investments⁹⁴; The cabinet of the minister without portfolio in charge of improving the development of underdeveloped municipalities⁹⁵; The cabinet of the minister without portfolio responsible for the coordination of activities and measures in the field of relations between the Republic of Serbia and the diaspora⁹⁶; Cabinet of the minister without portfolio in charge of balanced regional development⁹⁷), their bodies and agencies (Customs Administration; Free Zones Administration; Republic Water Directorate; Forestry Administration; Agricultural Payments Administration; Agricultural Land Administration; National Academy of Public Administration; Development Agency of Serbia⁹⁸; Port Management Agency⁹⁹) and funds (Development Fund of the Republic of Serbia¹⁰⁰; Fund for innovation activity¹⁰¹; Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia¹⁰²);

- The local budget, as well as loans from commercial banks (Erste Banka A.D.¹⁰³; UniCredit Banka¹⁰⁴; Banca Intesa¹⁰⁵; NLB Komercijalna banka¹⁰⁶; Banka Poštanska štedionica¹⁰⁷; ProCredit banka¹⁰⁸) that operate on the territory of RS.

Foreign sources of funding are: EU funds and programmes, credit lines (credit lines of foreign governments and credit lines of international financial institutions), development and other funds of non-EU countries, projects and funds of interested foreign investors. International development assistance of the RS includes support from bilateral and multilateral development partners, including financial support from international financial institutions, and is provided either in the form of grants or concessional loans, which are approved under significantly better conditions than market ones.

In the coming period, special attention should be paid to the possibilities of mobilizing funds from the following international funds and programmes:

- IPA - Instrument for pre-accession assistance¹⁰⁹ (2021-2027; 2014-2020; 2007-2013), Programmes of European territorial cooperation in the Republic of Serbia 2021-2027¹¹⁰, Investment framework for the Western Balkans¹¹¹ (Western Balkans Investment Framework - WBIF), IPARD III¹¹², a multi-user IPA¹¹³;

94 <https://www.obnova.gov.rs/>

95 <https://rnro.gov.rs/javni-konkursi/>

96 <https://www.mbpdiijaspora.gov.rs/>

97 <https://rrrz.gov.rs/extfile/sr/472/%D0%88avni%20poziv.pdf>

98 <https://ras.gov.rs/>

99 <https://www.aul.gov.rs/>

100 <https://fondzarazvoj.gov.rs/cir>

101 <http://www.inovacionifond.rs/cir/>

102 <https://fondzanauku.gov.rs/>

103 <https://www.erstebank.rs/sr/Pravna-lica>

104 <https://www.unicreditbank.rs/rs/pi.html>

105 <https://www.bancaintesa.rs/>

106 <https://www.nlbkb.rs/>

107 <https://www.posted.co.rs/>

108 <https://www.procreditbank.rs/>

109 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc-2021-2027/>

110 https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/publikacije/Brosure%20nove/22/Programi_evropske_teritorijalne_saradnje_u_RS_2021-2027.pdf

111 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/investicioni-okvir-za-zapadni-balkan-western-balkans-investment-framework-wbif/>

112 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/ipard-iii/>

113 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/src/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/visekorisnicka-ipa/>

- EU programmes¹¹⁴ (Digital Europe¹¹⁵, HORIZON Europe, SME Competitiveness Programme - COSME, Employment and Social Innovation Program, ERASMUS, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, European Health Programme III, FISKALIS 2020, CUSTOMS 2020, EU Civil Protection Mechanism, Connecting Europe Facility, Rights, Equality and Citizenship, European Facility for Democracy and Human Rights);
- Cohesion policy and other EU funds¹¹⁶ (New Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, MADAD, EU Solidarity Fund, Regional Housing Programme) and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans¹¹⁷;
- International financial instruments - banks¹¹⁸ (Council of Europe Development Bank - CEB, European Investment Bank - EIB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - EBRD, World Bank - WB¹¹⁹, German Development Bank - KfW);
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation, donor programmes (United Nations Team in Serbia¹²⁰, German Agency for Technical Cooperation - GIZ¹²¹, French Development Agency¹²², Japan, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, China, Austria, France, Greece, India, Korea, Poland, Singapore, Slovenia, Turkey, Germany, United States of America, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, etc.).

Available data on funding sources were collected by searching multiple sources: RS budget, medium-term plans of authorities, data on websites of RS authorities, websites of programmes and projects, and available data on banks' websites. Data on the amount of funding are not publicly available for all sources.

The following table shows the available sources of funding for urban development, a detailed overview of which is given in Annex 4.

114 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/programi-unije/>

115 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

116 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/koheziona-politika/>

117 <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/rs/usvojeni-akcioni-plan-za-zelenu-agendu-za-zapadni-balkan-donosi-devet-milijardi-evra-grantova-rok-za-uskladjivanje-s-eu-ets-om-2024-godine/>

118 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/bilateralni-i-multilateralni-partneri/po-medjunarodnim-organizacijama/>

119 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/serbia/brief/green-livable-resilient-cities-in-serbia-program>

120 <https://serbia.un.org/sr/about/about-the-un>

121 <https://nemackasaradnja.rs/giz/>

122 <https://rs.ambafrance.org/AFD-4148>

Table 2: Sources of funding (as of July 2023)

N A T I O N A L R E S O U R C E S	NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SOURCES		
	Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Ministry of Environmental Protection; Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure; Ministry of Mining and Energy; Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government; Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue; Ministry for European Integration; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs; Ministry of Family Care and Demography; Ministry of Sports; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Rural Care; Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation; Ministry of Tourism and Youth; Ministry of Information and Telecommunications; Ministry of Public Investments; The cabinet of the minister without portfolio in charge of improving the development of underdeveloped municipalities; The cabinet of the minister without portfolio responsible for the coordination of activities and measures in the field of relations between the Republic of Serbia and the diaspora; Cabinet of the minister without portfolio in charge of balanced regional development; Customs Administration; Administration for Free Zones; Republic Water Directorate; Forest Directorate; Administration for Agrarian Payments; Administration for Agricultural Land; National Academy for Public Administration; Development Agency of Serbia; Agency for Port Management) and funds (Fund for the Development of the Republic of Serbia; Innovation Fund; Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia		
	BANKS		
	Erste Bank A.D.; UniCredit Bank; Banca Intesa; NLB Komercijalna banka; Bank Poštanska štedionica; ProCredit Bank		
I N T E R N A T I O N A L S O U R C E S	EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS		
	IPA – Instrument for pre-accession assistance	EU programmes	Cohesion policy and other EU funds
	IPA 2021-2027 IPA 2014-2020 IPA 2007-2013) Programmes of European territorial cooperation in the Republic of Serbia 2021-2027 Investment framework for the Western Balkans IPARD III A multi-user IPA	Digital Europe HORIZON Europe SME competitiveness programme – COSME Programme for employment and social innovation ERASMUS Creative Europe Europe for citizens European Health Programme III FISCALIS 2020 CUSTOMS 2020 EU Civil Protection Mechanism An instrument for connecting Europe Rights, equality and citizenship European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights	New cohesion policy 2021-2027 MADAD EU Solidarity Fund Regional housing programme Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
	INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS-BANKS		
	Council of Europe Development Bank - CEB, European Investment Bank - EIB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - EBRD, World Bank - WB, German Development Bank - KfW		
	BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, DONOR PROGRAMMES		
	United Nations Team in Serbia, German Agency for Technical Cooperation - GIZ, French Development Agency, Japan, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, China, Austria, France, Greece, India, Korea, Poland, Singapore, Slovenia, Turkey, Germany, United States of America, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Switzerland		

The areas of activity for the establishment and operation of high-potential mechanisms for financing urban development at the local management level are:

- increasing available finances - by supporting them to collect funds for investment in urban development through bilateral cooperation, attracting EU and other donor funds (raising);
- management - creating conditions that enable private investment in sustainable urban development - by shaping the market, e.g. through tax mechanisms, other pricing mechanisms and/or supporting sustainable alternatives (steering);
- mixing/combining financial sources - attracting private financial capital using incentives and incentives from public finance to change the risk ratio - return on capital investment, PPP and so-called. “investment vehicle” can play an important role in establishing evidence or conditions for commercial return (blending).

For the area of increasing funds (raising) the local level of administration can support the implementation of the entire scale of high-potential financial instruments intended for urban development in several ways and use the following:

- *Real estate valuation* is a means of funding large development projects that raise the value of real estate. This increase in value can be used as a source of income;
- *Prices, regulation and standards* - they are of particular importance for sectors characterised by smaller amounts of required investment funds and where consumer choices are key investment drivers, such as distributed production from renewable energy sources, electromobility and green construction;
- *International investment vehicle* - international financial instruments also have significant potential for movements in the field of sustainable urban development (raising), and have the potential to mix different sources in case domestic sources have limited capacity;
- *Public-private partnership* - are particularly important because the effectiveness of PPPs largely depends on the appropriate identification of effects, structuring and maturity of projects, contractual arrangements and management capacities.

Examples from the past practice of combining funding sources are given in the following table.

Table 3: Examples from practice of combining funding sources

Priority areas of intervention (Strategy of sustainable urban development of the RS until 2030)	Funding sources used	
	National sources of funding	International sources of funding
Commercial and commercial zones and brownfield sites	Ministry of Economy IPA - competitiveness + RS Government PPP Banks Diaspora	European Investment Bank European Bank for Reconstruction and Development KfW Bank UN SDGs Switzerland, Japan GIZ EU PRO
Uncontrolled elemental expansion of urban settlements and degradation of rural areas	MGSI MDULSU Ministry of Public Investments	European Investment Bank UN SDGs
Endangered urban structures, urban matrices and central urban areas	Ministry of Culture MGSI PPP	Creative Europe European Investment Bank World Bank WB Green fund KfW UN SDGs GIZ/AMBERO EU PRO
Parts of urban settlements with a problem improvement of social standard or solving social problems	RS Housing programme for security forces Ministry of Public Investments	IPA European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Bank of the Council of Europe CEB Regional housing programme UN SDGs SWISS PRO UNOPS
Settlements and parts of settlements exposed to problems environmental protection and climate change	Ministry of Mining and Energy Ministry of Public Investments	IPA European Bank for Reconstruction and Development GIZ + KfW UN SDGs bilateral cooperation
Celine with ICP and architectural heritage, important rappers cultural and historical development of urban settlements, grouping of urban settlements	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism	World heritage foundation Creative Europe IPA cross-border cooperation Transnational cooperation INTERREG ADRION DANUBE UN SDGs EU PRO

10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The aim of this chapter is to provide a general framework of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the implementation of territorial strategies of the EU PRO Plus programme. Monitoring and evaluation are important elements in the process of implementing territorial strategies and fulfill a number of important functions:

- **Efficiency and effectiveness of strategies:** monitoring generates data and knowledge to track progress and provide a basis for revisions, and helps to evaluate the results of the measures contained in the strategies.
- **Transparency and accountability:** monitoring shows that activities and results follow agreed objectives and makes data transparent to all actors, including local communities.
- **Visibility and capacity:** showing what has been achieved strengthens local mobilization and ownership; engagement in monitoring by local actors affects capacity development and learning.

Successful monitoring depends on the quality and appropriateness of the indicators used. When choosing indicators, some basic principles should be kept in mind. Ideally, the indicators should be:

- **relevant** - closely related to the objectives of the strategy;
- **accepted** - by employees and relevant stakeholders;
- **credible** - for non-experts, unambiguous and easy to interpret;
- **easy** - monitoring is possible with low costs and acceptable administrative burden; and
- **irrefutable** - in relation to manipulation.

The list of indicators below is designed in accordance with the five thematic objectives defined in the EU PRO Plus territorial strategies (table 8). Its purpose is to act as a “menu” for strategy “owners” to select appropriate indicators depending on their choice of objectives. Although indicators cover a wide range of objectives, they cannot capture all locally specific contexts. Thus, each urban area can select additional strategy-specific indicators to be included in the local strategy.

The proposed indicators are based on a number of different international and domestic sources. As far as possible, the indicators are drawn from existing national sources, such as the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 (SOURRS), the Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020 until 2027 (SPSRS) and the Low Carbon Development Strategy (SNUR). However, most of the indicators are taken from the list of so-called common output indicators (RCO) and common result indicators (RCR) defined in the context of the EU Cohesion Policy 2021 - 27. They are supplemented by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Table 4: List of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the progress of territorial strategies implementation

Objectives	Indicators	Unit of measure	Sources
Thematic objective 1			
SO 1.1 Improved and uniform quality of arrangement and accessibility of the urban area	- Strategies of integrated territorial development for which support has been received	Number of strategies	RCO 75 RCO 76 SOURRS
	- integrated territorial development projects for which support has been received	Number of contracted projects	RCO 114 RCR 52 SOURRS
	- Newly created or renovated open public spaces in urban areas	m ²	
	- Reclaimed land used for green areas, social (affordable) housing, economic or other purposes	m ²	
SO 1.2 Encouraging the protection of cultural and architectural heritage and promotion of sustainable construction	- Total funds spent for the protection, preservation and conservation of cultural and architectural heritage and vernacular architecture	Euro	SPRKRS SDG11 SRKRS SOURRS
SO 1.3 Encouraging the development of sustainable tourism and a unified tourist offer	- Visitors to cultural and tourist sites for which support has been received	Number of visitor increase	RCR 77 SRTRS PPRS
SO 1.4 Encouraging an integrated and sustainable approach in remediation of illegal construction and its prevention	- Rehabilitated, renovated and reused substandard or informal settlements and units	ha/m ²	SOURRS
SO 1.5 Strengthening and improving the management of urban-rural links	- Integrated territorial development projects for ecosystem services that rural areas provide to urban settlements	Number of projects	RCO 76 SOURRS SPRRRS
Thematic objective 2			
SO 2.1 Improvement of energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	- Annual consumption of primary energy (of which: residential buildings, public buildings, companies, other)	Reduction (MJ)	RCR 26 RCR 29 SNURRS
	- Estimated greenhouse gas emissions	Reduction of t CO ₂	
SO 2.2 Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources	- Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal energy)	MWh	RCR 31 SNURRS
SO 2.3 Development of smart energy systems, networks and storage	-Users connected to smart energy systems	Number of users	RCR 33 SNURRS
SO 2.4 Adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention and resilience, strengthening resilience to climate change, taking into account an ecosystem-based approach	- Green infrastructure built or improved to adapt to climate change	ha/m ²	RCO 26 PIKUAP SNURRS
	- Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number of people	

SO 2.5 Ensuring equal access to sanitation and water supply and promoting sustainable water management	- Population connected to an improved public water supply network	Number of households	RCR 41 RCR 35 RCR 42 RCO 25 PPRS
	- Population connected at least to the secondary public network for wastewater treatment	Number of households	
	- Newly built or reinforced flood protection on the banks of rivers and lakes	Length in km/m	
SO 2.6 Improvement of waste management	- Separately collected waste	t	RCR 103 RCR 47 PUORS SNURRS
	- Recycled waste	t	
SO 2.7. Strengthening the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, and reducing all forms of pollution	- Green infrastructure for which support was received in order to protect biodiversity and preserve natural habitats	ha/m²	RCO 36 RCO 37 RCO 38 RCO 39 RCR 50 RCR 95 PPIKUAP PPRS PZVRS
	- The area of the Natura 2000 network covered by protection and restoration measures	ha/m²	
	- Area of restored land for which support was received	ha/m²	
	- Area covered by air pollution monitoring systems	ha/m²	
	- Population benefiting from air quality measures	Number of people	
	- A population that has access to new or improved green infrastructure	Number of people	
SO 2.8 Encouraging sustainable multimodal urban mobility	- Annual number of users of new or modernised public transport - Annual number of users of new or modernised tram lines and (underground) railway lines - Annual number of users of infrastructure intended for cycling	Increasing the number of users	RCR 62 RCR 63 RCR 64 PPRS
SO 2.9 Development of a smart, safe, sustainable and multimodal transport network of international and national importance that is resistant to climate change	- Annual number of users of newly built, renovated, improved or modernised roads	Increasing the number of users	RCR 55 RCR 58 RCR 59 RCR 60 SNURRS PPRS
	- Annual number of users of newly built, improved, renovated or modernised railways	Increasing the number of users	
SO 2.10 Development and strengthening of sustainable, smart and multimodal national, regional and local mobility that is resilient to climate change, including better access to the transport network of international and national importance and cross-border mobility	- Freight rail transport	t	
	- Freight transport by inland waterways	t	

Thematic objective 3			
SO 3.1 Development and strengthening of research and innovation capacities and application of advanced technologies	- Companies that received support (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	Company number	RCO 01 RCR (3)01 RCR 102 SNTRRS SERVIRS SIPRS SRSEERS
	- Jobs created in entities that received support	Number of people	
	- Jobs created in the field of research in the entities that received support	Number of people	
SO 3.2 Using the advantages of digitization for citizens, businesses, research institutions and public administration bodies	- Users of new and improved public digital services, products and processes	Number of users	RCR 11 RCR 12 RCR 13 SRIDIB SNTRRS SERVIRS
	- Users of new and improved digital services, products and processes developed by businesses	Number of users	
	- Companies that have achieved high digital intensity	Company number	
SO 3.3 Strengthening sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation	- New businesses that survive on the market	Number of companies that survive on the market 2 years after opening	RCR 17 RCR 18 RCR 19 RCR 25 SPRMSPPK SIPRS
	- SMEs that use the services of the incubator after the creation of the incubator	Company number	
	- Companies with higher turnover	Company number	
	- SMEs with higher added value per employee	Company number	
SO 3.4. Development of competences for smart specialisation 4S, industrial transition and entrepreneurship, within the quadruple spiral of innovation (economy, education, science, public and civil sector - institutional participants)	- Internships made possible by grants in SMEs - SME staff completing skills training for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by skill type: technical, managerial, entrepreneurial, green, other)	Number of people	RCR 97 RCR 98 SPSRs SOURRS SNTRRS SERVIRS SIPRS SRSEERS
SO 3.5 Strengthening digital connectivity	- Residential buildings with a subscription to broadband access to a network of very high capacity	Number of apartments	RCR 53 RCR 54 SRIDIB SNTRRS
	- Businesses with a subscription to broadband access to a very high capacity network	Company number	
SO 3.6 Encouraging and promoting the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy	- Waste used as raw material	Increase (t)	RCR 48 SNURRS PRCERS SIPRS PUMS

SO 3.7 Encouraging and promoting the transition to a net zero carbon economy	- Estimated greenhouse gas emissions	Reduction of t CO2	RCR 29 RCR 105 RCO 59 SNURRS SIPRS
	- Estimated greenhouse gas emissions by boilers and heating systems converted from solid fossil fuels to gas	Reduction of t CO2	
	- Infrastructure for alternative fuels (filling/refueling points)	Number of points	
	- Afforestation	ha/m²	
Thematic objective 4			
SO 4.1 Improving the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the labor market and access to quality employment and dignified work and encouraging social entrepreneurship	- Area of new or modernised facilities for employment services	m²	RCO 61 RCR 65 SZRS
	- Annual number of users of new or modernised facilities for employment services	Number of users	
SO 4.2 Development of social infrastructure and services and encouragement of social inclusion and social innovation	- Annual number of users of new or modernised social protection facilities - The population covered by projects within the framework of integrated action for the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged social groups	Number of users	RCR 74 RCO 113 SDRUSZZ
SO 4.3 Promoting socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged social groups, including persons with special needs, through integrated action that includes housing and social services	- Annual number of users of new or modernised social housing	Number of households	RCR 67 SOURRS SDRUSZZ
SO 4.4 Improving equal access to inclusive and quality education services	- Annual number of users of new or modernised childcare facilities - Annual number of users of new or modernised educational facilities	Number of users	RCR 70 RCR 71 SROVRS
SO 4.5 Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering health system resilience	- Annual number of users of new or modernised e-healthcare services - Annual number of users of new or modernised health care facilities	Number of users	RCR 72 RCR 73 SJZRS
SO 4.6 Ensuring equal access to cultural services, programmes and facilities	- Annual number of users of new or modernised cultural facilities	Number of users	SRKRS
SO 4.7 Ensuring equal access to sports and recreation services, contents and facilities	- Annual number of users of new or modernised sports and recreation facilities	Number of users	SMRS PPRS
SO 4.8 Creating a stimulating environment for youth initiatives and activities	- Annual number of beneficiaries of new or modernised youth initiatives and activities	Number of users	SMRS

Thematic objective 5			
SO 5.1 Encouraging development governance at multiple levels - local, national, international, EU, etc.	- A project unit was established for the implementation of the Strategy	Yes/no	RCO 75 RCO 76 SOURRS
	- Integrated projects of territorial development that include local, national, international and EU level, and include the application of various management instruments - collaborative, command, hybrid	Number of contracted projects	
SO 5.2 Encouraging a multi-stakeholder approach – economy, education, science, public and civil sector	- Application of the quadruple and quintuple innovation spiral models	Initiative number	SPSRS SOURRS SNTRRS
SO 5.3 Improvement of inter-municipal cooperation through institutional cooperation	- The population covered by projects within the strategy of integrated territorial development	Number of people	RCO 74
SO 5.4 Encouraging a participatory approach and community-led initiatives involving local actors	- Actors who participated in the preparation and implementation of integrated territorial development strategies	Number of participants	RCO 112 RCO 80 ZRR SOURRS
	- Community-led local development strategies for which support has been received	Number of participants	
	- Developed innovative solutions, such as an open innovation platform, a living laboratory, citizen science, etc.	Number of innovative solutions	
	- Application of a gender-responsive approach in the preparation and implementation of strategies	Number of participants	
SO 5.5 Encouraging mixing (blending) urban development funding from different types of funding (domestic and international)	- Application of different sources of funding of priority interventions in urban areas of territorial strategies	Euro	RCO 75 RCO 80 SOURRS
	- Implementation of public-private partnership	Number of PPP projects	
	- Strategies of integrated territorial development for which support has been received - Community-led local development strategies for which support has been received	Number of strategies	
SO 5.6 Strengthening the transparency of decision-making at the level of the urban area	- Development of an information system for the needs of territorial development governance	Number of developed systems	SOURRS SRIDIB

Sources of indicators:

REGULATION (EU) 2021/1058 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund. Official Journal of the European Union L 231/60. Common output and result indicators for ERDF and the Cohesion Fund – Article 8(1)(1)	RCO – common output indicators; RCR – common result indicators
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN	SDG
Law on Gender Equality, 2021	ZRR
Sludge management programme in Serbia from 2023 to 2032	PUMS
Low-carbon development strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2023 to 2030 with projections until 2050	SSNRRS
Strategy for young people in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030	SMRS
Strategy of deinstitutionalization and development of social protection services in the community for the period 2022-2026. year	SDRUSZZ
Air protection programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030 with an action plan	PZVRS
Circular economy development programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2022-2024. year	PRCERS
Waste management programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2022-2031. year	PUORS
Programme of adaptation to changed climatic conditions with Action Plan, Draft.	PPIKUAP
Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035, Draft	PPRS
Strategic priorities for the development of the culture of the Republic of Serbia from 2021-2025. year	SPRKRS
Integrated national energy and climate plan of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021 to 2030 with a vision until 2050	INEKPRS
Strategy for the development of information society and information security in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026.	SRIDIB
Strategy of scientific and technological development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “Power of knowledge”	SNTRRS
Strategy for the development of the startup ecosystem of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025	SRSERS
Industrial policy strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030	SIPRS
Employment strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026	SZRS
Strategy for the development of education and upbringing in Serbia until 2030	SROVS
Strategy of smart specialisation in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2027. year	SPSRS
Strategy of sustainable urban development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030	SOURRS
Artificial intelligence development strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025. year	SERVIRS

Public health strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2026. year	SJZRS
Tourism development strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025	SRTRS
Strategy of agriculture and rural development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014-2024. year	SPRRRS
Strategy for supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and competitiveness for the period from 2015 to 2020	SPRMSPPK

11 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Strategy begins immediately after its adoption. The implementation contains very demanding obligations in terms of management, namely:

- preparation and determination of priority projects,
- preparation and publication of calls for proposals for projects and approval of operations,
- obtaining projects for construction / implementation,
- implementation and closure of projects,
- leading and managing/maintaining projects.

All these functions will certainly lead to the fact that the existing structures and institutions of the City of Zaječar and the municipalities of Knjaževac, Sokobanja and Boljevac (LGS) will be under pressure (and taking into account the existing capacities), even more, and that there were coordination and establishment of inter-municipal procedures are needed cooperation between several LSGs. At this stage, LSGs do not have adequate capacities, resources and knowledge to effectively perform all the mentioned functions. For this reason, a Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be established to support LSGs in implementing this Strategy and establishing a systemic change in planning and implementation.

The current management structure for the Strategy development process includes:

- A working group that also acts as a committee of actors and social partnerships,
- The Council for Development, which also acts as a political coordination committee.

The scope of work of the Development Council already covers the political aspects of project selection and the implementation of the Strategy. Therefore, the management of procedures should be added to this scope of work in order to enable the implementation of the Strategy. The working group has the task of supporting the Council during the development of the Strategy and will be dissolved after its adoption. Therefore, the Unit for Project Coordination (that is, the Unit for Project Coordination and Inter-Municipal Cooperation in the case of a wider territory) follows the steps of the Working Group in order to:

- Support to the Council for Development in the project identification process that takes place between various interested parties (Urban Planning Department under the LSG administration, administrative authority/intermediary authority, European Investment Bank EIB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development EBRD, etc.).
- Cross-sector coordination of all necessary studies in order for the project and the business planning process to “mature”, through the involvement of other departments/units of local self-government, as needed. In addition, it provides support for coordination between different local policies - the integrated territorial investment plan and the municipal capital investment program, as well as the LSG development plan, spatial planning documentation and other sectoral strategies, programs and action plans. The project coordination unit will not be directly responsible for planning and programming at the LSG level, but will closely cooperate with the relevant sectors and all other competent authorities. In coordination with the procurement services (budget and

finance department) of the LSG, the PCU will support the effective establishment and approval of contracts with suppliers and consultants on each project, including studies/surveys required for application submission, approval, permits (e.g. impact assessment for life environment and strategic impact assessment, traffic survey, etc.).

- Contract administration, which is the duty of each sector within which the project is implemented (e.g. cleaning and recycling department/company for waste management contracts, etc.). The PUC is involved in coordinating and supporting the administration of service contracts and contracts with different sectors (and consultants).
- Liaising with administrative authorities that issue permits and with consultants during the process of drafting and submitting applications for approval/permits, in order to meet the needs of issuing permits/licenses and obtain the necessary approvals/permits/licenses.
- Support the urban planning authority/department and the administrative authority/intermediary authority in the management of the project fund to prepare the necessary financial and technical documents/studies/expertise for disbursement requests and financial systems. This function should be coordinated with the financial management of the entire LSG.
- Project management, to ensure that the projects meet the planned objectives. The project coordination unit should carry out the following tasks as a minimum: ensure that the projects meet the general objectives of the programme (urban planning as well as business planning) and specific key performance indicators determined by the framework of integrated territorial investment policies; coordination of regular meetings to monitor progress at the local and regional level, as well as with financiers and consultants; taking care of the related administrative functions of (EU-funded) project management, from project identification and evaluation to final project completion reports.
- Ensuring an efficient and effective mechanism for strengthening and building capacity to achieve set goals. This capacity building is for the employees of the Project Coordination Unit in some specific areas, who deal with the management and coordination of the Unit's duties. In a broader context, capacity development is also for other relevant parties/actors who are involved in the investment program, and where the need for capacity development is recognised.
- Ensuring that the necessary activities related to PR, publicity and communication are fulfilled, in coordination with and with the support of the communication service and work with the LSG community. These activities should include appropriate communication and engagement with the community (private, public, civil, educational and research sectors), taking into account project planning and implementation, to ensure participation and long-term sustainability of projects.
- Management of the database for monitoring and preparation of all necessary reports for the administrative body/intermediate body. The project coordination unit will be responsible for: monitoring the results of the projects, during their implementation and after completion. The completion of the project is in accordance with the standards of the Republic of Serbia and the EU. Socio-economic impact assessments

detailing how the investment programme impacted communities and municipalities in terms of competence development, community involvement, municipal partnerships, local economic and inter-municipal development, and how the quality of life in communities was improved. Conducting such studies is recommended. Facilitating the implementation and support of the necessary studies and expertise (such as assessments of the impact of projects on the population and the environment, i.e. risk assessment studies, etc.).

To that end, the City of Zaječar has one of the following three options for establishing a Project Coordination Unit:

- a) Establishment of the PCU as a special working group that will use the existing employees, who will be transferred to the PCU. In that case, the PCU will “borrow” human and other resources from the existing LSG administrative units.
- b) Establishment of PCU as a new administrative unit within the LSG structure. In that case, new personnel would be hired to fill the Unit, but existing personnel and resources could be transferred to the new unit. It should be pointed out that there is a great risk due to the outflow of personnel, insufficient number of employees for daily legal obligations, as well as the acquisition of new responsibilities by municipalities in the process of decentralization and entry into the EU.
- c) Establish a PCU in an existing administrative unit whose scope of work could be adapted appropriately, so that it also covers the tasks and functions of the PCU. As in the previous variant, there is a great risk due to the outflow of personnel, insufficient number of employees for daily legal obligations, as well as the acquisition of new competences by municipalities in the process of decentralization and entry into the EU.

In any case, the Project Coordination Unit should have a clear mandate from the mayor and report directly to the mayor’s cabinet. The following personnel are needed as a minimum within the municipality for the functions of the Project Coordination Unit:

- Head of the Project Coordination Unit;
- project manager;
- engineer/expert for project implementation;
- procurement officer;
- financial manager or administrator;
- IT specialist for data collection;
- Community Officer and Liaison and Communications Officer;
- policy and sector coordination officer.¹²³

After closing the project, the City of Zaječar should manage and maintain the created elements. In the case of “soft” projects, the local government should consider the implementation of the exit strategy of the project. Normally, this would mean that the existing LSG service would be taken over or a separate unit would be created, or the responsibility would be transferred to

¹²³ This person will facilitate alignment between policies, strategies, projects and funding sources. It would support the Council for the Development of the Urban Area through the work/identification of projects. It would also enable cross-sectoral coordination and coordination of the integrated territorial investment plan and the municipal capital investment plan, in the context of the objectives of the EU cohesion policy.

a civil society/NGO or RRA, which are institutional mechanisms established by municipalities for inter-municipal cooperation. It is therefore imperative that management and maintenance as well as exit strategies receive due consideration when conducting feasibility studies for any project, and that LSGs use the project implementation period to establish systems and institutions that would ensure the long-term functioning of projects. The project coordination unit would have the responsibility to ensure that the LSG has the resources to fulfill its obligations in relation to the management and maintenance of all capital projects. The Project Coordination Unit will assist directly or indirectly wherever possible in relation to the running and maintenance of the programme.

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13 ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 - DECISIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL STRATEGY

На основу члана 40. став 1. тачка 4. Статута града Зајечара ("Сл. лист града Зајечара", бр. 4/19 и 67/21), члана 12. Закона о планском систему Републике Србије ("Службени гласник РС", број 30/2018), члана 13. став 6. Закона о локалној самоуправи ("Службени гласник РС", број 129/2007, 83/2014 - др.закон, 101/2016 - др.закон, 47/2018, 111/2021 - др.закон), члана 16. и 20. Закона о територијалној организацији Републике Србије ("Сл.гласник РС", бр.129/2007, 18/2016, 47/2018 и 9/2020 - др. закон), члана 39. Закона о регионалном развоју ("Сл.гласник РС", бр.51/2009, 30/2010 и 85/2015 - др.закон), а у складу са Стратегијом одрживог урбаног развоја Републике Србије до 2030. године ("Службени гласник Републике Србије", број 47/2019), и Меморандумом о разумевању, закљученог између носиоца израде Стратегије, града Зајечара, и Канцеларије Уједињених нација за пројектне услуге, дана 20.05.2022. године, којим се дефинише техничка подршка Програма Европске уније за локални развој ЕУ ПРО Плус у изради и спровођењу Стратегије урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, Скупштина града Зајечара, на седници одржаној 22.06.2022 године, донела је

ОДЛУКУ О ПРИСТУПАЊУ ИЗРАДИ СТРАТЕГИЈЕ РАЗВОЈА УРБАНОГ ПОДРУЧЈА ГРАДА ЗАЈЕЧАРА И ОПШТИНА КЊАЖЕВАЦ, СОКОБАЊА И БОЉЕВАЦ

Члан 1.

Град Зајечар приступа изради Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац.

Члан 2.

Под Стратегијом развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац (у даљем тексту: Стратегија), у смислу ове Одлуке, подразумева се плански документ развоја, а у складу са правилима Европске Уније¹.

¹ Члан 29. Уредбе (ЕУ) 2021/1060 Европског парламента и већа од 24.јуна 2021. о утврђивању заједничких одредаба о Европском фонду за регионални развој, Европском социјалном фонду плус, Кохезионом фонду, Фонду за праведну транзицију и Европском фонду за помоћство, рибарство и аквакултуру те финансијских правила за њих и за Фонд за азил, миграције и интеграцију, Фонд за унутрашњу безбедност и инструмент за финансијску подршку на подручју управљања границама и визне политике.

Члан 3.

Циљ израде Стратегије је да допринесе одрживом развоју територије заснованом на подстицању: иновативне, паметне, нискоугљеничне и циркуларне економије; прелаза на чисту и праведну енергију, зелених и плавих улагања, ублажавања и прилагођавања климатским променама, спречавања и управљања ризицима, бољег снабдевања водом и управљања отпадом, одрживе и мултимодалне урбане мобилности; јачања социјалне компоненте у домену запошљавања, образовања, социоекономске укључености и интеграције, становања, социјалне и здравствене заштите, јавног здравља, културе, одрживог туризма, социјалних иновација и иновација у области дигиталних технологија; примене интегралног и партиципативног приступа развоју друштва и привреде, развоју предела, културног и градитељског наслеђа, природне баштине, одрживог туризма, и јачању урбано-руралних веза. Стратегија поставља приоритете одрживог територијалног развоја, доприноси максимизирању вредности финансирања и развијању веза унутар и изван окружења.

Члан 4.

Полазну основу за формулисање Стратегије представљају дефинисани правци развоја Републике Србије и Европске уније и територије урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, кроз сагледавање Европских, националних и локалних развојних докумената и докумената јавних политика, и програма и пројекта који се реализују на територији урбаног подручја.

Члан 5.

Кроз процесе израде Стратегије промовисаће се интегрални и партиципативни приступ планирању развоја, међусекторска сарадња и размена информација, укључивање и координација јавног, приватног, цивилног сектора и научно-истраживачког сектора у процесу одлучивања, и партнерство међу институцијама.

Члан 6.

У циљу спровођења ове одлуке и израде Стратегије, образоваће се Савет за развој урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац (у даљем тексту Савет) и Радна група за израду Стратегије (у даљем тексту: Радна група).

Члан 7.

Савет има задатак да координира и надзире процес израде Стратегије, да разматра Стратегију по фазама припреме, предложеној од стране Радне групе, даје мишљење на предложени нацрт, прибавља мишљења релевантних институција и упућује коначни нацрт Стратегије на усвајање. Затим, Савет координира процес спровођења Стратегије и даје предлог за реализацију одређених стратешких пројеката важних за развој урбаног подручја.

Чланови Савета су градоначелник Града Зајечара и председници општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац које су у саставу урбаног подручја обухваћеног Стратегијом, као и представници Регионалне агенције за развој источне Србије – РАРИС, док су заменици чланова Савета заменици градоначелника односно председника општина.

Радам Савета руководи председник Савета који се бира на првој седници Савета.

Савет доноси Пословник о раду на првој седници Савета, која ће се одржати најкасније у року од месец дана од дана усвајања ове Одлуке.

Члан 8.

Радна група има задатак да спроведе све фазе у процесу израде Стратегије, дефинише кључне циљеве и приоритете развоја и предложи стратешке пројекте Савету.

Чланове и координатора Радне групе именује градоначелник Града Зајечара.

Члан 9.

Регионална агенција за развој источне Србије – РАРИС пружа стручну и техничку подршку и административно-техничку помоћ Радној групи током израде Стратегије, кроз обезбеђење простора за рад у сарадњи са градском управом, и административно-техничку помоћ током израде Стратегије, прикупљање и достављање свих званичних релевантних података и др.

Члан 10.

Током израде Стратегије биће организовани тематски округли столови, радионице, форуми за стручне и јавне расправе, на којима ће се усаглашавати предложена решења. У њихов рад могу бити укључени и сви остали заинтересовани учесници, како би се обезбедила партиципација и транспарентност процеса одлучивања и правовремено обавештавање јавности.

Члан 11.

Рок за израду Стратегије је 8 (осам) месеци од дана ступања на снагу ове Одлуке.

Члан 12.

Реализација ове Одлуке обезбеђује се кроз програм ЕУ ПРО Плус. За реализацију ове Одлуке задужене су организационе јединице градских управа и општина надлежне за послове урбанизма и израде стратешких докумената.

Члан 13.

О овој Одлуци информисаће се јавност у складу са одредбама Закона о планском систему и Закона о локалној самоуправи, објавом на службеним страницама јединица локалне самоуправе.

Члан 14.

Сви појмови у овој Одлуци употребљени у граматичком мушком роду подразумевају мушки и женски природни род.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у "Службеном листу града Зајечара".

І број ОМ-13/2022
У Зајечару, 22.06.2022 године

СКУПШТИНА ГРАДА ЗАЈЕЧАРА


ПРЕДСЕДНИК
Стефан Банков

У складу са чланом 12. Закона о планском систему ("Службени гласник Републике Србије", број 30/2018), чланом 13. став 6. и чланом 21. Закона о локалној самоуправи ("Службени гласник Републике Србије", број 129/2007, 83/2014 - др.закон, 101/2016 - др.закон, 47/2018, 111/2021 - др.закон), чланом 20. Закона о територијалној организацији Републике Србије ("Сл.гласник РС", бр.129/2007, 18/2016, 47/2018 и 9/2020 - др. закон), чланом 33. и 39. Закона о регионалном развоју ("Сл.гласник РС", бр.51/2009, 30/2010 и 85/2015 - др.закон), Правилником о смерницама добре праксе за остваривање учешћа јавности у припреми нацрта закона и других прописа и аката ("Службени гласник РС", број 51/2019), Стратегијом одрживог урбаног развоја Републике Србије до 2030. године ("Службени гласник Републике Србије", број 47/2019), чланом 16. став 1. тачка 1. Статута општине Сокобања ("Службени лист општине Сокобања", број 6/19) и Меморандумом о разумевању, закљученог између носиоца израде Стратегије, града Зајечара и Канцеларије Уједињених нација за пројектне услуге, дана 20.05.2022. године, којим се дефинише техничка подршка Програма Европске уније за локални развој ЕУ ПРО Плус у изради и спровођењу Стратегије урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Болевац и Сокобања, Скупштина општине Сокобања на седници од 23.08.2022. године,

Доноси

ОДЛУКУ О ПРИСТУПАЊУ ИЗРАДИ СТРАТЕГИЈЕ РАЗВОЈА УРБАНОГ ПОДРУЧЈА ГРАДА ЗАЈЕЧАРА И ОПШТИНА КЊАЖЕВАЦ, БОЛЕВАЦ И СОКОБАЊА

Члан 1.

Општина Сокобања приступа изради Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Болевац и Сокобања.

Члан 2.

Под Стратегијом развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Болевац и Сокобања (у даљем тексту: Стратегија), у смислу ове Одлуке, подразумева се плански документ развоја, а у складу са правилима Европске Уније¹.

Члан 3.

Циљ израде Стратегије је да допринесе одрживом развоју територије заснованом на подстицању: иновативне, паметне, нискоугљеничне и циркуларне економије; прелаза на чисту и праведну енергију, зелених и плавих улагања, ублажавања и прилагођавања климатским променама, спречавања и управљања ризицима, бољег снабдевања водом и управљања отпадом, одрживе и мултимодалне урбане мобилности; јачања социјалне компоненте у домену запошљавања, образовања, социоекономске укључености и интеграције, становања, социјалне и здравствене заштите, јавног здравља, културе, одрживог туризма, социјалних иновација и иновација у области дигиталних технологија; примене интегралног и партиципативног приступа развоју друштва и привреде, развоју предела, културног и градителског наслеђа, природне баштине, одрживог туризма, и јачању урбано-руралних веза. Стратегија поставља приоритете одрживог територијалног развоја, доприноси максимизирању вредности финансирања и развијању веза унутар и изван окружења.

¹ Члан 29. Уредбе (ЕУ) 2021/1060 Европског парламента и већа од 24. јуна 2021. о утврђивању заједничких одредаба о Европском фонду за регионални развој, Европском социјалном фонду плус, Кохезионом фонду, Фонду за праведну транзицију и Европском фонду за померство, рибарство и аквакултуру те финансијских правила за њих и за Фонд за азил, миграције и интеграцију, Фонд за унутрашњу безбедност и инструмент за финансијску подршку на подручју управљања границама и ванске политике.

Члан 4.

Полазну основу за формулисање Стратегије представљају дефинисани правци развоја Републике Србије и Европске уније и територије урбаног подручја града Зajeчара и општина Књажевац, Бољевац и Сокобања, кроз сагледавање Европских, националних и локалних развојних докумената и докумената јавних политика, и програма и пројекта који се реализују на територији урбаног подручја.

Члан 5.

Кроз процесе израде Стратегије промовисаће се интегрални и партиципативни приступ планирању развоја, међусекторска сарадња и размена информација, укључивање и координација јавног, приватног, цивилног сектора и научно-истраживачког сектора у процесу одлучивања, и партнерство међу институцијама.

Члан 6.

У циљу спровођења ове одлуке и израде Стратегије, образоваће се Савет за развој урбаног подручја града Зajeчара и општина Књажевац, Бољевац и Сокобања (у даљем тексту Савет) и Радна група за израду Стратегије (у даљем тексту: Радна група).

Члан 7.

Савет има задатак да координира и надзире процес израде Стратегије, да разматра Стратегију по фазама припреме, предложеној од стране Радне групе, даје мишљење на предложени нацрт, прибавља мишљења релевантних институција и упућује коначни нацрт Стратегије на усвајање. Затим, Савет координира процес спровођења Стратегије и даје предлог за реализацију одређених стратешких пројеката важних за развој урбаног подручја.

Чланови Савета су градоначелник Зajeчара и председници општина Књажевац, Бољевац и Сокобања које су у саставу урбаног подручја обухваћеног Стратегијом, као и представници регионалне развојне агенције за развој источне Србије РАРИС, док су заменици чланова Савета су заменици градоначелника односно председника општина.

Радом Савета руководи председник Савета који се бира на првој седници Савета.

Савет доноси Пословник о раду на првој седници Савета, која ће се одржати најкасније у року од месец дана од дана усвајања ове Одлуке.

Члан 8.

Радна група има задатак да спроведе све фазе у процесу израде Стратегије, дефинише кључне циљеве и приоритете развоја и предложи стратешке пројекте Савету. Чланове и координатора Радне групе именује градоначелник.

Члан 9.

Регионална развојна агенција РАРИС пружа стручну и техничку подршку и административно-техничку помоћ Радној групи током израде Стратегије, кроз обезбеђење простора за рад у сарадњи са градском управом, и административно-техничку помоћ током израде Стратегије, прикупљање и достављање свих званичних релевантних података и др.

Члан 10.

Током израде Стратегије биће организовани тематски округли столови, радионице, форуми за стручне и јавне расправе, на којима ће се усаглашавати предложена решења. У њихов рад могу бити укључени и сви остали заинтересовани учесници, како би се обезбедила партиципација и транспарентност процеса одлучивања и правовремено обавештавање јавности.

Члан 11.

Рок за израду Стратегије је 8 (осам) месеци од дана ступања на снагу ове Одлуке.

Члан 12.

Реализација ове Одлуке обезбеђује се кроз програм ЕУ ПРО Плус. За реализацију ове Одлуке задужене су организационе јединице градских управа и општина надлежне за послове урбанизма.

Члан 13.

О овој Одлуци информисаће се јавност у складу са одредбама Закона о планском систему, Закона о локалној самоуправи и Правилника о смерницама добре праксе за остваривање учешћа јавности у припреми нацрта закона и других прописа и аката, објавом на службеним страницама јединица локалне самоуправе.

Члан 14.

Сви појмови у овој Одлуци употребљени у граматичком мушком роду подразумевају мушки и женски природни род.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у "Службеном листу општине Сокобања"

I Број: 350-296/22

У Сокобањи, 23.08.2022. Године

СКУПШТИНА ОПШТИНЕ СОКОБАЊА

ПРЕДСЕДНИК СКУПШТИНЕ
Владан Петковић



Службени лист општине Бољевац

15. јун 2022. године

Јавне установе „Установе за спорт Бољевац“ се обавезује да омогући коришћење опреме прибављене из пројекта „Омладинска мрежа за спорт и здравље“ пројектном тиму који је реализовао пројекат до истека извештајног периода и Општинској управи Бољевац, која је надлежна за верификовање финалног наративног и финансијског извештаја ИПА фонду Програма прекограничне сарадње Бугарска – Србија.

Уговор о давању на коришћење опреме из тачке 1. ове одлуке, у име Општине Бољевац закључиће председник Општине Бољевац, уз предходно прибављену правну ваљаност Општинског правобранилаштва Општине Бољевац.

СКУПШТИНА ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ

Број: 06-42 / 2022-И/14
Бољевац, 14. 06. 2022. године

ПРЕДСЕДНИК
СКУПШТИНЕ ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ
Јелена Милосављевић Радосављевић с.р.

19.
На основу члана 40. и 132. Статута Општине Бољевац („Службени лист Општине Бољевац“, бр. 2/2019), Скупштина Општине Бољевац на седници одржаној 14. 06. 2022. године донела је

ОДЛУКУ**Члан 1.**

Даје се сагласност да Предшколска установа „Наша радост“ Бољевац у сарадњи са Фондацијом Новак Ђоковић реализује пројекат адаптације и опремања једне просторије која се налази у Згради у функцији осталог образовања – ОБДНИШТЕ, која се налази на КП бр. 2655/2, зграда бр. 1, укупне површине 796 m² уписана у Лист непокретности бр. 1468 КО Бољевац, својина Општине Бољевац са правом коришћења Предшколске установе „Наша радост“ Бољевац.

Члан 2.

Општина Бољевац ће надокнадити Фондацији сву штету (укључујући и враћање целокупних средстава у целости), која настане услед чињенице да је због разлога који нису узроковани поступањем Фондације немогуће изхитовати одобрење за употребу.

Члан 3.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у Службеном листу Општине Бољевац.

СКУПШТИНА ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ

Број: 06-42 / 2022-И/15
Бољевац, 14. 06. 2022. године

ПРЕДСЕДНИК
СКУПШТИНЕ ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ
Јелена Милосављевић Радосављевић с.р.

20.

У складу са чланом 12. Закона о планском систему („Службени гласник Републике Србије“, број 30/2018), чланом 13. став 6, и чланом 21. Закона о локалној самоуправи („Службени гласник Републике Србије“, број 129/2007, 83/2014 - др.закон, 101/2016 - др.закон, 47/2018, 111/2021 - др.закон), чланом 20. Закона о територијалној организацији Републике Србије („Сл.гласник РС“, бр.129/2007, 18/2016, 47/2018 и 9/2020 - др. закон), чланом 33. и 39. Закона о регионалном развоју („Сл.гласник РС“, бр.51/2009, 30/2010 и 85/2015 - др.закон), Правилником о смерницама добре праксе за остваривање учешћа јавности у припреми нацрта закона и других прописа и аката („Службени гласник РС“, број 51/2019), Стратегијом одрживог урбаног развоја Републике Србије до 2030. године („Службени гласник Републике Србије“, број 47/2019), чланом 40. Статута општине Бољевац („Службени лист општине Бољевац бр. 2/2019“) и Меморандумом о разумевању, закљученог између носиоца израде Стратегије, града Зajeчара, и Канцеларије Уједињених нација за пројектне услуге, дана 20.05.2022. године, којим се дефинише техничка подршка Програма Европске уније за локални развој ЕУ ПРО Плус у изради и спровођењу Стратегије урбаног подручја града Зajeчара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, Скупштина Општине Бољевац на седници од 14. 06. 2022. године доноси

ОДЛУКУ

О ПРИСТУПАЊУ ИЗРАДИ СТРАТЕГИЈЕ РАЗВОЈА
УРБАНОГ ПОДРУЧЈА ГРАДА ЗАЈЕЧАРА И
ОПШТИНА КЊАЖЕВАЦ, СОКОБАЊА И БОЉЕВАЦ

Члан 1.

Општина Бољевац приступа изради Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зajeчара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац

Члан 2.

Под Стратегијом развоја урбаног подручја града Зajeчара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац (у даљем тексту: Стратегија), у смислу ове Одлуке, подразумева се плански документ развоја, а у складу са правилима Европске Уније¹.

Члан 3.

Циљ израде Стратегије је да допринесе одрживом развоју територије заснованом на подстицању: иновативне, паметне, нискоугљеничне и циркуларне економије; прелаза на чисту и праведну енергију, зелених и плавих улагања, ублажавања и прилагођавања климатским променама, спречавања и управљања ризицима, бољег снабдевања водом и управљања отпадом, одрживе и мултимодалне урбане мобилности; јачања социјалне компоненте у домену запошљавања, образовања, социоекономске укључености и интеграције, становања, социјалне и здравствене заштите, јавног

¹ Члан 29. Уредбе (ЕУ) 2021/1060 Европског парламента и већа од 24.јуна 2021. о утврђивању заједничких одредаба о Европском фонду за регионални развој, Европском социјалном фонду плус, Кохезионом фонду, Фонду за праведну транзицију и Европском фонду за помоћство, рибарство и аквакултуру те финансијских правила за њих и за Фонд за азил, миграције и интеграцију, Фонд за унапређење безбедности и инструмент за финансијску подршку на подручју управљања границама и висине пољопривреде.

Службени лист општине Бољевац

15. јун 2022. године

здравља, културе, одрживог туризма, социјалних иновација и иновација у области дигиталних технологија, примене интегралног и партиципативног приступа развоју друштва и привреде, развоју предела, културног и грађитељског наслеђа, природне баштине, одрживог туризма, и јачању урбано-руралних веза. Стратегија поставља приоритете одрживог територијалног развоја, доприноси максимизирању вредности финансирања и развијању веза унутар и изван окружења.

Члан 4.

Полазну основу за формулисање Стратегије представљају дефинисани правци развоја Републике Србије и Европске уније и територије урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, кроз сагледавање Европских, националних и локалних развојних докумената и докумената јавних политика, и програма и пројекта који се реализују на територији урбаног подручја.

Члан 5.

Кроз процесе израде Стратегије промовисаће се интегрални и партиципативни приступ планирању развоја, међусекторска сарадња и размена информација, укључивање и координација јавног, приватног, цивилног сектора и научно-истраживачког сектора у процесу одлучивања, и партнерство међу институцијама.

Члан 6.

У циљу спровођења ове одлуке и израде Стратегије, образоваће се Савет за развој урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац (у даљем тексту Савет) и Радна група за израду Стратегије (у даљем тексту: Радна група).

Члан 7.

Савет има задатак да координира и надзире процес израде Стратегије, да разматра Стратегију по фазама припреме, предложеној од стране Радне групе, даје мишљење на предложени нацрт, прибавља мишљења релевантних институција и упућује коначни нацрт Стратегије на усвајање. Затим, Савет координира процес спровођења Стратегије и даје предлог за реализацију одређених стратешких пројеката важних за развој урбаног подручја.

Чланови Савета су градоначелник Зајечара и председници општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац које су у саставу урбаног подручја обухваћеног Стратегијом, као и представници Регионалне агенције за развој источне Србије – РАРИС, док су заменици чланова Савета заменици градоначелника односно председника општина.

Радом Савета руководи председник Савета који се бира на првој седници Савета.

Савет доноси Пословник о раду на првој седници Савета, која ће се одржати најкасније у року од месец дана од дана усвајања ове Одлуке.

Члан 8.

Радна група има задатак да спроведе све фазе у процесу израде Стратегије, дефинише кључне циљеве и приоритете развоја и предложи стратешке пројекте

Савету.

Чланове и координатора Радне групе именује градоначелник.

Члан 9.

Регионалне агенције за развој источне Србије – РАРИС пружа стручну и техничку подршку и административно-техничку помоћ Радној групи током израде Стратегије, кроз обезбеђење простора за рад у сарадњи са градском управом, и административно-техничку помоћ током израде Стратегије, прикупљање и достављање свих званичних релевантних података и др.

Члан 10.

Током израде Стратегије биће организовани тематски округли столови, радионице, форуми за стручне и јавне расправе, на којима ће се усаглашавати предложена решења. У њихов рад могу бити укључени и сви остали заинтересовани учесници, како би се обезбедила партиципација и транспарентност процеса одлучивања и правовремено обавештавање јавности.

Члан 11.

Рок за израду Стратегије је 8 (осам) месеци од дана ступања на снагу ове Одлуке.

Члан 12.

Реализација ове Одлуке обезбеђује се кроз програм ЕУ ПРО Плус. За реализацију ове Одлуке задужене су организационе јединице градских управа и општина надлежне за послове урбанизма и израде стратешких докумената.

Члан 13.

О овој Одлуци информисаће се јавност у складу са одредбама Закона о планском систему, Закона о локалној самоуправи и Правилника о смерницама добре праксе за остваривање учешћа јавности у припреми нацрта закона и других прописа и аката, објавом на службеним страницама јединица локалне самоуправе.

Члан 14.

Сви појмови у овој Одлуци употребљени у граматичком мушком роду подразумевају мушки и женски природни род.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у Службеном листу општине Бољевац.

СКУПШТИНА ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ

Број: 06-42 / 2022-1/16

Датум: 14. 06. 2022. године

ПРЕДСЕДНИК**СКУПШТИНЕ ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ**

Јелена Милосављевић Радосављевић с.р.

21.

На основу члана 69. став 4. Закона о заштити животне средине ("Сл. гласник РС", бр. 135/04, 36/09 и 36/09 - др. закон и 72/09 - др.закон, 43/11 - одлука УС и 14/16, 76/18, 95/18- др.закон) члана 15. став 3. и став 4. Закона о заштити ваздуха ("Сл.гласник РС", бр. 36/09, 10/2013 и 26/21-др. закон) и члана 40. Статута Општине Бољевац („Службени лист Општине Бољевац“, број 2/2019),

СТРАНА 5 „СЛУЖБЕНИ ЛИСТ ОПШТИНЕ КЊАЖЕВАЦ” - БРОЈ 24

29. СЕПТЕМБАР 2022

свим питањима од интереса за рад установе у целини;

12) сазива и руководи седницама Васпитно-образовног, Наставничког, односно Педагошког већа, без права одлучивања;

13) образује стручна тела и тимове, усмерава и усклађује рад стручних органа у Установи;

14) сарађује са родитељима, односно другим законским заступницима деце и саветом родитеља;

16) подноси Извештај органу управљања, најмање два пута годишње, о свом раду и раду Установе;

17) одлучује о правима, обавезама и одговорностима запослених, у складу са законским прописима;

18) доноси општи акт о организацији и систематизацији послова, у складу са законом;

19) обезбеђује услове за остваривање права деце и права, обавезе и одговорности запослених, у складу са законским прописима;

20) одлучује по жалби на решење Конкурсне комисије за избор кандидата за пријем у радни однос;

21) обавља и друге послове у складу са Законом и Статутом.

У случају привремене одсутности или спречености директора да обавља дужност, замењује га наставник, васпитач или стручни сарадник у установи на основу овлашћења директора, односно органа управљања, у складу са законом.

Члан 7.

После члана 26. додаје се нови члан 26а који гласи:

„Члан 26а

Установа може да има помоћника директора, у складу са нормативом којим се утврђују критеријуми и стандарди за финансирање Установе.

Решењем директора установе на послове помоћника директора распоређује се васпитач и стручни сарадник, који има професионални углед и искуство у Установи за сваку радну годину.

Помоћник директора организује, руководи и одговоран је за педагошки рад Установе, координира рад стручних актива и других стручних органа Установе и обавља и друге послове у складу са Статутом Установе.

Након престанка дужности, помоћник директора има право да се врати на послове које је обављао пре постављења.

Помоћник директора може да обавља и послове васпитача и стручног сарадника у складу са решењем директора.”

Члан 8.

Члан 28. Одлуке **МЕЊА СЕ** и гласи:

„Члан 28.

Представници Савета родитеља бирају се сваке радне године.

Савет родитеља:

1. предлаже представнике родитеља, односно других законских заступника деце у Управни одбор;

2. предлаже свог представника у све обавезне тимове установе;

3. учествује у предлагању садржаја ваннаставних активности и програма на нивоу Установе;

4. даје сагласност на избор дејних листова и часописа;

5. разматра предлог Предшколског програма, Развојног плана, Годишњег плана рада установе;

6. разматра извештаје о остваривању васпитно-образовног рада, развојног плана, годишњег плана рада установе, самовредновању и спољашњем вредновању и спровођење мера за обезбеђивање и унапређивање квалитета васпитно-образовног рада;

7. разматра намену коришћења средстава од донација и проширене делатности Установе;

8. разматра и прати услове за рад Установе, услове за одрастање, безбедност и заштиту деце;

9. учествује у прописивању мера, начина и поступка заштите и безбедности деце за време боравка у установи и свих активности које организује Установа;

10. даје сагласност на програм излета и наставе у природи и разматра извештај о њиховом остваривању;

11. предлаже представника и његовог заменика за општински савет родитеља;

12. разматра и друга питања утврђена Статутом Установе.”

Члан 9.

Управни одбор Установе у обавези је да Статут и друга општа акта усагласи са законом и овом Одлуком у року од 60 дана од дана ступања на снагу ове Одлуке.

Члан 10.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у „Службеном листу општине Књажевац”.

Број: 022 - 43/2022-01
Дана: 29.09.2022. године
К њ а ж е в а ц

ПРЕДСЕДНИК СО,
Марко Стојановић, с.р.

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На основу члана 30. став 1. тачка 5. Статута општине Књажевац – пречишћени текст („Сл. лист општине Књажевац”, бр. 6/2019), члана 12. Закона о планском систему Републике Србије („Службени гласник РС”, број 30/2018), члана 13. став 6. Закона о локалној самоуправи („Службени гласник РС”, број 129/2007, 83/2014 - др.закон, 101/2016 - др.закон, 47/2018, 111/2021 - др.закон), члана 16. и 20. Закона о територијалној организацији Републике Србије („Сл. гласник РС”, бр. 129/2007, 18/2016, 47/2018 и 9/2020 - др. закон), члана 39. Закона о регионалном развоју („Сл. гласник РС”, бр.51/2009, 30/2010 и 85/2015 – др.закон), а у складу са Стратегијом одрживог урбаног развоја Републике Србије до 2030. године („Службени гласник Републике Србије”, број 47/2019) и Меморандумом о разумевању, закљученог између носиоца израде Стратегије, града Зајечара и

Канцеларије Уједињених нација за пројектне услуге, дана 20.05.2022. године, којим се дефинише техничка подршка Програма Европске уније за локални развој ЕУ ПРО Плус у изради и спровођењу Стратегије урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, Скупштина општине Књажевац, на седници одржаној 29.09.2022. године, донела је

**ОДЛУКУ
О ПРИСТУПАЊУ ИЗРАДИ СТРАТЕГИЈЕ РАЗВОЈА
УРБАНОГ ПОДРУЧЈА ГРАДА ЗАЈЕЧАРА И
ОПШТИНА КЊАЖЕВАЦ, СОКОБАЊА И БОЉЕВАЦ**

Члан 1.

Општина Књажевац приступа изради Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац.

Члан 2.

Под Стратегијом развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац (у даљем тексту: Стратегија), у смислу ове Одлуке, подразумева се плански документ развоја, а у складу са правилима Европске Уније.

Члан 3.

Циљ израде Стратегије је да допринесе одрживом развоју територије заснованом на подстицању: иновативне, паметне, нискоугљеничне и циркуларне економије; препаза начисту и праведну енергију, зелених и плавих улагања, ублажавања и прилагођавања климатским променама, спречавања и управљања ризицима, бољег снабдевања водом и управљања отпадом, одрживе и мултимодалне урбане мобилности; јачања социјалне компоненте у домену запошљавања, образовања, социјалне укључености и интеграције, становања, социјалне и здравствене заштите, јавног здравља, културе, одрживог туризма, социјалних иновација и иновација у области дигиталних технологија; примене интегралног и партиципативног приступа развоју друштва и привреде, развоју предела, културног и грађитељског наслеђа, природне баштине, одрживог туризма, и јачању урбано-руралних веза. Стратегија поставља приоритете одрживог територијалног развоја, доприноси максимизирању вредности финансирања и развијању веза унутар и изван окружења.

Члан 4.

Полазну основу за формулисање Стратегије представљају дефинисани правци развоја Републике Србије и Европске уније и територије урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, кроз сагледавање Европских, националних и локалних развојних докумената и докумената јавних политика, и програма и пројекта који се реализују на територији урбаног подручја.

Члан 5.

Кроз процес израде Стратегије промовисаће се интегрални и партиципативни приступ планирању развоја, међусекторска сарадња и размена информација, укључивање и координација јавног, приватног, цивилног сектора и научно-истраживачког сектора у процесу одлучивања, и партнерство међу институцијама.

Члан 6.

У циљу спровођења ове одлуке и израде Стратегије, образоваће се Савет за развој урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац (у даљем тексту Савет) и Радна група за израду Стратегије (у даљем тексту: Радна група).

Члан 7.

Савет има задатак да координира и надзире процес израде Стратегије, да разматра Стратегију по фазама припреме, предложеној од стране Радне групе, даје мишљење на предложени нацрт, прибавља мишљења релевантних институција и упућује коначни нацрт Стратегије на усвајање. Затим, Савет координира процес спровођења Стратегије и даје предлог за реализацију одређених стратешких пројеката важних за развој урбаног подручја.

Чланови Савета су градоначелник Града Зајечара и председници општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац које су у саставу урбаног подручја обухваћеног Стратегијом, као и представници Регионалне агенције за развој источне Србије – РАРИС, док су заменици чланова Савета заменици градоначелника, односно председника општина.

Радом Савета руководи председник Савета који се бира на првој седници Савета.

Савет доноси Пословник о раду на првој седници Савета, која ће се одржати најкасније у року од месец дана од дана усвајања ове Одлуке.

Члан 8.

Радна група има задатак да спроведе све фазе у процесу израде Стратегије, дефинише кључне циљеве и приоритете развоја и предложи стратешке пројекте Савету.

Чланове и координатора Радне групе именује градоначелник Града Зајечара.

Члан 9.

Регионална агенција за развој источне Србије – РАРИС пружа стручну и техничку подршку и административно-техничку помоћ Радној групи током израде Стратегије, кроз обезбеђење простора за рад у сарадњи са градском управом, и административно-техничку помоћ током израде Стратегије, прикупљање и достављање свих званичних релевантних података и др.

СТРАНА 7 „СЛУЖБЕНИ ЛИСТ ОПШТИНЕ КЊАЖЕВАЦ” - БРОЈ 24

29. СЕПТЕМБАР 2022

Члан 10.

Током израде Стратегије биће организовани тематски округли столови, радионице, форуми за стручне и јавне расправе, на којима ће се усаглашавати предложена решења. У њихов рад могу бити укључени и сви остали заинтересовани учесници, како би се обезбедила партиципација и транспарентност процеса одлучивања и правовремено обавештавање јавности.

Члан 11.

Рок за израду Стратегије је 8 (осам) месеци од дана ступања на снагу ове Одлуке.

Члан 12.

Реализација ове Одлуке обезбеђује се кроз програм ЕУ ПРО Плус. За реализацију ове Одлуке задужене су организационе јединице градских управа и општина надлежне за послове урбанизма и израде стратешких докумената.

Члан 13.

О овој Одлуци информисаће се јавност у складу са одредбама Закона о планском систему и Закона о локалној самоуправи, објавом на службеним страницама јединица локалне самоуправе.

Члан 14.

Сви појмови у овој Одлуци употребљени у граматичком мушком роду подразумевају мушки и женски природни род.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана, од дана објављивања у „Службеном листу општине Књажевац”.

Број: 011 - 1/2022-01

29.09.2022. године

К њ а ж е в а ц

ПРЕДСЕДНИК СО,
Марко Стојановић, с.р.

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На основу члана 59. Закона о локалној самоуправи („Сл.гласник РС”, бр. 129/07, 83/14-др.закон, 101/16, 47/18 и 111/21) и члана 68.став 1. Статута општине Књажевац – Пречишћени текст („Службени лист општине Књажевац” број 6/2019), у вези члана 1., члана3. и члана 4. Закона о запосленима у аутономним покрајинама и јединицама локалне самоуправе („Сл. гласник РС”, број 21/16, 113/17, 113/17 –др. закон, 95/18 и 114/21), Скупштина општине Књажевац на седници одржаној дана 29.09.2022.године, донела је

О Д Л У К У
О ИЗМЕНАМА И ДОПУНАМА
ОДЛУКЕ О ОПШТИНСКОЈ УПРАВИ КЊАЖЕВАЦ

Члан 1.

Овом Одлуком врше се измене и допуне Одлуке о Општинској управи Књажевац („Сл. лист општине Књажевац”, број 28/16, 8/17, 18/19 и 37/21), у даљем тексту: Одлука.

Члан 2.

У члану17. у ставу 1. Одлуке, тачке 1. и 5. мењају се и гласе:

- „1. Одељење за општу управу, информационе технологије и заједничке послове;
5. Одељење за урбанизам, грађевинарство, комунално-стамбене и имовинско-правне послове;”

Члан 3.

Речи у наслову изнад члана 19. Одлуке и на почетку првог става члана 19: „Одељење за општу управу и заједничке послове” замењују се речима: „Одељење за општу управу, информационе технологије и заједничке послове.”

У истом члану ставови 3. и 7.се бришу, досадашњи ставови 4, 5 и 6 постају ставови 3, 4. и 5, а досадашњи ставови од 8. до 18. постају ставови од 7-17.

Члан 4.

У члану 19. Одлуке досадашњи став 14 који постаје став 13, мења се и гласи:

„Месне канцеларије врше послове пријемне канцеларије за општинске органе управе, воде евиденције када је то предвиђено законом и другим прописима, пружају помоћ месним заједницама у насељеним местима Општине на подручју месне канцеларије у обављању административно-техничких и финансијско-материјалних послова; месне канцеларије могу да врше и друге послове које им из своје надлежности повери Општинска управа, у складу са законом.”

Члан 5.

Речи у наслову изнад члана 23. Одлуке и на почетку првог става члана 23: “Одељење за урбанизам, комунално-стамбене и имовинско-правне послове” замењују се речима: “Одељење за урбанизам, грађевинарство, комунално-стамбене и имовинско-правне послове”.

У истом члану став 5. брише се, досадашњи ставови 6. и 7. постају ставови 5. и 6.

Члан 6.

После члана 24. додаје се нови чланови 24а., 24б., 24в., 24г., 24д. и 24ђ. који гласе:

„Члан 24а.

Служба комуналне милиције

Служба комуналне милиције на територији општине обавља послове који се односе на извршавање надлежности општине у областима, односно питањима комуналне делатности, заштите животне средине, људи и добара и којима се

ANNEX 2 - LIST OF PROJECT IDEAS

C 1. IDENTITY OF THE URBAN AREA	
1.	Arrangement of facades and ground floors in the central zone of urban settlements
2.	Connection, presentation and promotion of heritage in the Urban area (Romuliana, Timakum minus and other heritage)
3.	Research, presentation and mapping of new archaeological sites
4.	Arrangement of the bastion in Zaječar
5.	Regional center of traditional culture (customs, traditional instruments, folk crafts, cuisine)
6.	Rural tourism
7.	Categorization of accommodation capacities (hotels and accommodation in rural tourism)
8.	Connecting regional tourism capacities
9.	Branding of tourism products of the Urban area and joint performance
10.	Regional tourism organisation
11.	Tourist signage projects
12.	Rehabilitation of sub-standard settlements (Gaj, Bogovina, Lukovo and Avramica)
C 2. GREEN AND ENERGY TRANSITION AND MOBILITY	
13.	Encouraging the energy efficiency of public buildings and household facilities
14.	Transition to environmentally friendly energy sources
15.	Construction and reconstruction of city heating plants in order to switch to ecological energy sources (CNG and pellets)
16.	Replacement of ordinary lighting with LED lighting
17.	Solving torrential waters (Zaječar and Vražogrnac)
18.	Realisation of the Timok regional water supply system (reservoirs Bogovina and Grlišće)
19.	Increasing the efficiency of water supply and the quality of drinking water
20.	Expansion of central water supply systems to rural settlements
21.	Rehabilitation and reconstruction of artesian pipes
22.	Sewerage in urban and rural settlements and city WWTP (Zaječar, Boljevac, Sokobanja (EU) and Knjaževac)
23.	Halovo Landfill
24.	Recycling yards
25.	Construction of transfer stations
26.	Support for primary waste selection
27.	Development of ecological awareness by informing citizens about the importance of sorting waste and increasing the number of bins of that type
28.	Development and realisation of unsanitary landfill remediation projects

29.	Improvement of air, water and soil quality monitoring by increasing the number of measuring points
30.	Regional asylum for dogs
31.	Displacement of freight traffic outside urban settlements (Zaječar, Knjaževac, Boljevac, Sokobanja)
32.	Displacement of railway traffic (Zaječar)
33.	Reconstruction of the railway Knjaževac - Zaječar
34.	Development of intercity public transport
35.	The arrangement of the Belgian railway into a bicycle path
36.	Development and connection of bicycle paths in the urban area
37.	Development of educational footpaths (historical events)
C 3. INNOVATIVE AND SMART ECONOMY	
38.	Development of business infrastructure (Timocanka and the West zone)
39.	Support for the development of youth entrepreneurship
40.	Association of freelancers/entrepreneurs
41.	Filming locations
42.	Innovation centers Soko Banja, Zaječar
43.	Food packaging and processing center
44.	Refrigerators for food storage
45.	Inclusion of local food producers in the school and hospital supply system
46.	Arrangement of common space (cooperatives), strengthening and connection of new cooperatives and creation of conditions for the introduction of HASAP
47.	Craft training center
48.	Product branding and protection
49.	Establishment of a guarantee fund for entrepreneurs
C 4. SOCIAL WELLBEING	
50.	Establishment of a social enterprise
51.	Establishment of institutional frameworks for the return of people to Zaječar district
52.	Regional Safe House
53.	Regional service of shelters and reception stations
54.	Family associate service
55.	Outreach service
56.	Counseling center for children in the inclusive programme and their families
57.	Support for people with intellectual disabilities through social entrepreneurship (CSO + LSG) (Institute for Public Health in addition to family participation)
58.	Removing obstacles to the movement of people with reduced abilities
59.	Promotional campaign for the online counseling center of the urban area SOS phone for prevention

60.	Support for single mothers
61.	Education in the field of inclusion
62.	Formation of a gerontological center
63.	Strengthening and promotion of dual education
64.	Developing non-formal education programmes
65.	Construction of a regional center for the education of persons with disabilities
66.	Construction of a media center for the needs of education about new technologies
67.	Erasmus programme (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, digital kindergarten)
68.	peer education (schools)
69.	Education on non-violent communication for parents and staff of schools and kindergartens
70.	Social work as a form of violence prevention
71.	Counseling center for young people
72.	Establishment of faculties (medical, technical, economic, DIF)
73.	Scientific research center
74.	Formation of village clinics
75.	Formation of medical teams for the provision of health services in rural areas
76.	Construction of the Rock Museum with bungalows
77.	Museum of Crystals, Museum of Porcelain, Museum of the Timosky Rebellion
78.	“Native village” museum space in authentic houses (Ilina village, Boljevac)
79.	Reconstruction of rural school apartments into mini centers of sports and entertainment character (Vražogrnac)
80.	Zaječar Youth Center
81.	Construction of youth spaces
C 5. URBAN/TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE	
82.	Involvement of citizens in the budget decision-making process (Helvetas)
83.	Implementation and strengthening of good management capacity in public administration
84.	LAG groups (Sokobanja, Boljevac)
85.	Establishment of the office for agriculture and rural development
86.	Activism and volunteerism
87.	Inter-generational cooperation (rural)
88.	Small school of youth politics
89.	Discussion groups on important decision-making issues in a demonstration community
90.	Strengthening transparency in the work of LSGs
91.	Mapping of externally financed projects that are implemented in the Urban area

ANNEX 3 – PARTICIPANTS IN STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Participants in the Strategy development process

Ivana Rajković, Dragan Milojević, Mikica Milanović, Emina Branković, Zorica Maslovarić, Ivan Milutinović, Stevan Dragojević, Branislav Smiljković, Dejan Kostandinović, Žaklina Dobrić, Nataša Grbović, Dejan Gavrilović, Zoran Božinović, Danijela Arsić, Nebojša Cvetković, Mladen Jovanović, Milena Milošević Micić, Tamara Kostadinović, Aleksandar Stojenović, Snežana Pavković, Miljan Đorđević, Goran Popović, Dragana Nedeljković, Zoran Ristic, Aleksandra Krstić, Nikolina Ristic, Lazar Todorović, Ivan Živković, Biljana Rubežić, Marija Milojević, Mia Vukić Vitomirović, Nataša Cvetković, Ester Miftari, Lidija Petković Ninic. Jocić, Marina Lazarević, Tamara Janković, Vuk Ulem, Mirjana Vodović, Miljan Rašić, Lazar Milanović, Aleksandar Canić, archpriest Golubović, Vuk Jovanović.

ANNEX 4 - NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING URBAN AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

August 2023.

1 NATIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING URBAN AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINISTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MINISTRY OF MINING AND ENERGY

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AND FOREIGN TRADE

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

MINISTRY OF STATE ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MINISTRY OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, VETERANS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF FAMILY CARE AND DEMOGRAPHY

MINISTRY OF SPORTS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

MINISTRY OF RURAL CARE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND YOUTH

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

CABINET OF THE MINISTER WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF PROMOTING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERDEVELOPED MUNICIPALITIES

CABINET OF THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF COORDINATING ACTIVITIES
AND MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA WITH THE DIASPORA

CABINET OF THE MINISTER WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF EVEN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA: CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATION
FOR FREE ZONES; REPUBLIC WATER DIRECTORATE; ADMINISTRATION FOR FORESTS;
ADMINISTRATION FOR AGRARIAN PAYMENTS; ADMINISTRATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND,
NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF SERBIA,
PORT GOVERNANCE AGENCY

FUNDS: DEVELOPMENT FUND OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, INNOVATION FUND, FUND FOR SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE (CPN)

BANKS: Erste Bank A.D.; UniCredit Bank; Banca Intesa; NLB Komercijalna banka; Bank Poštanska štedionica; ProCredit Bank.

1.1 MINISTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA¹²⁴

1.1.1 MINISTRY OF FINANCE¹²⁵

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support to local self-government - non-purpose transfers determined by Article 37 of the Law on Local Self-Government, financing and transfers for equalization - transfer of solidarity, which is determined in accordance with Article 38 of the Law on Local Self-Government Financing.
- Expropriation of land for the purpose of building capital projects - the funds are intended for expropriation, that is, the administrative transfer of real estate - land and buildings that may be subject to expropriation by law, for the purpose of building capital projects.
- Document management system - system for document management - electronic business.

1.1.2 MINISTRY OF ECONOMY¹²⁶

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Financial support programme - use of standards to more competitive products. The programme is designed as a form of necessary support, primarily for small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to encourage them to increase the use of standards in production and business organisation, to certify products and management systems and use other services in the field of IC, which will result in an increase in competitiveness economy as a whole. The programme includes an instrument of financial support to economic entities in the form of subsidies. The available funds are approved individually to the users, with a refund, as co-financing in the amount of 40% or 60% of justified costs without VAT for each project activity;
- Encouraging regional development - financial support that serves the purpose of supporting the development of business infrastructure through infrastructural equipping of the business zone and their connection with the environment, as well as the improvement of infrastructure capacities in order to develop tourism and other economic activities. Programme activities strengthen the capacities of local self-government units and accredited regional development agencies, and connect all subjects of regional development, at the national, regional and local level, in order to implement the policy of regional development;

¹²⁴ <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/link/2497>

¹²⁵ <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/>

¹²⁶ <https://privreda.gov.rs/>

- Support programme for small businesses for the purchase of equipment - grants are awarded for investments in new production equipment to micro and small businesses, entrepreneurs and cooperatives for the purpose of strengthening their competitiveness, improving and improving their business and internationalization, as well as creating new jobs. The programme is a combination of grants from the budget (25%), loans from commercial banks and leasing companies (70%) and the client's own funds (5%);
- Programme to encourage the development of entrepreneurship through financial support for beginners in business - grants are awarded for financial support to newly founded entrepreneurs, micro and small businesses, which have been registered in the Agency for Economic Registers for the earliest two years in relation to the year of application submission. The support is a combination of 30% grants from the budget and 70% loans from the Development Fund, as well as non-financial support through a standardized set of services from accredited regional development agencies - education and assistance in creating a business plan;
- Support through a standardized set of services for MSMEs related to training, advisory services, as well as promotion of available types of support for small and medium at the local level, free of charge The programme is implemented by 17 accredited regional development agencies, with the coordination of the Development Agency of Serbia;
- Support for industrial development, industrial restructuring in the direction of approaching innovative and technology-intensive and moving away from labor-intensive sectors and improvement and digitization of business models of industrial production;
- Incentive programme to support the digital transformation of industry - Continuous co-financing of the implementation costs of approved projects proposed within the digital transformation strategy of individual economic entities (improvement/introduction of new business processes, business models, products, services);
- Incentives for industrial business entities for the development of innovative solutions through cooperation projects with the scientific and research community;
- Support programme for industrial economic entities for the procurement of first generation technological equipment;
- Infrastructure development support programme for the needs of industrial zones;
- Investments of special importance - allocation of funds to business entities that invest in fixed assets or create a large number of new jobs, in relation to the object of investment and the territorial concentration of certain economic branches and economic activities;
- Credit support to companies in the privatization process, which ensures the efficient continuation of the company's privatization process, i.e. the company's survival until the end of the process;
- The Podrinje Development Programme - a joint initiative of the governments of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska, is predominantly of an economic nature, foresees the possibility of joint activities and cooperation in the implementation of projects in the field of economic development. The following LGUs are participating from the Republic of Serbia: Šid, Sremska Mitrovica, Bogatić, Šabac, Loznica, Mali Zvornik, Krupanj, Valjevo, Osečina, Ljubovija, Kosjerić, Bajina Bašta, Užice, Čajetina, Priboj and Koceljeva.

1.1.3 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT¹²⁷

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Incentive for investments for the improvement and development of rural public infrastructure - incentives include support for investments in the construction and equipping of facilities:
 1. for water supply;
 2. road infrastructure;
 3. for storage and processing of agricultural products.
- The right to incentives is exercised by the local self-government unit, if the investment in question is realized in a populated place with less than 10,000 inhabitants.
- Incentive for the improvement of the system of creation and transfer of knowledge through the development of technical-technological, applied, developmental and innovative projects in agriculture and rural development. A legal entity registered in the Register of Scientific Research Organisations, a research and development center, an innovation center, an accredited faculty, an entrepreneur and a legal entity that meets the conditions for performing advisory and expert work in agriculture are entitled to incentives.
- Incentive to support programmes related to the preparation and implementation of local strategies for rural development (LSRR).
- Incentives include support for programmes, namely:
 1. incentives for preparing LSRR;
 2. incentives for the implementation of LSRR.
- The right to incentives is exercised by the Partnership for Territorial Rural Development (an association of representatives of the public, private and civil sectors of a certain rural area, which was established in accordance with the law regulating associations).
- Incentive for the implementation of activities aimed at increasing competitiveness through the certification of food quality systems, organic products and products with geographical origin.
- Regulation of watercourses and protection against harmful effects of water - undertaking measures and activities for protection against flooding by external and internal waters and ice, protection against erosion and torrents and elimination of the consequences of such effects of water and management of risks from the harmful effects of water, as well as preparation of technical documentation for the above objects.

Other projects implemented by the Ministry, which are financed from other sources:

- The project for competitive agriculture in Serbia - funded by the World Bank. The project refers to the improvement of productivity and promotion of entrepreneurial spirit on family farms, cooperatives, cooperatives, associations and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises through financial support and capacity development of advisory services, business and financial planning. The Ministry, through the Administration for Agrarian Payments, is issuing a public call for investments related to improving the

¹²⁷ <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/>

competitiveness of primary livestock production in the areas of milk production, meat production, beekeeping and aquaculture.

- Instrument of pre-accession assistance for rural development (IPARD) - funds of the European Union. Within the IPARD programme, the following measures were implemented:
 1. Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings
 2. Investments in physical assets related to the processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products
 3. Ecologically oriented and organic agriculture
 4. Implementation of local development strategies—LEADER approach
 5. Diversification of agriculture.
- Programme for resilience to climate change and irrigation in Serbia - phase II - funds from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The project finances the construction and rehabilitation of critical irrigation infrastructure in local governments.
- The project of integrated development of the Sava and Drina river corridors - funds from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The goal of the Project is to improve flood protection and enable cross-border cooperation in the area of water on the Sava and Drina river corridors. The project finances flood protection, investment in environmental management, dams and related activities in selected priority areas along the Sava and Drina river corridors.
- Construction of the irrigation system - first phase - funds from the Abu Dhabi Development Fund. The project finances the construction, reconstruction, arrangement and rehabilitation of water facilities and irrigation systems, namely regional irrigation hydrosystems and dual-purpose systems in the area of Srem, Bačka and Banat and hydromelioration systems in the area of Šabac, Čačak, Pančevački Rit and Topola.
- Environment and climate - funds IPA programme 2020. Taking measures and activities to protect and improve the quality of surface and underground water through the construction of a wastewater treatment plant for the agglomeration of Loznica; construction of new collectors and reconstruction of existing ones, construction of pumping stations and pressure pipelines and construction of parts of the new atmospheric sewage, as well as through the construction of systems and facilities for the collection, removal and purification of waste water in Sokobanja.

1.1.4 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION¹²⁸

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Incentives for the purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles - subsidized purchases of new vehicles that have an exclusively electric drive, as well as vehicles that run with atmospheric and electric hybrid drive, in order to protect and improve air quality,
- Reducing air pollution in Serbia from individual sources - reducing the release of polluting substances from individual sources into the environment with the aim of implementing measures to improve air quality and undertaking preventive measures

¹²⁸ <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/>

in segments important for protecting air from pollution, through cooperation with local self-government units

- Protection and preservation of water as a natural resource - preservation of the quality of water as a natural resource, elimination of the consequences of pollution and application of preventive measures prescribed by the law on environmental protection through cooperation with local self-government units.
- Procurement, replacement, reconstruction and rehabilitation of boiler rooms for heating - reduction of the release of polluting substances into the environment, from boiler rooms for heating within the facilities that are under the jurisdiction of local self-government units, with the aim of improving air quality, undertaking preventive measures in segments important for air protection from pollution and protection and improvement of the environment.
- Incentives for management programmes of protected natural assets of national interest - co-financing of management programmes for national parks and protected areas.
- Afforestation for the purpose of protecting and preserving landscape diversity - co-financing the purchase of seedlings and the execution of works for the afforestation of the land with indigenous species of trees and shrubs, on land under the jurisdiction of local self-government units.
- Preservation and protection of soil as a natural resource - prevention or elimination of harmful changes in the soil, which aims to preserve the surface and functions of the soil as a natural resource and to prevent or eliminate harmful changes in the soil that may occur as a result of: erosion processes, reduction content of organic matter in the soil, acidification, salinization and alkalization of soil, soil compaction, landslides and landslides, fires and chemical accidents, pollution.
- Reducing the carbon footprint of local communities by applying circular economy principles - co-financing the development of innovative projects and business models based on circular economy principles that contribute to low-carbon development.
- Integrated management of waste, waste water, chemicals and biocidal products - establishment of a system for regional waste management and improvement of the waste management system, establishment of a system for waste water management at the level of local governments and water protection.
- Rehabilitation and closure of unsanitary landfills - support to local self-government units that are unable to independently finance the rehabilitation and closure of unsanitary landfills on their territory,
- Removal and permanent disposal of hazardous waste - solving the issue of removing hazardous waste in companies undergoing restructuring and bankruptcy, as well as removing other hazardous historical waste.
- Prevention of illegal dumping of waste and removal - by providing support to local self-government units in preventing illegal dumping of waste and preventing the creation of new illegal landfills.
- Waste management and circular economy - support to local governments in the application of innovative technologies and solutions in recycling and reuse of waste, reducing the use of natural resources and improving the quality of the environment through the reduction of emissions of pollutants into the environment.

- Procurement of collection and recycling equipment - raising the capacity of local and regional PUCs in order to increase their efficiency and improve waste management.
- Support for civil society projects in the field of environmental protection - financing of projects in the field of environmental protection carried out by associations and other civil society organisations, which were selected through a competition.
- Incentives for the reuse and utilization of waste - incentives for enterprises to encourage the reuse and utilization of waste as a secondary raw material, or to obtain energy, as well as to encourage the production of biodegradable bags.
- Technical assistance in the preparation of project documentation for infrastructure projects in the field of environment - preparation of the necessary planning and project documentation for infrastructure projects in certain local governments.
- Improvement of infrastructure for environmental protection - construction of waste water treatment facilities including collectors and sewage network.

From other funds, the Ministry realizes the following projects:

- IPA 2010 - Support to municipalities in the Republic of Serbia in the preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects;
- IPA 2017 - Environmental Protection Sector;
- IPA 2018 - Environmental Protection Sector;
- IPA 2020 - Environment and climate;
- Construction of regional centers for waste management - funds of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- District heating project in Kragujevac - funds from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

1.1.5 MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE¹²⁹

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Road transport, roads and traffic safety - development of road transport reflected in easier access to the international transport market
- Railway and intermodal transport - improvement and development of railways (including cable cars) and intermodal transport through the arrangement of railway and intermodal transport systems.
- Realization of infrastructure projects of importance for the Republic of Serbia - and realization of construction and reconstruction projects of traffic infrastructure and infrastructure projects.
- Programme of integral development of Southwestern Serbia - financing of projects in the field of tourism, environment and infrastructure.
- Water supply and waste water treatment program in medium-sized municipalities in Serbia and Green Cities - construction of drinking water treatment plants and waste water treatment plants, as well as rehabilitation and expansion of the municipal water supply, waste water collection and disposal system.

¹²⁹ <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/projekti>

- Reconstruction of the railway line Nis - Dimitrovgrad.
- Programme of integrated solid waste management in Serbia - improvement of municipal infrastructure for efficient management of municipal solid waste in selected cities.
- Project for the construction of municipal (sewage) infrastructure and infrastructure for the disposal of municipal solid waste - a project with the working title "Clean Serbia", the construction of a sewage network and facilities for the processing of waste water and rehabilitation, reconstruction, recultivation and construction of landfills with solid waste treatment.

From other funds, the Ministry realizes the following projects:

- IPA 2020 - Support for EU integration.
- IPA 2020 - Democracy and Governance.
- The project to improve the trade and transport of the Western Balkans with the application of a multi-phase programmatic approach - funds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Rehabilitation of roads and improvement of traffic safety - funds International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Modernization of the railway sector in Serbia - funds from the World Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

1.1.6 MINISTRY OF MINING AND ENERGY¹³⁰

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public call for the allocation of funds for the financing of the Programme of Energy Rehabilitation of Family Houses and Apartments implemented by local self-government units, as well as city municipalities.
- Public call for the allocation of funds for the financing of energy efficiency improvement projects in facilities of public importance in local self-government units, as well as city municipalities.
- Energy efficiency and energy management in municipalities in Serbia - systematic and comprehensive energy management through the introduction of the European Energy Award certificate, improvement of the energy efficiency of public buildings in Kruševac and Užice.
- Improving the energy management system to increase investments in the energy efficiency of public buildings in Serbia - reducing GHG emissions through improving energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy sources in public buildings with a special focus on state-owned buildings.

From other funds, the Ministry realizes the following projects:

- Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources - development of the biomass market, funds from the German Development Bank KfW. The project is implemented in the relevant local self-government units that were included in previous justification

¹³⁰ <https://www.mre.gov.rs/>

studies based on their own initiative, potential and previously taken steps in order to use biomass and geothermal energy.

- Rehabilitation of the district heating system in Serbia - funds from the German Development Bank KfW. The project envisages the rehabilitation and modernization of 7 heating plants through the implementation of projects in the field of construction/improvement/replacement of thermal energy production facilities, replacement/expansion of heating pipes, improvement/replacement/installation of substations and installation/improvement/expansion of modern SCADA systems.

1.1.7 MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AND FOREIGN TRADE¹³¹

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Incentives for the development of the national brand of Serbia and the preservation of old crafts - subsidies to economic entities for the development and preservation of traditional crafts.
- Support for programmes of consumer associations and out-of-court settlement of consumer disputes - financing or co-financing of programmes of registered consumer associations, which include activities of providing information, education, advice and legal assistance to consumers, as well as conducting independent research.

1.1.8 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE¹³²

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public competition for the allocation of funds collected on the basis of the postponement of criminal prosecution - for projects prepared by natural persons, legal persons, authorities, organisations, public institutions, entrepreneurs, associations, funds, humanitarian organisations, which realize the public interest in the field of health, culture, education, humanitarian work.

1.1.9 MINISTRY OF STATE ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT¹³³

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support for the development and functioning of the local self-government system - establishment of a better system of local self-government, realization of infrastructure projects of local self-government units, improvement of the work of LGUs and good administration, improvement of the efficiency of the work of local self-government in the area of personnel capacities, modernization of the work of local self-government units in terms of IT and technical equipment.
- Local self-government for the 21st century - support for the implementation of functional analysis and functional organisational models, building and strengthening

¹³¹ <https://must.gov.rs/>

¹³² <https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/>

¹³³ <https://mduls.gov.rs/category/projekti-i-programi/>

the capacities of LGUs, development and improvement of inter-municipal cooperation through the Fund for Inter-Municipal Cooperation.

- Partnership for local development - improvement of service provision in selected municipalities: renovation of public institution buildings, reconstruction/construction of local markets, establishment of a municipal center for monitoring the provision of local services by local public utility companies, reconstruction of public space - (sports fields, parks, pedestrian paths , etc.), construction/replacement of lighting.
- Management of the public administration reform - establishment of unique administrative positions through support to local self-government units and city municipalities whose purpose is to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the work of the authorities, in situations where, in order to exercise one or more rights, the actions of one or more authorities are required.
- Budget fund for the Programme for Local Self-Governments - improvement of infrastructure, work efficiency and quality of life in LGUs.
- Establishing solid coordination mechanisms for the development and functioning of e-Government and rounding off the legal framework and procedures for the development of e-Government - awarding grants to a maximum of 35 LGUs for the development and implementation of procedures and procedures relevant to the introduction of e-Government, training and mentoring support for the provision of e-Government services - Management, and support for data opening.
- Improving the function of human resource management (HRM) in state administration and local self-government through the introduction of new instruments and strengthening the capacity for HRM - Building the capacity of cities and municipalities to implement and improve the function of human resource management in local self-government.
- Improving the sustainability of public finances through reforming and developing public property management - Implementation of LGU projects within the grant scheme for improving public property management at the local level, implementation of 20 packages of direct technical support to municipalities for improving public property management at the local level.
- Improvement of the process of planning and budget preparation at the local level - raising the capacity of LGUs to implement programme budgeting in accordance with the methodology for programme budgeting through the creation of instructional documents for the preparation of the programme budget, the organisation of 24 regional trainings for all LGUs and direct technical support for 12 LGUs selected by competition.
- Raising awareness of the rights of national minorities - encouraging the establishment and effective functioning of councils for inter-ethnic relations at the local level in all municipalities with ethnically mixed populations through trainings and meetings with LGU representatives.
- Empowerment of civil society organisations - competition for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities for programmes and projects from a specific priority area of funding.

1.1.10 MINISTRY OF HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE¹³⁴

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- The rights of national minorities to self-governance - strengthening of civil society organisations and business companies by announcing tenders for financing programmes and projects of organisations whose founders are national councils of national minorities that deal with the protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities in areas where national councils of national minorities are entrusted with the exercise of public powers.
- Encouraging environment for the development of civil society - implementation of measures and activities with the aim of improving the legal, institutional and financial framework for the development of civil society and raising the capacity of public administration bodies and civil society organisations in order to improve mutual cooperation.
- Public competition for financing programmes of associations that contribute to greater involvement of civil society organisations in the creation of gender-responsive policies.
- Competition for civil society organisations, for projects related to the implementation of the Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination Strategy.
- Informative, educational and promotional activities to encourage women and girls to participate in innovative activities related to the digital, circular and green economy through research teams as experts, but also as entrepreneurs in these fields.
- Informative, educational and promotional activities for the increased participation of women in the protection of intellectual property and patents, increasing knowledge and information about the protection of intellectual property and innovation activity.
- Informative, educational and promotional activities for increased inclusion of women and girl soldiers in science and technology parks, innovation incubators and similar centers.
- Competition for financing scientific-research projects in the field of gender equality.
- Programmes and projects by which Roma men and women are informed and educated on the topic of access to rights and preservation of identity.
- Training programmes that include the topics of gypsyism as a form of racism and discrimination for employees of LGUs.
- Campaign to increase the representation of Roma men and women in political decision-making bodies at the local level.
- Formation of local councils for the social inclusion of Roma and Roma women.
- Forming new mobile teams for the inclusion of Roma in all local governments with a significant share of Roma and ensuring capacity building for members of the mobile teams.
- The programme of educational work and other forms of work and services provided by the preschool institution with the aim of supporting families and children up to three years of age.
- Partnership between LGUs, preschool institutions and CSOs in the implementation of programmes to encourage the development and learning of children, as well as the development of parenting skills in the community.

¹³⁴ <https://www.minljpdd.gov.rs/>

- Training for employees in public administration bodies on the inclusion of CSOs in the process of drafting, implementing, monitoring the implementation and evaluating the effects of public policies and regulations.
- Training for CSOs to understand the role, competences and functions of public administration and participation in the process of drafting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating public policy documents and regulations.

From other funds, the Ministry realizes the following projects:

- Support for participation in EU programmes - IPA programme funds. Providing financial support to associations and other civil society organisations for the implementation of projects previously approved by the European Union.

1.1.11 MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION¹³⁵¹³⁶

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support for the effective use of Instruments for EU pre-accession aid and development aid.
- Call for project ideas from the Territorial Strategy for the collection of project concepts within the Integrated Territorial Strategy (Interreg VI-A) Programme Bulgaria-Serbia 2021-2027.

1.1.12 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION¹³⁷

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances and co-finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Modernization of the infrastructure of primary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education and institutions of student standards by implementing projects of construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, adaptation, projects to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings by applying energy efficiency measures, projects of investment maintenance of school buildings, as well as the implementation of projects to equip newly built and existing school facilities and institutions and school contents
- Support for the digitization programme in the area of the national education system
- Construction of educational and scientific centers Inclusive preschool upbringing and education The Ministry provides support for integration into the European educational space through the programmes Erasmus+ (Erasmus+), iTwinning (eTwinning), Juridajs (Eurydice), Euroguidance, EPALE, Europass and EOK (EQF).

The Ministry realizes the following projects from the funds of contracted loans and credits:

- Dual Education Training Center, Council of Europe Development Bank funds;
- Associated schools in Serbia B, funds of the European Investment Bank;
- School modernization programme, funds of the European Investment Bank;

¹³⁵ <https://www.mei.gov.rs/>

¹³⁶ <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/pozivi/165/detaljnije/w/0/raspisan-prvi-poziv-za-projektne-ideje-iz-teritorijalne-strategije/>

¹³⁷ <https://prosveta.gov.rs/>

- Education for social inclusion, funds from the Development Bank of the Council of Europe;
- Inclusive preschool education and upbringing, funds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- Student housing in Serbia, Development Bank of the Council of Europe;
- Improvement of university education, Council of Europe Development Bank funds;

Other projects in which the Ministry participates

1. The project of accelerating innovation and encouraging the growth of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia (SAIGE)

The project to accelerate innovation and encourage the growth of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia (SAIGE) supports the further reform of the scientific research sector, the strengthening of links between the economic and academic sectors, and the development of innovative companies.

Funds for the implementation of the SAIGE Project were provided on the basis of a joint investment by the Republic of Serbia, i.e. the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development) through a loan and technical support from the World Bank in the amount of 43 million euros and non-refundable financial support from the European Union in the amount of 41.5 million euros .

The SAIGE project is implemented jointly by the Ministry of Education, the World Bank and the European Union, and the beneficiaries are the scientific community, scientific research organisations, the innovative economy, as well as the Fund for Science and the Fund for Innovation Activities.

The SAIGE project provides support to the competitive programmes of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia and the best scientific research projects that were chosen based on an independent international selection.

Project activities:

- Support for scientific research

The support includes grants for basic and applied research, which are implemented within the framework of two programmes, the Special Programme for Research on COVID-19 and IDEA.

Through the Programme for Cooperation with the Serbian Diaspora, the SAIGE project finances the connection and cooperation of Serbian science with the community of the Serbian diaspora in order to improve the ecosystem of research, innovation and entrepreneurship in Serbia. The programme should attract promising scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs from the Serbian diaspora community to transfer knowledge and skills through various activities. It will include networking, advisory participation in the creation of strategies, vouchers for exchange of knowledge for Serbian researchers, grants for joint basic and applied research, development and transfer of technologies, protection of intellectual property and commercialization of research.

The project provides technical assistance to the Science Fund in terms of developing new programmes and strengthening internal capacities and procedures.

- Empowerment of innovative startup companies

In order to strengthen the startup community in Serbia, the Innovation Activity Fund, within the SAIGE Project, launched the Catapult acceleration programme.

Through this programme of the Fund, innovative entrepreneurship is encouraged, it provides access to sources of financing for the development of innovative companies and attracts private investments.

Catapult is the first accelerator in Serbia that provides young companies with intensive, three-month mentoring and connections with investors.

The Catapult programme helps innovative, growth-oriented companies to position themselves in the global market, as well as to improve their business development capabilities, which will increase the possibility of attracting private investment.

- Support for the reform of the science and research sector

The SAIGE project supports the reform of scientific and research organisations through the design and implementation of institutional transformation plans by providing incentives, financial and technical support for undertaking the planned steps of institutional reforms.

Through a phased approach, scientific institutes that have expressed interest in transformation and have been approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development to participate in the process, undergo an independent international expert assessment and, based on the assessment results, receive detailed transformation plans, with concrete expected results.

2. Programme of institutional financing of accredited institutes founded by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province, unit of local self-government and institutes founded by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Programme of institutional financing of institutes of national importance for the Republic of Serbia.

The programmes regulate issues of importance for their implementation and develop priorities and indicators for evaluating the work of accredited institutes founded by the Republic of Serbia, an autonomous province, a unit of local self-government and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and institutes of national importance for the Republic of Serbia, as well as other issues of importance for the implementation of these programmes including the rights and obligations of researchers at accredited faculties regarding the establishment and duration of the employment relationship.

The aim of these programmes is to strengthen scientific research institutions in order to be more recognizable and competitive at the national and international level, to strengthen research teams for participation in competitive projects, to achieve dynamic development of science, technological development and innovation, to increase the efficiency of the use of resources of the scientific research system.

1.1.13 MINISTRY OF HEALTH¹³⁸

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Improving the availability of health care for the Roma population - engaging health mediators and supporting projects that are implemented in cooperation with Roma citizens' associations in order to improve the health of Roma men and women.
- Support for the activities of citizens' associations in the field of health care - support for the work of associations that deal with activities of importance for health care, financing the organisation of expert meetings at the regional level, organizing national meetings, meetings with international participation, implementing projects that include certain health care systems, maintaining courses and continuous education.
- Support for the activities of citizens' associations in the field of HIV infection prevention and control - a contracting mechanism with citizens' associations for the selection of implementers, who are engaged on an annual basis based on an open call for submission of project proposals in the field of HIV infection prevention and control,
- Programmes of the Serbian Red Cross - aimed at socially vulnerable populations, especially children, the elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, and include first aid, preventive health activities, education and training for young people, care for the elderly, psychosocial support for families of missing and kidnapped persons .
- Construction and equipping of state-owned health institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia - investment investment, investment maintenance of premises, medical and non-medical equipment and means of transport, procurement of medical and other equipment necessary for the operation of health institutions, means of transport, procurement of equipment for the development of integrated health information system.
- Public call for project financing for the implementation of programme 1802 "Preventive health care" project 0012 "Support to the activities of citizens' associations in the field of health care".
- Public call for project financing for the implementation of programme 1802 "Preventive health care" project 0010 "Improving the availability of health care for the Roma population".
- Public call for project financing for the implementation of programme 1802 "Preventive health care" project 4013 "Support to the activities of citizens' associations in the field of prevention and control of HIV infection".

The Ministry realizes the following projects from the funds of contracted loans and credits:

- Reconstruction of university clinical centers - funds of the European Investment Bank.
- Health development - funds from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Programme "Interreg" IPA Romania - Serbia 2021-2027.

¹³⁸ <https://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/>

1.1.14 MINISTRY OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, VETERANS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS¹³⁹

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public call for the allocation of support packages to local self-government units for the improvement of social protection - support to local self-government units for the improvement of the social protection system at the local level and financial support in the form of grants for the establishment/expansion of at least one social protection service.
- Public call for project proposals in the field of veterans-disabled protection - funding of projects by citizens' associations to improve the position of veterans, disabled veterans, civilian war veterans and families of fallen veterans and to improve the area of nurturing the traditions of the liberation wars.
- Public call for project proposals for the investment maintenance of war memorials of importance for nurturing the traditions of Serbia's liberation wars - for the competent Institutes for the Protection of Cultural Monuments
- Public competition for submitting programme proposals to the permanently open competition for the improvement of the position of persons with disabilities in the Republic of Serbia in 2023 - financing of programmes implemented by citizens' associations registered on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.
- Public competition for submitting programme proposals to the Programme competition for the improvement of the position of persons with disabilities in the Republic of Serbia in 2023.
- Carrying out the activities of social welfare institutions - performing entrusted tasks in centers for social work and providing social welfare services in institutions founded by the Republic.
- Support for the work of foster parents - financing placement in foster families on the basis of the allowance for the maintenance of the beneficiary and the allowance for the work of the foster parent.
- Support for the work of social protection institutions - investments in facilities and equipment in institutions and provision of missing funds in order to smoothly carry out activities in cases where problems arise in the settlement of obligations based on the costs of communal services and energy sources, extraordinary and occasional costs based on judicial and administrative proceedings, decision of courts or authorities state bodies.
- Rights of users outside the network of social protection institutions - assistance for job training of asylum seekers, financial assistance for accommodation in special hospitals.
- Support to associations in the field of family and child protection - co-financing of citizens' associations to help children - grants to encourage programmes and activities of public interest in the field of family and child protection.
- Support to associations and local communities - financing of associations and local communities that include the affirmation of various activities aimed at improving social protection in the community.
- Support for associations in the field of veterans and disabled protection - financial support for projects of associations with various programmes, interests and activities

¹³⁹ <https://www.minrzs.gov.rs/sr>

related to the field of veterans and disabled protection, protection of their families, as well as nurturing the tradition of Serbia's liberation wars, based on a public tender.

- Support to companies for the professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities - wage subsidies for employees with disabilities and funds for improving working conditions in these companies with the aim of strengthening the capacity to carry out professional rehabilitation, employment and maintenance of employment of persons with disabilities.
- Protection of the position of persons with disabilities - a public tender of public importance for the submission of programme proposals for the improvement of the position of persons with disabilities.
- Support for the development of social entrepreneurship - an incentive for the development of social entrepreneurship, which aims to increase the work activation of able-bodied persons who are in the social protection system, less employable unemployed persons in accordance with the regulations in the field of employment and other less employable persons from particularly sensitive categories.

From other funds, the Ministry realizes the following projects:

- Public call for providing comprehensive support for the establishment / improvement of local mechanisms for the inclusion of Roma and Roma women - funds of the IPA 2020 Programme.

1.1.15 MINISTRY OF FAMILY CARE AND DEMOGRAPHY¹⁴⁰

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public call for the allocation of grants designated for the co-financing of population policy measures and support in the area of family and children to local self-government units.
- Support to associations in the field of family and child protection - co-financing of citizens' associations to help children - grants to encourage programmes and activities of public interest in the field of family and child protection.
- Public call for submission of programme proposals to the permanently open call for grants intended for projects of family law protection of citizens, support for families and children - for the use of grants to non-governmental organisations for projects of family law protection, citizens, support for families and children.
- Public competition for submitting programme proposals to the permanent open competition for the awarding of grants intended for projects of family law protection of citizens, coordination and policy implementation in the field of demography - for the use of grants to non-governmental organisations for projects of family law protection of citizens, coordination and policy implementation in the field of demography.
- Public call for submission of programme proposals to the permanently open call for grants intended for projects of family law protection of citizens, coordination and

¹⁴⁰ <https://minbpd.gov.rs/>

implementation of population policy - for the use of grants to non-governmental organisations for projects of family law protection of citizens, coordination and implementation of population policy.

- Public call for submission of programme proposals to the permanently open call for grants intended for projects of family law protection of citizens, support for associations in the field of family and child protection - for the use of grants to non-governmental organisations for projects of family law protection of citizens, support for associations in the field of family protection.

1.1.16 MINISTRY OF SPORTS¹⁴¹

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Special programmes in the field of sports - financing the activities of organisations in the field of sports that are carried out with the aim of providing security
- conditions for free and safe sports, especially for children, women, young people and people with disabilities.
- Construction and capital maintenance of sports infrastructure - projects of construction, equipping and maintenance of sports facilities in local self-government units from the 4th development group are specially financed.
- Public call for submission of programme proposals, i.e. projects related to the construction of sports facilities for the needs of people with disabilities and adaptation of existing sports facilities to the needs of people with disabilities.
- Public call for submission of programme proposals, i.e. projects in the field of sports through the construction, equipping and maintenance of sports facilities that are important for the development of sports in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

1.1.17 MINISTRY OF CULTURE¹⁴²

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support for improving the capacity of the cultural sector at the local level - Co-financing of the Cities in Focus programme through a public call that will improve the area of culture and art in local areas, encourage the development of creativity and recognize the specifics of cultural identity and sustainable development of local communities.
- Support for research, protection and preservation of immovable cultural heritage - competition in the field of protection, preservation and use of immovable - architectural and archaeological heritage. Supported projects include work on the preparation of technical project documentation, implementation of technical protection measures and conservation work on immovable cultural assets, research and protection of archaeological sites and work related to the presentation of architectural and archaeological cultural heritage, publication of materials as well as other activities on the protection of immovable inheritance.

¹⁴¹ <https://www.mos.gov.rs/>

¹⁴² <https://www.kultura.gov.rs/>

- Digitization of cultural heritage - financing of the work of institutions in the field of culture, for projects related to equipping laboratories for digitalization of cultural heritage, as well as projects related to the process of digitization of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Serbia and strengthening the infrastructure capacities of institutions.
- Support for research, protection and preservation of intangible and movable cultural heritage - Competition in the field of protection, preservation and presentation of museum heritage, Competition in the field of protection, preservation and presentation of archival materials, Competition in the field of protection, preservation and presentation of old and rare library materials and Competition in areas of protection, preservation and presentation of intangibles cultural heritage.
- Support for the development of library and information activities and the library and information activities of the Association of the Blind of Serbia - Competition in the field of library and information activities for financing the procurement of information and communication technologies for public libraries, publication of professional publications, digitization of library materials, support for the education of librarians, improvement of storage conditions and protection of library and information materials, support for interactive programmes for children and young people.
- Support for the work of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and Historical Archives.
- Strengthening cultural production and artistic creativity - public competition for financing and co-financing of projects in all artistic fields / music, drama, dance, visual arts, literature, film, etc., and through cultural activities of sensitive groups/national minorities, persons with disabilities , children, young people. financing and co-financing of the work and programme activities of cultural institutions founded by the RS in the field of musical arts, performing arts /drama, opera, artistic dance and traditional folk art/, film art and audio-visual creativity, and through scientific research programmes in culture and art .
- Support for the development of literary creativity and publishing
- Support for the development of musical creativity - support and stimulation of projects and programmes in the field of musical art, their presentation and affirmation, continuous raising of the level of cultural needs of the population, institutions and engaged individuals.
- Support for the cultural activities of socially sensitive groups - support for projects that contribute to greater social cohesion, fostering intercultural dialogue, developing conditions for the diversity of cultural expressions and identities, and strengthening the availability of cultural content.
- Support for the development of artistic play - financing and co-financing of institutional and independent production, implementation of domestic and international exchange and professional development of artists (participation in conferences or masterclasses) in the field of artistic play.
- Support for the strengthening of theater art - financing and co-financing of institutional and independent productions, implementation of domestic and international exchange and professional development of artists (participation in conferences or masterclasses) in the field of theater art.

- The Capital of Culture of Serbia - strengthening the operational and professional capacities of local self-governments in the field of culture through the preparation of strategic documents for the development of culture (Strategy and Action Plan), support for the improvement of infrastructure, human resources and programmes with the aim of raising them to a higher level.
- Support for the work of institutions in the field of protection and preservation of cultural heritage - preparation of technical project documentation, implementation of technical protection measures and conservation work on immovable and movable cultural assets, research and protection of archaeological sites and work related to the presentation of architectural and archaeological cultural heritage.
- Digitization in the field of protection and preservation of cultural heritage - public tender for financing the work of institutions in the field of culture, for projects related to equipping laboratories for digitalization of cultural heritage, as well as projects related to the process of digitization of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Serbia and strengthening the infrastructure capacities of institutions.
- Public call for the allocation of incentives to an investor to produce an audiovisual work in the Republic of Serbia.
- Competition for financing or co-financing of projects in the field of protection of old traditional crafts and their modern application.
- Competition for financing and co-financing of projects in cinematography for 2023 in the category: pre-digitalization and digitalization of cinema.

1.1.18 MINISTRY OF RURAL CARE¹⁴³

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support for the development of cooperatives - a public tender for the allocation of grants for old and newly formed agricultural and agricultural cooperatives, agricultural and agricultural cooperatives whose registered activity is rural tourism (tourist cooperatives) or whose registered activity is the production of traffic or the activity of performing old and artistic crafts (crafts cooperatives), that is domestic crafts.
- Support for the organisation of events in the villages of the Republic of Serbia - a public competition for the implementation of the grant award programme can be in the field of dramatic arts, literature, literary skills and other arts (competitions in singing, recitation, acting, painting, etc.), holding sports competitions, promoting , preservation and improvement of old crafts and cultural-artistic heritage, creation of art and domestic crafts, as well as other activities in which the inhabitants of the village can show their knowledge and skills and compete in them.
- Support for the adaptation of multifunctional facilities - adaptation of facilities in rural areas to provide a clinic, pharmacy, post office, club for the elderly, children's club, cinema hall, municipal administration counter, local community office, etc.
- Incentive for the purchase of minibusses for the transportation of the rural population - grants are intended for the purchase of minibusses that can be used exclusively for

¹⁴³ <https://www.mbs.gov.rs/>

the transportation of the rural population from one village to another village or from the village to the city/municipal headquarters.

- Public competition for the allocation of grants for the organisation of the event called “Miholjski susreti village”.

1.1.19 MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION¹⁴⁴

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support for the realization of interests in innovation activity - providing support for the development or significant modification of existing innovative products, technologies, processes and services, in order to encourage the application and commercialization of scientific research results, as well as providing support for the use of modern technologies and the construction of innovative organisations for infrastructural support of innovation activities.
- Support for the digitization programme in the area of the national scientific research system - equipping and maintaining the software resources needed for keeping electronic records.
- Support for the work of NTP Niš.
- Support for education and training of young talents - awarding high school students for the results achieved in national and international competitions and providing scholarships to students for studies in the country and abroad.
- Research and development in the public sector - adaptation of existing buildings and laboratories, construction of science and technology parks in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš; construction of residential buildings for rent to young scientists in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kragujevac, construction of centers of excellence in priority areas (stem cells, nano-sciences, agricultural-biology center, biomedicine), procurement of new capital equipment for research, construction of science centers .

From other funds, the Ministry realizes the following projects:

- IPA 2018 – Competitiveness
- The project of acceleration of innovation and encouragement of the growth of entrepreneurship - SAIGE
- IPA Support for participation in EU programmes
- IPA 2019 - Competitiveness and Innovation

1.1.20 MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND YOUTH¹⁴⁵

- From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:
- Support of LGUs in the implementation of youth policy - cooperation with local self-governments in the development of an institutional framework for the improvement of youth policy at the local level, providing support for the formation of youth offices, local youth councils, the development and implementation of local action plans for

¹⁴⁴ <https://nitra.gov.rs/>

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.mto.gov.rs/>

youth, the formation of sustainable youth clubs and the establishment of local youth services, establishment of KZM work standards and assessment, monitoring and improvement of KZM work.

- Programmes and projects supporting young people in education, upbringing, safety, health and participation - funding or co-financing of programmes and projects aimed at providing support for youth networking and improving the conditions for participation in decision-making through a sustainable institutional framework, based on the needs of young people and in partnership with to young people, raising the awareness of young people about healthy lifestyles, safety and environment.
- Programmes and projects to support youth in employment - financing or co-financing of programs and projects to encourage and stimulate various forms of employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship of young people, developing services and mechanisms that promote employability and employment of young people through intersectoral cooperation and empowering young people to acquire skills for active, responsible and efficient career management.
- Incentives for the construction of infrastructure and superstructure in tourist destinations - financing/co-financing of tourism development projects to encourage the quality of the tourist offer implemented by companies and entrepreneurs registered to perform activities in the field of tourism, as well as registered agricultural farms. Financial support for the realization of these projects is provided by granting loans.
- Incentives for projects of promotion, education and training in tourism - co-financing of tourism development projects, promotion of tourist products and tourist areas of Serbia and encouragement of a receptive tourist-hospitality offer, improvement and implementation of statistical research and methodology of satellite accounts, as well as education and training in tourism.
- Incentives for the improvement of the receptive tourist and hospitality offer - incentives for travel agencies, travel organizers, as a way of support for promotional and marketing activities that are necessary to reach the required level of traffic of foreign tourists.

1.1.21 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS¹⁴⁶

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Development of ICT infrastructure in institutions of education, science and culture
- Construction of broadband communication infrastructure in rural areas
- Digitization of Serbia's tourist offer - preparation of infrastructural communication and application bases for the implementation of long-term goals of digitization of tourist locations.
- Support for the achievement of public interest in the field of information - co-financing through competitions, media projects, independent productions, associations and organisations engaged in the production of media content for projects that contribute to the diversity of media content and the pluralism of ideas and values, the development of media creativity in the fields of culture, education and science , information and improving the position of all segments of society.

¹⁴⁶ <https://mit.gov.rs/>

- Support for informing national minorities in their own language - co-financing through tenders for media projects, productions and associations aimed at informing members of national minorities.
- Support for the information of persons with disabilities - co-financing through the competition of media projects, productions and associations intended for the information of persons with disabilities.

1.1.22 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INVESTMENTS¹⁴⁷

From the RS budget, the Ministry finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Restoration and construction of public purpose buildings and remediation of the consequences of natural disasters - restoration and renovation of public purpose buildings in public ownership.
- Renovation and construction of public facilities in the field of healthcare.
- Renovation and construction of public purpose buildings in the field of education and science.
- Renovation and construction of public facilities in the field of sports infrastructure.
- Renovation and construction of public facilities in the field of social protection.
- Renovation and construction of public purpose buildings in the field of culture.
- Renovation and construction of public facilities in the field of local communal infrastructure.

1.1.23 CABINET OF THE MINISTER WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERDEVELOPED MUNICIPALITIES¹⁴⁸

From the RS budget, the Cabinet of Ministers without portfolio finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public call for submission of project proposals to the Programme for financing projects of public interest implemented by associations from the territories of extremely underdeveloped municipalities (units of local self-government from the fourth group).
- Public call for application of projects for the Development Support Programme of extremely underdeveloped municipalities (units of local self-government from the fourth group)
- Support for the implementation of measures of balanced regional development - preparation of project-technical documentation, planning documentation and strategic documents under the jurisdiction of local self-government units.

¹⁴⁷ <https://www.obnova.gov.rs/>

¹⁴⁸ <https://rnro.gov.rs/javni-konkursi/>

1.1.24 CABINET OF THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF COORDINATING ACTIVITIES AND MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA WITH THE DIASPORA¹⁴⁹

From the RS budget, the Cabinet of Ministers without portfolio finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Protection of the rights and interests of members of the diaspora and Serbs in the region - co-financing projects of citizens' associations, professional education and legal assistance to the diaspora and Serbs in the region.
- Competition for co-financing of projects that contribute to the preservation and strengthening of ties between the home country and the diaspora, as well as between the home country and the Serbs in the region - support for the organisation of schools, camps (programmes aimed at getting to know the mother country), summer schools of the Serbian language, educational workshops and educations (for the improvement Serbian language classes) intended to preserve the cultural and linguistic identity of children and youth in the diaspora and the region.
- Competition for the co-financing of projects that, with their quality, contribute to the preservation and strengthening of ties between the home country and the diaspora, as well as between the home country and the Serbs in the region.

1.1.25 CABINET OF THE MINISTER WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO IN CHARGE OF EVEN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT¹⁵⁰

From the RS budget, the Cabinet of Ministers without portfolio finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public call for applications for projects for the Regional Growth Promotion Programme in the Republic of Serbia for funds for the co-financing of development documents of regional development and for co-financing of projects of importance for regional growth - the right to use funds for the co-financing of development documents at the level of LGUs and regional areas has one or more LGUs and ARRA or LGUs independently, who participate in projects together.

1.2 AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

1.2.1 CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION¹⁵¹

From the RS budget, the Customs Administration finances the project:

- Construction of the complex of the customs office at GP Gradina.

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.mbpdiijaspora.gov.rs/>

¹⁵⁰ <https://rrrz.gov.rs/extfile/sr/472/%D0%88avni%20poziv.pdf>

¹⁵¹ <https://www.carina.rs/>

1.2.2 ADMINISTRATION FOR FREE ZONES¹⁵²

From the RS budget, the Administration for Free Zones finances the project:

- Promotion, development, control and supervision of free zones - additional benefits of local self-government for investments in the area of the free zone, expansion of the area of free zones, promotion of free zones.

1.2.3 REPUBLIC WATER DIRECTORATE¹⁵³

From the RS budget, the Directorate finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Arrangement and use of water - construction, reconstruction of water facilities for the supply of drinking water and sanitary hygiene needs, plants for the preparation of drinking water, main pipelines and reservoirs, in order to provide healthy drinking water in sufficient quantity for settlements and industry in municipalities and cities.
- Protection of water from pollution - protection and improvement of the quality of surface and underground water, which enables the protection of the environment and human health through the reduced risk of water epidemics, as well as the protection of water sources through the construction and reconstruction of water facilities for the collection, removal and purification of waste water.
- Regulation of watercourses and protection from the harmful effects of water - protection from flooding by external and internal waters and from ice, protection from erosion and torrents and elimination of the consequences of such water effects and risk management from the harmful effects of water.
- Electrification of the irrigation system - construction of the missing power facilities, in order to create the conditions for the connection of facilities of agricultural producers.
- Project of Integrated Development of the Sava and Drina Corridor - financing of flood protection, investment in environmental management, dams and related activities in selected priority areas along the Sava and Drina River Corridor and providing support for the implementation of waterway improvements by demining the right bank of the Sava and Drina River Corridor.
- Construction of irrigation systems - construction, reconstruction, arrangement and rehabilitation of water facilities and irrigation systems, on regional irrigation hydrosystems and dual-purpose systems in the area of Srem, Bačka and Banat and hydromelioration systems in the area of Šabac, Čačak, Pančevački Rit and Topola.
- Completion of the existing network for public water supply in settlements, with its extension to suburban areas - Implementation of the Programme for the Improvement of the Water Supply System in the Cities and Municipalities of Sombor, Vršac, Šabac, Pančevo, Sremska Mitrovica, Loznica, Smederevo, Kraljevo, Jagodina, Trstenik, Aleksinac, Vranje, Piroć Leskovac, Paraćin, Knjaževac, Vrbas and Kikinda.

¹⁵² <https://www.usz.gov.rs/>

¹⁵³ <https://rdvode.gov.rs/>

Other projects implemented by the Directorate, which are financed from other sources

- Environment and climate - funds of the IPA Programme, protection and improvement of the quality of surface and underground water through the construction of a wastewater treatment plant for the agglomeration of Loznica.

1.2.4 ADMINISTRATION FOR FORESTS¹⁵⁴

From the RS budget, the Administration finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Sustainable development and improvement of forestry - forest protection, planting of forest trees in autumn of the current year and spring of the following year, forest care, construction of forest roads, production of forest seeds and production of forest planting material.
- Competition for the allocation of funds under the Annual programme of the use of funds for sustainable development and improvement of forestry - the right to the allocation of funds belongs to the owner, that is, the user of forests and forest land, a legal entity and entrepreneur, and a scientific research institution.
- Competition for the allocation of funds under the Annual Programme for the Construction and Reconstruction of Forest Roads - the right to the allocation of funds belongs to the owner, that is, the user of forests and forest land, a legal entity and an entrepreneur.
- Competition for the allocation and use of funds for the sustainable development and improvement of hunting for subsidies in the field of hunting.

1.2.5 ADMINISTRATION FOR AGRARIAN PAYMENTS¹⁵⁵

From the RS budget, the Administration finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Direct payments - payments that are directly awarded to producers through certain support measures, namely through the milk premium, incentives for crop and livestock production and the realization of recourse.
- Measures of rural development - increase in competitiveness (including reaching a higher level of added value and quality standards, as well as risk management), improvement of the environment, diversification of income and improvement of the quality of life in rural territories.
- Public call for submission of applications for exercising the right to incentives in agriculture and rural development.
- Credit support in agriculture - through subsidizing a part of the interest rate for approved loans in the field of agricultural production, intended for the development of animal husbandry, farming, fruit growing, viticulture, vegetable growing and flower growing, as well as various forms of investments and procurement of agricultural machinery and equipment.
- Special incentives - incentives for the production of planting material and certification and clonal selection, incentives for the implementation of breeding programmes, in order to

¹⁵⁴ <https://upravazasume.gov.rs/>

¹⁵⁵ <https://uap.gov.rs/>

achieve breeding goals in animal husbandry, as well as incentives for the implementation of scientific research, development and innovation projects in agriculture.

Other projects implemented by the Administration, which are financed from other sources:

- The project of market-oriented agriculture - funds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, intended for the financing of a grant scheme for agricultural producers and the establishment of a unique information system of the Ministry of Agriculture and its constituent bodies.

1.2.6 AGRICULTURAL LAND ADMINISTRATION¹⁵⁶

From the RS budget, the Administration finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Support for the development of agricultural land - financial support through tenders for the performance of works in the area of development of agricultural land through: melioration of meadows and pastures, cultivation of agricultural land, construction of irrigation systems, construction of drainage systems.
- Competition for the distribution of funds for the execution of works on the protection, arrangement and use of agricultural land.
- Support for the protection and use of agricultural land - financial support through tenders to local self-government units and scientific institutions for the development of programmes, projects and study research works of importance for LGUs and the Republic of Serbia.

1.2.7 NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION¹⁵⁷

From the RS budget, the Academy finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Professional training in public administration - preparation, implementation and development of general professional training programmes and training programmes for managers and employees.
- Strengthening the professional capacities of civil servants in their positions.

1.2.8 DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF SERBIA¹⁵⁸

- Public call for participation in the competitiveness development support programme - financing of projects to increase the level of use of standards in production and business organisation, product certification, management systems and increase the use of other services in the field of quality infrastructure.
- Public call for participation in the Programme for the Improvement of Cooperation and Capacity Building at the Regional and Local Level - financing of projects for the improvement of economic and regional development through the strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation and the capacity of accredited regional development agencies and local self-government units.

¹⁵⁶ <https://upz.minpolj.gov.rs/sadrzaj/>

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.napa.gov.rs/>

¹⁵⁸ <https://ras.gov.rs/>

- Public call for the allocation of incentive funds in order to attract direct investments in the automation of existing capacities in the area of the food industry.

1.2.9 PORT MANAGEMENT AGENCY¹⁵⁹

From the RS budget, the Academy finances the following programme activities and projects:

- Public call within the cross-border and transnational cooperation programme “Transnational Danube Programme” (INTERREG) for financing coordination projects for priority areas within the EU strategy for the Danube region.

1.3 FUNDS

1.3.1 DEVELOPMENT FUND OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA¹⁶⁰

- Investment loans to clients who need funds to finance the purchase of equipment, machines, plants, then the construction or purchase of production or business premises.
- Permanent working capital required for financing current obligations that arise in the regular business activities of the end user of the loan, and refer to the procurement of raw materials and materials, supplies, as well as other production costs, receivables from customers, obligations to suppliers.
- Loans for business entities operating in underdeveloped and extremely underdeveloped areas.

1.3.2 FUND FOR INNOVATION ACTIVITY¹⁶¹

The Fund supports the development of innovations through appropriate instruments of financial, technical and advisory support, with the aim of empowering innovative companies and strengthening the connection between research and development on the one hand and the business sector on the other, respecting the highest ethical, financial and business standards and practices.

- **Voucher programme in the 4S areas** - The “Innovation Vouchers” programme is a simple financial mechanism that enables small and medium-sized enterprises to, using the services of the scientific research sector, raise the level of innovation of their products and become more competitive on the market. The maximum amount approved for the innovation voucher is up to 800,000 dinars, that is, the innovation voucher covers up to 60% of the total costs of the service. Innovation vouchers are awarded on the basis of a public call.
- **Science and business cooperation programme in the areas of 4S** - aims to advance industrial research by encouraging private sector enterprises and public sector (majority state-owned) scientific research organisations to carry out joint research and

¹⁵⁹ <https://www.aul.gov.rs/>

¹⁶⁰ <https://fondzarazvoj.gov.rs/cir>

¹⁶¹ <http://www.inovacionifond.rs/cir/>

development projects with the idea of creating new or improving existing commercially viable products and services, like and innovative technologies with significant impact on future development and market potential. Beneficiaries of the funds are consortia developing new commercially applicable technologies, services and products in the priority areas of smart specialization. Consortia must be composed of at least one private company and one public scientific research organisation, and may have a maximum of five members. Through this programme, the Fund for Innovation Activities awards co-financing in the maximum amount of up to 300,000 euros per project, i.e. a maximum of 70% of the total project budget, with mandatory co-financing of the consortium in the amount of at least 30% of the total project budget, when the main member of the consortium is a micro or small company.

- **Programme for financing development and innovation projects of companies in the areas of 4S** - the innovation co-financing programme is intended for companies from the 4S area that need significant financial resources for the realization of the development cycle of technological innovations and covering the high costs for the transfer of research into a commercially viable product. The applicants are micro, small and medium-sized private companies established in the Republic of Serbia, which develop a technological innovation for which there is a market need and have the potential to create new intellectual property, as well as a competitive position in the global and domestic environment. The amount allocated by the Fund cannot exceed the amount of 300,000 euros, and the implementation of the projects can last no longer than 24 months. The funds allocated by the Fund for Innovation Activities within this programme cover a maximum of 60% of the total approved project budget, while at least 40% must be provided by the applicant (enterprise) from other private sources, independent of the Fund.
- **Accelerator and subprogramme intended for startups in the 4S area** - the programme will consist of two components: one for the early stage (idea) and the other for companies in the scale-up stage (increasing the volume of business). Each component will include 20 companies (teams of two founders) per year, selected on a competitive basis by participating investors (including business angels, early-stage venture capital funds, etc.). Each component will have intensive training and mentoring programmes lasting two to three months. The program will be implemented with the support of the World Bank in the amount of 8,000,000 dollars.
- **Proof of concept, programme for researchers from scientific research organisations** - this measure is intended to support innovations from the earliest stages of development, created in scientific research organisations. This program provides financial and mentoring support to determine the emergence of a new product, process or technology with commercial potential. Thanks to this programme, project teams that have been approved for funding will have a mentor at their disposal for product definition, business model development and future development.
- **Early Development Programme** - is intended for private companies that develop a technological innovation for which there is a need on the market and that have the potential to create new intellectual property. The goal is to provide financing for the

development of innovative technologies, products and services with market application to encourage innovative entrepreneurship and enable business survival during the critical phase of research and development. The applicant can be a private micro or small company owned by a Serbian majority, established in the Republic of Serbia and no older than five years at the time of application, as well as a team consisting of a maximum of five members. The allocated funds can cover a maximum of 70% of the total approved project budget, while the amount of funding from the Fund for Innovation Activity cannot exceed 80,000 euros for projects lasting up to one year. At least 30% of the total approved project budget must be provided by the applicant (enterprise) from other private sources, independent of the Fund.

1.3.3 FUND FOR SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA¹⁶²

The primary goal of establishing the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, as a special organisation, is to provide support for scientific research activities and development activities in the Republic of Serbia, management and provision of financial resources, as well as providing professional support to researchers from accredited scientific research organisations in the realization of scientific projects within the programme announced by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. Programme activities of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia are implemented through the following published programmes:

- **Programme for excellent projects of young researchers (PROMIS)** aims to involve young researchers in scientific research work, to strengthen the professional capacities of young researchers, to train young PhDs in project management, to train young researchers to apply for other research projects, especially in the European Union, to create new project teams, as well as to provide support for excellent ideas and scientific research work that will affect society and the economy. The programme to support the development of projects in the field of artificial intelligence is designed to encourage the excellence and relevance of scientific research in the Republic of Serbia in the field of artificial intelligence, to encourage the application of the results of scientific research in the field of artificial intelligence in the development of the economy of the Republic of Serbia, to promote the excellence and development of human resources in the field of artificial intelligence for science and economy of the Republic of Serbia and promotes international cooperation in the subject domain of science and innovation.
- **Serbian science cooperation programme with the diaspora** - vouchers for knowledge exchange, aims to enable the establishment of scientific cooperation with the diaspora for the purpose of improving and exchanging knowledge, establishing or improving scientific cooperation, joint work on scientific research and research and development problems and challenges, publication of joint works and patents, support for the development of new services, product commercialization, technology transfer, network expansion and cooperation with the diaspora, as well as the preparation of proposals for joint projects for applying to foreign funds.
- **IDEA programme** aims to finance projects based on excellent ideas that may in the future have a significant impact on the development of science and research, the

¹⁶² <https://fondzanauku.gov.rs/>

economy and/or society as a whole, the involvement of excellent researchers in scientific research work, the strengthening of the professional capacities of researchers and the creation of new project teams.

All programmes implemented by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia through public calls should ensure a high scientific level, innovative results, competitiveness at the international level and relevance in relation to the challenges of society as a whole. Funds for the work of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia are provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and additional funds are provided through an international agreement with the World Bank.

1.3.4 CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE (CPN) ¹⁶³

The Center for the Promotion of Science is a public institution, with the aim of promoting science and technology through cooperation with research and educational institutions in the country and around the world, with the private sector, the media, and state authorities. The role of CPN is to establish a link between science and society by bringing together all relevant actors and the general public in the process of research and innovation. The ultimate goal is the integration of society into research processes in order to gain the best possible insight into the needs of citizens and to face social challenges as adequately as possible.

From 2011, until 2020, the Center for the Promotion of Science through a public call finances projects for the promotion and popularization of science on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. In the indicated period, a total of 527 projects were approved and financed, and 113,445 million dinars were allocated for these purposes. From 2020, the Center for the Promotion of Science is specifically financing projects that are implemented through the established network of 15 science clubs⁵⁸ at regional centers for professional training (1,855 million dinars).

1.4 BANKS

1.4.1 Erste Bank A.D. ¹⁶⁴

- Financing of the public sector - local self-government and public enterprises.
- Financing of renewable energy projects.
- Financing of investment projects based on the principles of project financing.
- Support programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises to open and maintain sustainable businesses.

1.4.2 UniCredit bank ¹⁶⁵

- Financing of companies dedicated to improving the social impact of their business as well as employment opportunities for different categories of women, young people and segments of the population that face greater obstacles to entering the labor market.

¹⁶³ <https://www.cpn.edu.rs/>

¹⁶⁴ <https://www.erstebank.rs/sr/Pravna-lica>

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.unicreditbank.rs/rs/pi.html>

- Qualified investments and investments in energy efficiency related to improving the energy efficiency of buildings and the industrial sector.
- The COSME programme is intended for small and medium-sized enterprises, according to the EU segmentation, with the aim of supporting the strategy for sustainable and comprehensive growth.

1.4.3 Banca Intesa¹⁶⁶

- Loans for the improvement of energy efficiency - the loan is intended for investments in the installation of insulation, installation of new windows, doors, heat pumps, solar panels, replacement of lighting and numerous other energy-efficient solutions.
- Intesa Casa green loans - housing loan for the purchase of energy-saving apartments, with an energy passport of category A or B.

1.4.4 NLB Komercijalna banka¹⁶⁷

- ECG Investment loans are intended for financing energy efficient measures, measures for renewable energy sources, inclusion projects, circular economy.
- Investment loans are intended for financing the purchase of equipment, machines, vehicles, financing the purchase, construction of business premises for own use, refinancing of investment loans in other banks, refinancing of own investment - legalization of built objects - other investments in fixed assets for the purpose of carrying out activities.

1.4.5 Bank Poštanska štedionica¹⁶⁸

- Investment loans are intended for financing the long-term investment needs of companies. It can be investment in fixed assets, vehicles, plants, machines, equipment, construction or purchase of business premises, refinancing of own investment.
- Roma entrepreneurship promotion programme, loans to small and medium-sized companies whose founders are residents of Roma nationality, as well as to entrepreneurs of Roma nationality.

1.4.6 ProCredit bank¹⁶⁹

- Credits for energy efficiency.
- Business loans for solar panels.
- Grants for new machines.

¹⁶⁶ <https://www.bancaintesa.rs/>

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.nlbkb.rs/>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.posted.co.rs/>

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.procreditbank.rs/>

2 INTERNATIONAL SOURCES

2.1 EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS

2.1.1 IPA - INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE

Since 2007, the European Union (EU) has provided financial support to the countries of the “Western Balkans” through the unique Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), which united all previous pre-accession financial assistance instruments: PHARE, SAPARD, ISPA, CARDS. In the period 2021-2027. 14.162 billion euros will be made available to all IPA beneficiaries. Total budget for the period 2014-2020. in 2015 it amounted to EUR 11.668 billion, and Serbia was allocated around EUR 200 million in non-reimbursable aid from the IPA 2015. Total IPA budget for the period 2007-2013. was 11.468 billion euros. In the period 2007-2013. 1.4 billion euros was allocated to the RS.

2.1.1.1 INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE IPA 2021-2027.

Following the political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU regarding the IPA III instrument, the Regulation on the IPA III instrument for the period 2021-2027 was adopted on September 15, 2021. The general objective of IPA III is to support the beneficiaries in the implementation of political, institutional, economic and social reforms necessary for their alignment with the values and rules of the EU and the achievement of EU membership. In addition, the regulation contains a list of specific objectives grouped into five categories (so-called “Windows”).

- 1) Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy (15.1%);
- 2) Good governance, alignment with EU acquis, strategic communication and good neighborly relations (16.6%);
- 3) Green agenda and sustainable connectivity (42.4%);
- 4) Competitiveness and inclusive growth (22.3%);
- 5) Territorial and cross-border cooperation (3.5%).

In order to achieve a balanced distribution of funds among IPA beneficiaries, the European Commission (EC) proposed the principle of “fair distribution” to be measured during the entire period of implementation of IPA III (2021 - 2027), and not on an annual basis. However, in addition to the aforementioned principle, access to funds will be based on criteria such as: compliance with the strategic framework and the IPA III programme framework, the readiness of projects / programmes for implementation and their expected impact and progress in the process of European integration with special attention to the rule of law, fundamental rights and good governance.

The existing IPA structures should serve as a basis for the efficient use of this instrument as well as other potential sources of EU funds. In this way, as well as the implementation of the IPA programme based on the model of indirect management, the strengthening of capacities necessary for the transition to the use of Cohesion Policy funds will continue. The main partners in the planning and programming process of the IPA III instrument will be, as before, the National IPA Coordinator and the EU Delegation¹⁷⁰.

170 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc-2021-2027/>

2.1.1.2 IPA II - INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE 2014 - 2020

IPA II represents the framework for EU pre-accession support for the period 2014-2020. One of the changes in the programming and implementation of the IPA II instrument in relation to IPA I in the period 2007-2013. refers to the structure of the IPA II program, in which instead of the 5 components, which were characteristic of IPA I, policy areas were introduced (*"policy areas"*). The policy areas within IPA II are: reforms as part of preparations for EU membership and building institutions and capacities; socio-economic and regional development; employment, social policies, education, promotion of gender equality and development of human resources; agriculture and rural development, and regional and territorial cooperation.

About 200 million euros of non-reimbursed aid was intended for Serbia from the IPA 2015, from which projects in the fields of energy and transport, rule of law, state administration reform and agriculture would be financed. For the period 2014-2020, pre-accession aid in Serbia had two main pillars: Democracy and the rule of law and Competitiveness and development.

2.1.1.3 INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE IPA 2007-2013.

Implementation of IPA 2007-13. was intended to provide financial assistance through five channels (known as *"components"*): transition assistance and institution building; cross-border cooperation (*"Cross border cooperation"*- CBC); regional development; human resource development and rural development.

2.1.1.4 EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA 2021-2027

Territorial cooperation programmes¹⁷¹ or Interreg programmes represent financial support for the cooperation of border territories of neighboring states (cross-border cooperation) or the cooperation of parts or whole states (transnational and interregional cooperation) to solve issues of common interest - environmental protection, waste management, provision of services in various sectors, cultural and economic cooperation, tourism, traffic, etc. The basis for implementing the programme is a seven-year operational programme or cooperation programme that consists of an analysis of the territory covered by the programme, the challenges faced by that territory and an analysis of which of those challenges can be overcome through cooperation with institutions from other parts of the country covered by the programme.

In the financial period 2021-2027. year, Serbia participates in ten programmes of European territorial cooperation, namely: Hungary-Serbia, Romania-Serbia, Bulgaria-Serbia, Croatia-Serbia, Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro, Serbia-North Macedonia, IPA Adriatic-Ionian programme, the Programme for the Danube Region and the URBACT Programme. Also, there is a possibility that additional territorial cooperation programmes will be approved for Serbia during this financial perspective.

The following text shows the programmes that are available to cities and municipalities of the EU PRO plus programme (all except the Hungary-Serbia cross-border cooperation programme).

https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance/how-does-it-work_en

¹⁷¹ https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/publikacije/Brosure%20nove/22/Programi_evropske_teritorijalne_saradnje_u_RS_2021-2027.pdf

2.1.1.4.1 ROMANIA - SERBIA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMESupport area¹⁷²

Priority 1: Environmental protection and risk management

The specific objectives within this thematic priority are:

- Improving the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution;
- Promotion of renewable energy in accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001. including the sustainability criteria set out therein;
- Promotion of energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions i
- Promoting adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, adaptability in line with ecosystem-based approaches.

Priority 2: Social and economic development

The specific objectives within this thematic priority are:

- Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through the development of accessible infrastructure, as well as strengthening adaptability for distance and online education and training;
- Ensuring equal access to health care and improving the adaptability of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family and community-based care and
- Strengthening the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

Priority 3: Increasing border management capacity

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Strengthening the institutional capacity of public authorities, especially those authorized to manage a certain territory and interested parties.

Financial sources

IPA	74,566,827.00 euros
Total (IPA + co-financing)	87,725,678.82 euros

2.1.1.4.2 BULGARIA - SERBIA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMESupport area¹⁷³

Priority 1: Competitive border region

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Improvement of sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and creation of new jobs in SMEs, including productive investments.

¹⁷² <https://www.romania-serbia.net/>¹⁷³ <http://www.ipacbc-bgrs.eu/>

Priority 2: Integral development of the border region

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Encouraging integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in non-urban areas.

Priority 3: A more resilient border region

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches.

Financial sources

IPA	32,398,938.00 euros
Total (IPA + co-financing)	38,116,397.65 euros

2.1.1.4.3 CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME CROATIA - SERBIA

Support area¹⁷⁴

Priority 1: working for a smarter programming area

The specific goal within this thematic priority is:

- development and improvement of research and innovation capacities and adoption of advanced technologies.

Priority 2: working for a greener programme area that is resistant to climate change

Specific goals within this thematic priority are:

- Promotion of renewable energy in accordance with the directive on renewable energy (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria specified therein;
- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches.

Priority 3: Coworking for a healthier and more inclusive programme area

The specific goal within this thematic priority is:

- Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering the resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.

Priority 4: Coworking for more sustainable and socially innovative tourism and culture

The specific goal within this thematic priority is:

- Highlighting the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

¹⁷⁴ www.croatia-serbia.com

Financial sources

IPA	38,281,653.00 euros
Total (IPA + co-financing)	45,037,238.82 euros

*2.1.1.4.4 CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME SERBIA - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA*Support area¹⁷⁵

Priority 1: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Develop and promote joint tourist offers based on cultural and natural heritage

Priority 2: Investing in youth, education and skills

The specific objectives within this thematic priority are:

- Improve youth activism and youth socio-economic participation
- Increase the employability of certain groups by providing new skills.

Financial sources

IPA	14,000,000.00 euros
Total (IPA + co-financing)	16,223,529.41 euros

*2.1.1.4.5 SERBIA - MONTENEGRO CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME*Support area¹⁷⁶

Priority 1: Encouraging employment, labor mobility and social and cultural inclusion in the programme area

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Improve the quality of public health and social services to include marginalized groups in the programme area.

Priority 2: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Improve and promote a jointly coordinated cross-border tourism offer based on protected cultural and natural heritage.

Financial sources

IPA	8,400,000.00 euros
Total (IPA + co-financing)	9,734,117.65 euros

¹⁷⁵ <http://srb-bih.org/>

¹⁷⁶ www.cbcsrb-mne.org

2.1.1.4.6 SERBIA - NORTH MACEDONIA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMESupport area¹⁷⁷

Priority 1: Employment, labor mobility and social and cultural cross-border inclusion

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Improvement of social and cultural inclusion and health

Priority 2: strengthening tourism and cultural and natural heritage

The specific objective within this thematic priority is:

- Improvement of cultural and natural heritage towards the sustainable development of tourism.

Financial sources

IPA	8,400,000.00 euros
Total (IPA + co-financing)	9,734,117.65 euros

2.1.1.4.7 ADRIATIC - IONIAN TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMMESupport area¹⁷⁸

Priority 1 – Support for a smarter Adriatic-Ionian region

- Development and improvement of research and innovation capacities and adoption of advanced technologies
- Developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Priority 2 – Support for a greener Adriatic-Ionian region more resistant to climate change

- Promoting adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, building resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches
- Promoting the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy
- Improving the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution
- Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of the transition to a net zero carbon economy

Priority 3 - A more connected Europe with better mobility (CP 3)

- Development and improvement of sustainable, climate-resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

Priority 4 - Support for the management of the Adriatic-Ionian region (ISO1 - Better management of Interreg)

- Support for the management of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and the institutional capacities of authorities.

¹⁷⁷ <https://eu.rs-mk.org/>¹⁷⁸ www.adrioninterreg.eu

Financial sources

ERDF (EU Member States)	65,848,129.00 euros
IPA	70,840,386.00 euros
Total EU funds (ERDF+IPA)	136,688,515.00 euros
Total co-financing	24,121,502.65 euros
Total programme	160,810,017.65 euros

*2.1.1.4.8 TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE DUNAVIS REGION*Support area¹⁷⁹

Priority 1 – A smarter Danube region

- Specific objective 1.1 Development and improvement of research and innovation capacities and use of advanced technologies
- Specific objective 1.2 Developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Priority 2 – A greener Danube region with low carbon emissions

- Specific objective 2.1 Promotion of renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including sustainable criteria defined by the directive
- Specific objective 2.2 Promotion of capacities for adaptation to climate change in the Danube region and management of natural disasters at the transnational level in relation to ecological risks, taking into account ecosystemic approaches
- Specific objective 2.3 Sustainable, integrated, transnational water and sediment management in the Danube river basin, ensuring a good quality and quantity balance between water and sediment deposits
- Specific objective 2.4 Protection and preservation of biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions of transnational importance in the Danube region

Priority 3 – Socially oriented Danube region

- Specific objective 3.1 Accessible, inclusive and effective labor markets
- Specific objective 3.2 Quality, accessible and inclusive services in education, training and lifelong learning
- Specific objective 3.3 Strengthening the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Priority 4 – Better management of cooperation in the Danube region

- Specific objective 4.1 Support the management of the EUSDR
- Specific objective 4.2 Strengthening institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional management.

179 www.interreg-danube.eu

Financial sources

ERDF (EU Member States)	165,424,228.00 euros
IPA	30,000,000.00 euros
NDICI (neighboring countries of the EU)	19,623,629.00 euros
Total EU contribution	215,047,857.00 euros
Total programme	268,809,822.00 euros

2.1.1.4.9 URBACT PROGRAMME

URBACT¹⁸⁰ is one of the programmes of interregional cooperation. The goal of the programme is to encourage sustainable integral urban development in cities across Europe, and the projects are implemented by municipal administrations in partnership forming cooperation networks. URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integral solutions to urban challenges, by networking, learning from each other's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

Support area

Priority: Promoting integral sustainable urban development through cooperation

- Specific objective: Improving the institutional capacity of local government, especially those who have a mandate to manage a certain territory, as well as other interested parties.

Financial sources

ERDF (EU Member States)	79,769,799.00 euros
IPA	5,000,000.00 euros
Total IPA	5,160,000.00 euros

2.1.1.5 WESTERN BALKANS INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK (WBIF)

Investment framework for the Western Balkans¹⁸¹ (The Western Balkans Investment Framework - WBIF) encourages socio-economic development and the process of accession to the European Union throughout the Western Balkans, by providing financial resources and technical assistance for strategically important investments. It represents a joint initiative of the European Union, international financial institutions (EIB, EBRD, CEB, KfW, AFD and WB), bilateral donors and the Western Balkan Six. The investment framework for the Western Balkans is considered the main regional instrument for providing support in the preparation and implementation of strategically relevant projects in the field of transport, energy, environmental protection and social infrastructure in "countries in the EU accession process". From February 2014 to December 2021, Serbia was awarded: 30 grants for technical assistance with a total value

¹⁸⁰ <https://urbact.eu/>

¹⁸¹ <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpriprustupnu-pomoc/investicioni-okvir-za-zapadni-balkan-western-balkans-investment-framework-wbif/>

of over 54 million euros; 6 investment grants worth 134.45 million. EUR, whereby the total investment value of the co-financed infrastructure projects amounts to 605 million. euros.

Table: Overview of investment grants by sector

	Traffic	Investment amount. grant
1	Modernization of the railway line Nis-Dimitrovgrad-border with Bulgaria section: Sićevo-Staničenje-Dimitrovgrad	43,730,000 euros
2	Modernization of the Niš-Dimitrovgrad railway - border with Bulgaria - electrification and signaling	27,770,000 euros
3	Construction of the highway route E80 Niš-Medare (Phase I Niš-Pločnik)	40,600,000 euros
	Environment	
4	Makiš - extension of the drinking water processing plant	2.940865 euros
	Energy	
5	Construction of the 400 kV transmission line Kragujevac - Kraljevo with raising the voltage level to 400 kV at the Kraljevo 3 substation, Trans-Balkan Corridor - Phase I: Section II	6,600,000 euros
6	Construction of a new double 400 KV transmission line Obrenovac - Bajina Bašta, with the reconstruction of the existing Obrenovac and Bajina Bašta substations and raising the voltage level of the Bajina Bašta substation to 400 kV	12,800,000 euros
7/ 8	2 regional projects - part of the Regional Programme for Energy Efficiency for the Western Balkans	2 investment grants in the amount of 28,765,972 euros

In 2021, a document titled “Strategic Orientation of the WBIF for the Western Balkans (EFSD+)” was presented. This document includes: policy context, legal basis and instruments, including the new EU connectivity strategy called “Global Gateway”, guiding principles and a description of the areas of intervention that will be supported through the European Fund for Sustainable Development plus (eng: The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus EFSD+ and budget guarantees as well as combining loans and grants for the public and private sectors. Recommendations of the so-called of informal expert working groups (NRG) for accelerating the implementation of WBIF projects, the Green Agenda and socially responsible public procurement, information was provided on the addition of the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP+) in the amount of over 100 million euros, information on priorities for support in the following period, rates of co-financing of projects with EU investment grant funds.

2.1.1.6 IPARD III

Within the instrument for pre-accession assistance IPA III period 2021-2027, which applies from January 1, 2021, there is also a special Programme IPARD III¹⁸² for support in the field of rural development. The EC has established a budget in the amount of 288,000,000 euros for this Programme for the period 2021-2027. The governing body of IPARD submitted the final version of the IPARD III programme to the European Commission on January 21, 2022. Of the 13 measures offered by the EC to the candidate countries for EU membership, the Republic of Serbia decided to implement seven measures within the IPARD III programme. In relation to the IPARD II programme and measures accredited so far, the following measures will be available to users:

- Measure 4 - Agroecology - climate and organic agriculture;
- Measure 5 - Implementation of local rural development strategies - LEADER approach;
- Measure 6 - Investments in rural public infrastructure.

It is planned to introduce new sectors through the IPARD III programme, such as the fishing sector, the sector for the processing of grains and industrial plants, and within Measure 7, in addition to the rural tourism sector, new sectors are planned, namely: Direct sale of agricultural and local products and service sector in rural areas.

2.1.1.7 MULTI-USER IPA

The development of regional cooperation is one of the important prerequisites in the EU accession process, and at numerous summits between the EU and the Western Balkans, it was confirmed that the rapprochement of the EU will go hand in hand with the development of regional cooperation. In addition to individually supporting candidate countries and potential candidates for membership, the EU provides financial and technical support with the aim of realizing common (regional) priorities of the beneficiaries of the IPA II instrument. This support is provided from the Multi-user IPA instrument¹⁸³ (Multy Beneficiary IPA), whose goal is to improve regional cooperation and solve issues of general interest for all IPA beneficiaries. In accordance with the relevant EU procedure, the main guidelines in the process of defining regional projects/actions are presented in the document EU Programme Framework for IPA III, which defines the general priorities, measures and areas that will be financially supported as part of this instrument in the period 2021- in 2027 The support provided under this IPA III component is focused on four priority areas:

- support for regional investments;
- support for territorial cooperation through the implementation of cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes;
- support to regional structures and organisations and
- horizontal support to the common priorities of the beneficiaries from the region.

182 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/ipard-iii/>

183 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/src/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ipa-instrument-za-pretpristupnu-pomoc/visekorisnicka-ipa/>

2.1.1.8 DEVELOPMENT OF THE COHESION POLICY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IPA 2015)

Project “Development of the Cohesion Policy Management System in the Republic of Serbia”¹⁸⁴ is financed with EU funds through the IPA for 2015 in the amount of almost 2.7 million euros. It aims to prepare the state administration of the RS for the effective implementation of the Cohesion Policy (KP) of the EU. The basic purpose of the project is to improve the capacities of institutions in the RS at the national and sub-national level for efficient preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects financed from structural funds and the cohesion fund of the European Union. It consists of three basic components:

- establishing a legislative and institutional framework for the implementation of KP;
- preparation of relevant planning and programme documents for the implementation of KP, i
- raising the capacity of institutions and bodies nominated for the implementation of KP, as well as partners and potential users at the national and subnational level.

In this way, the project should also contribute to the successful implementation of the measures defined by the Action Plan for negotiation chapter 22, which is the basic criterion for the opening of this chapter. The implementation of the project began in July 2019 and will last a total of 36 months. The main user and coordinator of the activity is MEI.

2.1.1.9 EU PRO PLUS

EU programme for local development - EU PRO Plus¹⁸⁵ contributes to a more balanced socio-economic development of 99 local governments in two regions: Šumadija and Western Serbia and Southern and Eastern Serbia. The programme works on improved management of territorial development, economic growth and improved social infrastructure and social cohesion.

For this three-year programme, which began in January 2021, the EU has allocated funds in the total amount of 40 million euros, initially 30 million for contracted development activities and an additional ten million aimed at supporting local governments, small businesses and the health system in recovery from the consequences caused by the covid 19 pandemic. The programme is led by MEI, a implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The direct beneficiaries of the EU PRO Plus programme are MEI, 99 local governments, local government structures, regional development agencies, other business support organisations, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and civil society organisations (CSOs). The end users of the programme are residents of 99 cities and municipalities.

EU PRO Plus is based on the National Priorities for International Aid in the RS until 2025 (NAD), crucial for economic and social development and the EU integration process, while it especially contributes to the preparation for meeting the requirements from Chapter 22 of the EU acquis - Regional Policy and coordination of structural instruments. EU PRO relies on the good practices and achieved results of its predecessors, the development programmes EU PROGRES, European PROGRES and EU PRO.

184 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/projekti-ministarstva-za-evropske-integracije/razvoj-sistema-za-upravljanje-kohezivnom-politikom-ipa-2015/>

185 <https://www.euproplus.org.rs/onama/o-programu>

2.1.2 PROGRAMMES OF THE UNION

Union programmes¹⁸⁶ represent a series of integrated measures that are intended to strengthen cooperation between the member states of the European Union and candidate states in various fields. The programmes of the Union are financed from the common budget of the EU, with funds intended for the development of various priority areas: environmental protection, energy, transport, development of entrepreneurship, competitiveness, culture, education, etc.

The Republic of Serbia signed the Framework Agreement on participation in European Union programmes on November 22, 2004. Participation in Union programmes is an opportunity for the RS to become familiar with EU policies, European institutions, laws and their application in practice, as well as value systems and EU functioning mechanisms. According to EC rules, competent domestic institutions - ministries, associations, organisations, offices - are responsible for the participation of the RS in Union programmes, which have a mandate for this. The coordination of participation in each individual programme of the Union for which the Republic of Serbia has paid a financial contribution to the general budget of the EU is entrusted to the national contact points from the respective national institutions. MEI coordinates the process of European integration in the Republic of Serbia, which includes cooperation with relevant ministries regarding negotiations for appropriate negotiation chapters as well as in the management of EU programmes, from which it follows that MEI is responsible for reporting to the Government and informing the public about all international development assistance, including and Union programmes. In the previous period, the Republic of Serbia participated in thirteen programmes of the Union, and from June 30, 2023, can also participate in the Digital Europe programme:

2.1.2.1 DIGITAL EUROPE

Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)¹⁸⁷ is a new programme financed by the EU and aimed at connecting digital technologies to business, citizens and public administration. In June 2023, the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia was signed on Serbia's participation in the European Union's Digital Europe programme for the period until 2027.¹⁸⁸ On the basis of this agreement, legal and natural persons with residence or headquarters in Serbia will be able to apply for project financing in the European Union and will be on an equal footing with subjects from full member countries when it comes to granting grants from EU funds. IT companies and scientists will be able to apply for the following areas of digitization: artificial intelligence, High Performance Computing (HPC), advanced digital skills, and the development and application of digital capabilities and interoperability. The total value of the Digital Europe programme is estimated at 7.5 billion euros.

2.1.2.2 HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon 2020 is the EU's largest integrated programme for research and innovation, bringing together all programmes previously funded by the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP7) and

186 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/programi-unije/>

187 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

188 <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/716373/potpisan-sporazum-o-ucescu-srbije-u-programu-digitalna-evropa.php>

the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT). By bringing together innovation and research, the programme seeks to make progress in three priority areas: Excellence in Science, Industry Leadership and Societal Challenges. The programme is intended to build a society and economy in the EU based on knowledge and innovation. It is planned that - through the mobilization of additional funds for research, development and innovation, including the allocation of 3% of GDP for research and development throughout the EU by 2020 - the goals related to research and development will be achieved. The ultimate goal of this financial instrument is to create an innovative Union - by supporting the development of world science, removing barriers to innovation and making it easier for the public and private sectors to work together.

2.1.2.3 SME COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME – COSME

The programme for the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises is a programme for the promotion of the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. The goals of the programme are: strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, encouraging entrepreneurial culture and promoting the establishment and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. Measures also supported by this programme include project writing trainings, activities that enable access to new markets, as well as the promotion of as many transnational partnerships as possible. The programme also supports educational exchange between entrepreneurs (*Erasmus* for young entrepreneurs). As part of this programme, 1.4 billion euros were allocated from the budget for companies, so that they could access loans more easily. This objective is implemented through direct financing or by providing loan guarantees.

2.1.2.4 PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

The programme for employment and social innovation aims to reach a high level of quality and sustainable employment, while ensuring adequate social protection and social inclusion. Also, the programme helps to prevent and reduce poverty, as well as to improve working conditions in the period from 2014 to 2020.

2.1.2.5 ERASMUS

Erasmus is a European Union programme that provides funding for cooperation projects in three areas: education, youth and sports. In the broadest sense, the Erasmus programme in the field of education has the following priorities: to promote and support the development of all levels of education, to strengthen the links between formal, non-formal and informal learning, to strengthen the connection between education and the world of work, to create additional values for the European area of education, to connect member countries in defining educational policies. The focus of the Erasmus programme is to strengthen the potential of young people for active participation in civil society, the development of leadership skills, solidarity and understanding between cultures. From 2014 until now, educational institutions and youth organisations from Serbia have been coordinators or partners in projects with a total value of over 83 million euros. So far, according to available data, 7,644 individuals from educational institutions, organisations and institutions dealing with youth and non-governmental

organisations have been on exchanges in Erasmus member countries. It is responsible for the implementation and promotion of the Erasmus programme in the RS Tempus Foundation.

2.1.2.6 CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is an EU programme to support the culture and media sectors. The programme consists of two sub-programmes: Culture - for the promotion of the cultural sector and the Media programme - for the support of the audiovisual sector.

Through the Culture sub-programme, the cooperation of cultural and creative organisations between different countries is promoted, initiatives are supported to translate and promote literary works throughout the European Union, as well as to develop networks that enable the competitiveness and international activity of the cultural and creative sector. Platforms for the promotion of new artists and the encouragement of European programmes for cultural and artistic works are also being established. The sub-programme Culture includes four competitions: European cooperation projects, European platforms, European networks and Literary translation projects.

The Media Programme finances activities that include: the development of the European audiovisual sector, respecting and presenting the European cultural identity and heritage, the promotion of European audiovisual works within and outside the borders of the EU, strengthening the competitiveness of the audiovisual sector, facilitating access to financing and the promotion of the use of digital technologies. This fund will finance the European Capital of Culture and the European Heritage Label, as well as European awards for literature, architecture, heritage protection, film art and pop and rock music.

2.1.2.7 EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

The Europe for Citizens programme aims to promote European identity and European citizenship. It is intended for citizens' associations, civil society organisations and local self-government units. The general objectives of the programme are the financing of projects aimed at a better understanding of the EU, its history and diversity, as well as the promotion of European citizenship and the improvement of civic and democratic participation at the EU level. The Europe for Citizens programme is divided into two areas: European memory and democratic engagement, and civic participation. The goal of the first area is awareness of historical continuity, common European values and goals. The purpose of the second area is to support the democratic participation of citizens in life and development in Europe.

2.1.2.8 EUROPEAN HEALTH PROGRAMME III

The programme is the main instrument used by the EC to implement the EU health strategy. The main goals of the programme are to improve the health system and reduce inequality in providing/receiving health care. The programme provides support in four areas: 1) Health promotion, healthy lifestyle and disease prevention; 2) Protect EU citizens from serious cross-border threats to health; 3) Contribution to the creation of innovative, efficient and sustainable healthcare systems and 4) Easier access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens.

2.1.2.9 FISCALIS 2020

Fiskalis 2020 is a programme that deals with the exchange of information and experiences between the tax authorities of European countries. The goal of the programme is to, in partnership with other European countries, develop a trans-European information system and build a network between users of national authorities. The programme supports the fight against tax evasion and avoidance, the planning of tax policy and the implementation of EU legislation in the field of taxation. This is achieved through the exchange of information, support for administrative cooperation and the increase of the administrative capacities of the participating countries, with the aim of reducing the administrative burden of tax authorities and harmonizing costs for taxpayers.

2.1.2.10 CUSTOMS 2020.

Customs 2020 is a programme that supports the cooperation of customs authorities between EU member states and candidate countries. The goal is to improve their efficiency, by achieving better cohesion, in order to avoid damaging the Customs Union. The programme supports the following measures: joint actions, seminars and workshops, project groups, teams of experts, building administrative capacities in customs administrations, studies, information campaigns, development of IT skills, training for developing the necessary professional skills and knowledge in the field of customs.

2.1.2.11 CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The aim of EU activities in the field of civil protection is to support efforts to prevent disasters and ensure the readiness of civil protection units to act in cases of disasters - at the national, regional and local levels. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism offers RS numerous opportunities for cooperation: application of tools for monitoring and early warning systems, participation in joint trainings and exercises, exchange of experts, participation in disaster prevention projects, direct communication with other civil protection authorities, exchange of information and best practices, etc.

In the new financial perspective from 2021 to 2027, most of the Union's programmes are the successors of the previous programmes, but changes, new programmes, new rules for implementation, monitoring and reporting, as well as new criteria for participating in the programmes have also been introduced.

2.1.2.12 INSTRUMENT FOR CONNECTING EUROPE

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) aims to support the achievement of EU policy objectives in the transport, energy and digital sectors, and in relation to trans-European networks, enabling or accelerating investments in projects of common interest, as well as supporting cross-border cooperation in the production of renewable energy. It aims to maximize synergies between the sectors covered by the CEF and other EU programmes.

2.1.2.13 RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP

The overall goal is to contribute to the creation of an area in which the rights of persons contained in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union are promoted and protected. Specifically, this programme should promote the rights deriving from European citizenship, the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, the right to the protection of personal data, the rights of the child, the rights deriving from the consumer legislation of the Union and from the freedom of doing business in the internal market.

2.1.2.14 EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) aims to support the promotion of democracy and human rights in non-EU countries. The key objectives are: improving respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reforms, supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy, building trust and increasing reliability and transparency of democratic elections process, especially through the monitoring of election processes, etc.

2.1.3 COHESION POLICY AND OTHER FUNDS

Cohesion policy¹⁸⁹ (KP), also known as Regional Policy, represents the EU's main investment policy, which contributes to creating new jobs, improving the quality of life of citizens and increasing the overall economic development of both member states and the EU as a whole. It is also an expression of solidarity, given that support is directed to less developed regions and EU member states - with the aim of strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union. In December 2013, the legal framework for KP for the period 2014-2020 was established. year. For the mentioned period, the budget of the KP amounted to 351.8 billion euros, and it was distributed among 28 member states. RS will be able to use funds from the mentioned funds when it becomes a member of the EU. Negotiations for the accession of the RS to the EU in the area of KP, in terms of the fulfillment of requirements and principles, and preparations for its effective implementation, are conducted through Chapter 22 - Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments. The Government of the RS adopted the Action Plan, which is a benchmark for opening negotiations under Chapter 22¹⁹⁰. The EU project "Development of the EU Cohesion Policy Management System in Serbia" is being implemented for the implementation of activities and support for making the necessary

¹⁸⁹ <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/koheziona-politika/>

¹⁹⁰ The key decisions and/or activities within Chapter 22 for the next period are: 1) Preparation of the negotiating position that will also reflect the new legal framework for the KP EU (first unofficial draft prepared); 2) Preparation and adoption of a law that will create a legal basis for the establishment of a system for the management of KP EU funds and the preparation of programme documents (a working group was formed, a draft of the structure of the law was prepared); 3) Identification of institutions that will be the main bearers of tasks and responsibilities in the context of the management of cohesion policy funds in Serbia - management and intermediary bodies for the first goal of the KP "Investments for jobs and growth" (an option document for establishing an institutional framework for management has been prepared KP funds for the purpose of "Investments for jobs and growth"); 4) Making a decision on the number and structure of programmes that Serbia will prepare for the European Fund for Regional Development, the European Social Fund+ and the Cohesion Fund; 5) Continuation of investment in capacities at the local and regional level, in cooperation with regional development agencies (in continuity).

decisions (see 2.1.8). In addition, the “EU Programme for Local Development - EU PRO Plus” is implemented, which promotes the concept of integral urban and territorial development and contributes to the development of LGU capacities for balanced socio-economic development and the improvement of territorial development management, economic growth and improved social infrastructure and social cohesion (see 2.1.1.9). The use of KP funds depends on the ability of users from the public and private sectors - such as local governments, companies, the civil sector, etc. to use these funds. MEI actively cooperates with other institutions at the national and local level, in order to enable these subjects to use the mentioned funds¹⁹¹.

2.1.3.1 NEW COHESION POLICY 2021-2027 (ERDF, ESF, CF)

New cohesion policy of the EU¹⁹² contributes to the strengthening of economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU. It aims to correct imbalances between countries and regions. It fulfills the political priorities of the Union, especially the green and digital transition. In relation to the previous programme period, novelties were introduced. The new EU Cohesion Policy for the period 2021-2027 strengthens the urban dimension (EC, New Cohesion Policy, 2021-27). The adopted five policy objectives focus on the following topics:

- 1) competitive and smart Europe (with a focus on innovation, digitalization, economic transformation and support for small and medium-sized enterprises);
- 2) green Europe (with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and investment in the energy, low-carbon transition towards an economy with net zero carbon emissions, renewable energy sources and the fight against climate change);
- 3) connected Europe (equipment with strategic transport and digital networks);
- 4) inclusive Europe (achieving social rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills acquisition, social inclusion and equal access to health and social care), and
- 5) Europe closer to the citizens (with support for the development of local strategies and sustainable urban development).

The new goal of “Europe closer to citizens” was introduced into the main political framework as an increased commitment to integral territorial development and includes the encouragement of sustainable urban development. Local actors are given opportunities to take the lead in recognizing and solving various challenges, but above all, to use their endogenous (locally specific) development potentials.

Through these goals, significant investments in urban areas are mobilized. At least 8% of the funds of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in each member state will be

¹⁹¹ In this sense, special priority is given to cooperation with the Development Agency of Serbia (Sector for Regional Development) and the network of accredited regional development agencies, which represent a link between the central and local levels and a means for the active participation of local governments in the processes of planning and identification of development priorities on the one hand sides and preparation of projects that should be supported from the funds of the mentioned funds in in order to realize the defined priorities. This is particularly evidenced by cooperation in the field of cross-border cooperation, which confirms the importance of continuous support to local self-governments. For this reason, MEI concluded the Agreement on cooperation in the field of European integration with the Development Agency of Serbia and Agreements on cooperation with regional development agencies, trying to ensure their active participation in the processes that should ensure the efficient absorption and use of EU development funds at the local level. In this way, in accordance with the best European practice, as well as the expressed mood of regional development agencies, long-term cooperation with the aim of sustainable local development is ensured.

¹⁹² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en

invested in priority projects that the cities themselves define based on the local strategy of sustainable urban development.

Asset priorities

- The European Regional Development Fund will support the investments of all 5 policy objectives, but 1 and 2 are the main priorities;
- The main priority of the European Social Fund+ is 4;
- The Cohesion Fund supports policy objectives 2 and 3;
- The Just Transition Fund provides support within dedicated specific objectives;
- Interreg programmes have 2 additional policy objectives at their disposal (Article 14 of the Interreg Regulation): “Better cooperation in development management” and “A safer and more secure Europe”.

The basic instruments through which support is implemented and directed to specific programmes and operations are:

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

It provides support to EU member states and their regions with the aim of eliminating major regional inequalities and achieving self-sustaining growth. First of all, it is aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of the economy - through investments in research, development and innovation, investments in production and infrastructure, urban and local development, improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and supporting the transition to an economy based on low carbon dioxide emissions in all sectors.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

It provides support to EU member states and their regions in achieving employment policy goals. It is aimed at investing in human resources through supporting the employment of as many people as possible, encouraging equal access and equal opportunities for everyone, encouraging entrepreneurship and activation on the labor market, integrating immigrants, ensuring gender equality, fighting poverty, strengthening social inclusion, improvement of education and lifelong learning. Through the Youth Employment Initiative from the ESF, activities aimed at people under the age of 25, who are not employed, are supported in education or training.

COHESION FUND (CF)

It provides support to the least developed EU member states whose GNI per capita does not exceed 90% of the EU-27 average. Large projects in the field of transport infrastructure and environmental protection are financed from this fund. In the programme period 2014-2020, it provides support to the following member states: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

2.1.3.2 HELP

In 2014, the EC established the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the crisis in Syria - the Madad Fund¹⁹³ (EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the “Madad Fund”). The original goal of this fund was to support refugees from Syria and their countries of residence (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey). The fund was later expanded to include refugees and migrants from other vulnerable countries, as well as support for non-EU countries affected by the migrant crisis, which gave RS the opportunity to apply for funds. For the RS, in 2016 and 2017, from the funds of the Madad fund, support was approved for the financing of current operational costs, nutrition, provision of health services and access to education for migrant children and improvement of the conditions for the accommodation of refugees and migrants in reception centers - primarily in cooperation with by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and social issues, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

2.1.3.3 EU SOLIDARITY FUND - FSEU

The EU established the Solidarity Fund¹⁹⁴ (FSEU), with the aim of providing support to member states and countries that are in the process of negotiations for EU membership to more easily overcome the consequences of large-scale natural disasters. This expresses European solidarity with regions and countries within Europe that are affected by natural disasters. By covering parts of public expenditures, the FSEU contributes to the efforts of countries to implement activities for the reconstruction of the country and the rehabilitation of damage caused by natural disasters.

The Republic of Serbia, as a country in the process of negotiations for EU membership, submitted an application for funds from the EU Solidarity Fund on July 30, 2014, in order to repair the damage and restore the areas affected by the floods of May 2014.¹⁹⁵ Since the EU has adopted amendments to the regulation establishing the EU Solidarity Fund and its purpose is extended to cases of general threat to public health, the RS submitted an application for support from the EU Solidarity Fund in 2020. After a detailed assessment of applications for support from the EU Solidarity Fund, on March 11, 2021, the EC proposed to the European Parliament and the Council the mobilization of EUR 530 million in non-reimbursable support for 17 member states and 3 candidate states for membership in order to support measures to combat the coronavirus, of which Serbia should have received almost 11.9 million euros of non-refundable support from this Fund. Based on the decision of the EC and the accompanying communication, the Ministry of Finance, with the support of the MEI, initiated the process of determining which costs will be submitted for the allocated funds, given that it was designated as the coordinating body for this phase of the process during the preparation of the application¹⁹⁶.

193 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ostali-fondovi/>

194 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ostali-fondovi/>

195 On December 17, 2014, the European Parliament and the Council approved the proposal of the decision of the European Commission, which allocated funds to Serbia for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas affected by the May floods in the amount of 60.2 million euros (60,224,605 euros).

196 http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Solidarnost_na_delu_preview.pdf

2.1.3.4 REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

Regional housing programme¹⁹⁷ is a joint initiative of four countries - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro - which aims to provide permanent housing solutions for the 27,000 most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 individuals) in the region. Of these, 16,780 families (about 45,000 individuals) are in Serbia. The programme is implemented as part of the “Sarajevo Process”, based on the “Belgrade Declaration”, which was signed in 2011 by the ministers of foreign affairs of the four beneficiary countries of the programme. These countries were the most affected by the war conflicts of the 1990s and therefore have a significant refugee population. In the RS, the Programme is implemented on the basis of the Framework Agreement, concluded on October 25, 2013, between the RS and the Development Bank of the Council of Europe. The agreement regulates the basic settings of the programme, the implementation mechanism, the obligations of the participants in the programme and the amount of funds that will be engaged. The Programme is managed by the Development Bank of the Council of Europe, which administers a multi-donor fund formed for the purpose of implementing the Programme. The largest donor of this fund is the EU, which provides the largest part of the funds through the multi-user and national IPA. The total announced contribution to the EU fund is 235 million euros. Other donors are USA, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Turkey, Cyprus, Hungary, etc. The entire programme is under the jurisdiction of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the RS. Through the Programme, a large number of different housing solutions are provided: the allocation of building material packages, the construction of prefabricated houses, the purchase of rural houses and the construction of residential buildings. In this way, it is ensured that refugee families solve their housing issue in the way that suits them best in their current place of residence, bearing in mind that the Programme is implemented in over 120 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia. The donation agreement for the first subproject in the amount of 2,212,500 euros was signed in 2014. The following 8 donation contracts and associated amendments in the total value of EUR 169,930,645 (of which EUR 137,398,681 are donations from the Fund) were signed by the national IPA coordinator. These agreements collectively foresee the provision of a total of over 7,700 housing solutions¹⁹⁸.

2.1.4 GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

After signing the Sofia Declaration, the heads of state and government from the Western Balkans reached an agreement with the EU on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Green Agenda¹⁹⁹, which paves the way for them to realize the economic and investment plan for the region worth 30 billion euros. They committed to put sustainable development, resource conservation, nature protection and climate action at the center of all economic activities and to align with EU goals. The Council for Regional Cooperation (RCC) was in charge of coordinating the drafting of the document, and it was adopted in Slovenia at the EU Summit - Western Balkans. In the Action Plan for the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans for the period up to 2030, the most important segments are the collection of greenhouse gas

197 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/fondovi-evropske-unije/ostali-fondovi/>

198 www.regionalhousingprogramme.com; www.kirs.gov.rs

199 <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/rs/usvojeni-akcioni-plan-za-zelenu-agendu-za-zapadni-balkan-donosi-devet-milijardi-evra-grantova-rok-za-uskladjivanje-s-eu-ets-om-2024-godine/>

emissions, plans for the gradual cessation of coal use, regional integration, pollution control and environmental protection.

The investment package consists of nine billion euros in grants and 20 billion euros of investments, which will be implemented through the new Western Balkans Guarantee Facility. The countries of the region should implement economic and social reforms as well as strengthen the rule of law, the EU leaders stated and also pointed to the benefits for competitiveness and digital transition.

The EU announced that together with the 600 million euros that the European Commission will propose as part of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), it will make available 1.1 billion euros by the end of the year for the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan. The Western Balkans has the task of declaring energy and climate aspirations that will match the EU's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by the end of the decade, as well as other related goals, for which a massive transformation is necessary. The countries of the region will have to overcome the challenges that come with the gradual cessation of the use of coal, such as unemployment, disruptions in the economy and labor migration, the declaration from the summit states. Decarbonization will be achieved "through the use of fuels from renewable sources or fuels with reduced carbon emissions," the document states. Leaders of the 27-nation bloc have pledged to provide technical and financial assistance to develop a carbon charging system in the context of the Carbon Cross-Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which is essentially a carbon tax on imported goods and electricity.

The action plan for the Green Agenda has five pillars:

- 1) Decarbonization
- 2) Circular economy
- 3) Cleaning from pollution
- 4) Sustainable agriculture and
- 5) Protection of nature and biodiversity.

In the decarbonization part, the indicative deadline for harmonization with the European Climate Law and the adoption of the vision of achieving climate neutrality is 2025, and 2024 is set for harmonization with the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the introduction of other carbon charging instruments. The countries of the Western Balkans have agreed to include among the priorities, which they will finance, energy efficiency measures, the abolition of coal subsidies and programmes to combat energy poverty.

The segment of the circular economy implies that by 2023 at the latest, strategies will be developed that will encompass the entire product life cycle. Governments have pledged to raise awareness of waste prevention and separation and sustainable consumption.

On the pollution cleanup front, measures include the ratification of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols by 2025. The implementation of air quality strategies and the construction of the necessary infrastructure for the processing of waste water by 2030 at the latest are also planned.

As for sustainable agriculture, the indicative time frame sets 2026 as the horizon for adopting standards on food safety, plant and animal health and welfare, and waste management, as

well as supporting organic and pollution-free food cultivation and reducing the amount of synthetic chemicals products in food production. Among the measures in agriculture will have to be the use of renewable energy sources and the reduction of emissions.

The countries of the region have taken responsibility for the preparation of plans for the restoration of the forested landscape until 2024, including a financial component.

2.2 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS-BANKS

2.2.1 DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CEB²⁰⁰

Council of Europe Development Bank²⁰¹ (BSE) is a multilateral development bank with a social orientation. It was founded in 1956 in order to solve the problems of refugees, and later expanded the range of activities to the entire field of social development. RS joined this international bank in 2004. BSE provides concessional (favorable) loans and consulting services for socially oriented investment projects in the areas of:

- Sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Integration of refugees, displaced persons and migrants i
- Environmental protection.

Cooperation between RS and BSE is achieved primarily through projects financed through favorable loans such as: improvement of educational and scientific infrastructure and provision of accommodation for young researchers, reconstruction of housing infrastructure (landslides), construction of housing units for families affected by the earthquake in Kraljevo, construction and equipment new ones prison capacities in Pančevo and Kragujevac, etc. In addition to its own funds intended for lending, BSE also has funds entrusted to it for management by other donors. In this sense, as part of the response to the migrant crisis, the RS made available the “Fund for Migrants and Refugees”, through which the most urgent needs of migrant centers in Šid, Kanjiža and Preševo and other places are financed. In addition, the bank participates in the Investment Framework for the Western Balkans (see 2.1.1.5) and in this sense is responsible for part of the grants granted to the RS from this instrument, and is also in charge of managing the Regional Housing Care Programme intended to solve the housing problem of refugees (see 2.1.3.4), whose biggest user is the RS.

2.2.2 EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK EIB

European Investment Bank²⁰² (EIB) is an EU financial institution that plays a significant role in financing long-term investment projects. Outside the borders of the EU, the bank supports projects that contribute to economic development in countries that have signed a Stabilization and Association Agreement or a cooperation agreement with the EU or one of its members. The EIB provides support primarily through loans, but also through technical assistance, guarantee schemes and microfinancing. Loans are granted to the state as well as the private

200 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srp/fondovi/bilateralni-i-multilateralni-partneri/po-medjunarodnim-organizacijama/>

201 www.coebank.org

202 <http://www.eib.org/>

sector. Beneficiaries of loans in a broader sense can be municipalities and cities, ministries, state-owned companies, but also private companies and large corporations.

In accordance with the mandate defined by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, the EIB finances investments in the RS through loans (whereby the EIB can cover up to 50% of project costs), concluded directly with the project holder (individual loans) or indirectly, mainly through other banks (intermediate loans). In practice, individual loans are approved for strategically relevant projects and programmes worth more than 25 million euros, while intermediate loans are credit lines to banks and financial institutions intended to help finance small and medium-sized enterprises and local projects with justified investment programmes or projects worth up to 25 million euros. Loans are approved to support projects that are economically justified in the areas of transport, energy, environmental protection, industry and services, health and education, research and development, information and communication technology.

Currently, current projects in the Republic of Serbia financed by the EIB are:

- Construction of the Niš - Pristina highway. So far, the Republic of Serbia, with the support of the EIB, has received about 5 million through the Investment Framework for the Western Balkans. euros of grants.
- Modernization of the railway line Nis - Dimitrovgrad. Thanks to the support of the EIB, 44 mil. EUR of grants from WBIF, while in December 2017 another 28 million was approved. euros for the second phase of this project.

2.2.3 EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT EBRD

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development²⁰³ (EBRD) is has been active in RS since 2001. In the past period, the bank implemented more than 200 projects with a total value of around 4.24 billion euros, of which 62% were implemented in cooperation with the public sector, while 38% were implemented in cooperation with the private sector. The activities currently carried out by the EBRD are in accordance with the Strategy for Serbia approved by the Board of Directors in April 2014, and are focused on three key areas:

- The competitiveness of the private sector through the provision of financial and technical assistance primarily to the sector of small and medium enterprises. In this area, support to the private sector takes place directly through the provision of financial support, most often in the form of investment lending or securing working capital, or indirectly through financial intermediaries (such as banks). Technical assistance is reflected in the provision of consulting services or advice from experienced advisors, or the development of local advisory capacities.
- Stabilization of the financial sector through support to banking and non-banking institutions. In this area, the EBRD is focused on providing long-term financing for the banking sector and developing special products that would enable the marketing of special financial products, such as loans for energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy sources.

²⁰³ <http://www.ebrd.com/home>

- Development of sustainable public enterprises, including investment in energy, traffic and utility infrastructure. The bank also provides support for the preparation and implementation of major infrastructure activities in the energy, environment and transport sectors, through lending or a combination of loans and grants - independently or in cooperation with other partners such as the EU.

2.2.4 WORLD BANK WB

The activities of the World Bank, as a development partner in the Republic of Serbia, are defined by the document Framework for partnership for 2016-2020, with the main goal of supporting the process of accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, by creating a competitive and inclusive economy. The priority areas of development in this document are:

- fiscal and macroeconomic stability,
- strengthening management capabilities and institutional capacities,
- reform of public enterprises,
- improvement of business conditions,
- infrastructure development i
- labor market reform.

This cooperation is currently taking place through the implementation of projects worth more than 1.8 billion dollars, in the following areas: transportation, improving the business environment, competitiveness and employment, health, flood prevention and reconstruction, risk management, financial sector reform, public sector improvement, improvement of public enterprises i preschool education.

Recently approved projects²⁰⁴ у периоду 2021-2023 cy: Catalyzing Long Term Finance through Capital Markets, Improving public financial management for the green transition, First Serbia Green Transition Programmatic Development Policy Loan, Scaling-Up Residential Clean Energy (SURCE) Project, Serbia Local Infrastructure and Institutional Development Project, Public Sector Efficiency and Green Recovery DPL.

Programme Green, living and resilient cities in Serbia²⁰⁵

In June 2021, the World Bank launched the Green, Living and Resilient Cities Programme in Serbia, together with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, to strengthen sustainable and resilient urban development²⁰⁶. This activity is part of the World Bank's Global Umbrella Programme for Sustainable and Regional Development (SURGE) and is supported by the Swiss Confederation through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The

204 https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-summary?lang=en&countrycode_exact=YF

205 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/serbia/brief/green-livable-resilient-cities-in-serbia-programme>

206 Serbian cities are of vital importance for national economic growth. However, in order to become drivers of regional development and poverty reduction, they need to be better managed in order to increase their ability to live and the quality of life of their citizens. Improved strategic urban development and management can help cities in Serbia to fully utilize their potential and play a key role in supporting the country's green transition. The Government of Serbia recognizes the importance of cities for the national economy. In 2019, the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (SOUR) was adopted, followed by an action plan in March 2021, establishing a comprehensive and integral programme for the next phase of urban development in Serbia. This programme provides Serbia with a unique opportunity to advance towards the green transition at the sub-national/municipal level, foreseen by the EU Green Deal. It also fits with the World Bank's strategic direction for post-COVID-19 recovery in line with the World Bank's Green, Resilient Inclusive Development (GRID).

four-year technical assistance began in 2022 and will support selected cities in Serbia in the planning and implementation of sustainable, low-carbon and resilient urban development programmes, while providing national level policy recommendations and proposed actions to facilitate the implementation of the RS Sustainable Urban Development Strategy. A detailed analysis will also help to identify challenges in the municipal solid waste management sector. The programme aims to respond to existing gaps at the national level and to support selected cities to improve their capacities:

- To better plan, prepare and implement high-impact city-level investments that promote sustainable, low-carbon urban development and urban resilience, and
- Deepening the knowledge base and policy dialogue towards more inclusive, sustainable, resilient and green urban development, including lagging regions.

2.2.5 GERMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (KfW)

KfW is Germany's leading development bank²⁰⁷. During the 1960s, the bank expanded its activities to the international level by implementing German financial cooperation with developing countries on behalf of the German government. At the end of 2021, the balance amount was about 550 billion euros, and the annual approved funds worldwide exceed 130 billion euros, of which about 12 billion euros are in development cooperation. The main goals are to improve the economic and social living conditions of people, reduce poverty and protect the climate and the environment. The German federal government, as an institution of public law, owns 80% of the bank's capital, while the remaining 20% is owned by the German federal states. KfW supports RS in achieving goals and fulfilling obligations related to the EU accession process with a special focus on climate and energy, as well as sustainable development of urban infrastructure. An overview of the projects implemented in Serbia is available at the following link <https://nemackasaradnja.rs/mapa-projekata/>

Regional Challenge Fund (RCF)

Regional Fund for Challenges²⁰⁸ (RCF) is a financial mechanism established with the aim of increasing employability, especially of young people. The fund strengthens the competitiveness of companies in the economies of the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) through the financing of investments in equipment and infrastructure for selected cooperative or dual education projects that are carried out in partnership with professional educational institutions and companies. Funds are awarded after bidding (challenge) at the regional level.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) allocated 64.43 million euros for the RCF, and the Government of Switzerland, represented by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), co-financed an additional 9.7 million Swiss francs. The funds were entrusted to the German Development Bank (KfW), and the project is implemented by the Chamber Investment Forum of the Western Balkans (WB6-CIF), a joint initiative of chambers of commerce from the region.

²⁰⁷ <https://nemackasaradnja.rs/kfw/>

²⁰⁸ <https://rcf-wb6.org/sta-mi-radimo/?lang=me>

RCF supports projects jointly implemented by vocational training institutions and partner companies, which engage or plan to engage in cooperative education and training activities. Projects can receive support for the development of new programmes or the expansion and improvement of existing programmes. Grants are awarded to consortia that have successfully passed the two-phase selection process.

RCF provides financial and follow-up support to selected consortia for:

- Infrastructural works and equipment for facilities within institutions for vocational training and training
- Training of teachers from vocational training institutions, trainers in companies and coordinators for cooperative education and training (in vocational training institutions and in companies), required for the implementation of the funded training programme
- Advisory support during project planning and implementation

More than 1,500 training places will be offered through the supported projects. Up to 19,776,650 euros will be invested in projects implemented by institutes and companies for professional training. Each project will be supported by grants from EUR 150,000 to EUR 600,000.

2.3 BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, DONOR PROGRAMMES

2.3.1 UNITED NATIONS TEAM IN SERBIA

The United Nations (UN) has been present in the Republic of Serbia (former Yugoslavia) since the beginning of the crisis in the region, in the early 1990s. The United Nations team in Serbia²⁰⁹ has been cooperating with the Government of the RS since the beginning of the 2000s. The UN team in Serbia currently includes 20 agencies, funds and programmes, both resident and non-resident, who work together to improve national development priorities in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The team is coordinated by the permanent coordinator of the UN, and works according to the principles of the Framework for cooperation of UN nations for sustainable development with the RS 2021-2025, signed between the Government of the RS and the UN Team in Serbia. The framework represents a path towards three strategic priorities:

- 1) Serbia uses the full potential of a green, sustainable and inclusive economy - Increasing opportunities for all and risk management;
- 2) Well-being, social justice and human potential are at the heart of systems, policies and practices - Everyone has equal opportunities, throughout life, to realize their full potential;
- 3) Building trust and mutual responsibility through the rule of law and respect for human rights and obligations - Encouraging transparency, fairness and effectiveness

Milestones:

- Serbia adopts and implements strategies to combat climate change and protect the environment, which increase the community's resilience, reduce the carbon footprint and enhance the positive effects of investments at the national level;

²⁰⁹ <https://serbia.un.org/sr/about/about-the-un>

- Natural and cultural resources are managed in a sustainable manner;
- Fair economic and employment opportunities are fostered through innovation;
- Universal and inclusive access to quality, social and protection services has been improved;
- Skills, education and opportunities are improved to ensure fair outcomes for all;
- Mobility and demographic transition become vectors of positive change and prosperity for all people;
- All people, especially the more vulnerable, benefit from the realization of human rights, gender equality and improved rule of law in accordance with assumed international obligations;
- All people benefit from effective governance and meaningful civic engagement.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global call to action to prevent poverty, protect the environment and climate, and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity. The UN in Serbia is working on the implementation of 17 sustainable development goals.

In the period from 2011 to 2015, the UN team in Serbia provided assistance worth more than 230 million dollars. In June 2017, a new Development Partnership Framework (RDF) was signed between the Government of the RS and the UN Team in Serbia for the period 2016-2020. The new strategy is fully aligned with the Government's national priorities, the EU Accession Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. The value of the new UNDAF-and for the period 2016-2020. for Serbia, it is estimated at 170 million dollars, not including the funds set aside for emergency situations such as the refugee/migrant crisis.

2.3.2 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND SERBIA

Development cooperation between Germany and Serbia²¹⁰ started immediately after the democratic changes in 2000. Since then, GIZ has been present in Serbia with one central office in Belgrade and a larger number of project offices. By order of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ provides support to Serbia in the process of approaching the European Union, strengthening the efficiency of the economy and strengthening democratic structures. GIZ implements programmes and projects²¹¹ from the following areas:

- sustainable improvement of the economy and employment;
- good governance;
- environment.

²¹⁰ <https://nemackasaradnja.rs/giz/>

²¹¹ The following projects are being implemented in Serbia: Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe; Waste management, circular economy and green job opportunities; Energy efficiency in public buildings; Development of a sustainable bioenergy market; Social rights for vulnerable groups; Public administration reform; Social services for disadvantaged population groups; Promoting EU Integration in the Western Balkans; Open regional funds for South-East Europe – legal reform; Open regional funds for South-East Europe – modernisation of municipal services; Public finance reform; Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Biodiversity; Open regional funds for South-East Europe – Energy Efficiency; Economic Diversification of Rural Areas; Zoran Djindjic Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans; Programme „Migration for Development“; Private sector development in disadvantaged regions; Sustainable recruitment of nurses; Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Foreign Trade; Western Balkans School Exchange Scheme; Dialogue on Employment Creation, Initiative and Dual Education; Supporting young people in rural regions of Serbia; Strengthening Rule of Law in Serbia (giz.de)

Serbia also benefits from GIZ's regional projects. The Open Regional Fund for Southeast Europe, which brings together several countries, supports measures implemented in the areas of legal reform, counseling in the field of foreign trade, modernization of communal services, as well as energy efficiency, biodiversity and integration into the European Union.

2.3.3 FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AFD

French Development Agency²¹² opened a regional office in Serbia in 2019, which is responsible for the entire Western Balkans, as well as a representative office in Albania. The group finances, supports and accelerates the transition to a more harmonious and resilient world for the common good - climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education and health, thereby contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Activities are aligned with the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. This means that each project is evaluated according to its compliance with the implementation of the strategy of low-carbon development and long-term resilience. This principle is based on a clear fact: sustainable development and the fight against poverty cannot be separated from the fight against global warming and the protection of the environment or biodiversity.

With 5.2 billion euros approved for the year 2021 for the financing of climate projects, AFD is one of the main international financial institutions that support this type of projects, so that 55% of financial engagements have a direct impact on the fight against climate change and its mitigation consequences. In Serbia, AFD provided EUR 51 million for the reconstruction of railway infrastructure, capacity building and modernization of the sector, as well as EUR 50.5 million to support environmental reforms (implementation of Serbia's climate obligations in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the EU accession process). In cooperation with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the French Development Agency also contributes to the improvement of urban infrastructure in Serbia, through a valuable project (loan). 265.2 million euros (300 million US dollars).

Project "Development of local infrastructure and institutional strengthening of local self-governments of the Republic of Serbia"

Project holder²¹³ is the Government of the Republic of Serbia/Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. The goal of the project is to improve the capacity of local governments to manage sustainable infrastructure, as well as to improve access to economic and social potential in a climate-conscious manner, in accordance with the obligations arising from the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, adopted in 2020. as well as in accordance with the goals, measures and activities defined The strategy of sustainable urban development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation. The project will primarily provide investments and technical support for the sustainable improvement of local roads and mobility, as well as the overall resilience of local governments to climate change. Each local self-government will be entitled to a certain amount of funds, according to a formula that takes into account the number of inhabitants,

212 <https://rs.ambafrance.org/AFD-4148>

213 <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/projekti/razvoj-lokalne-infrastrukture-i-institucionalnog-jachanja-lokalnih-samouprava-republike>

area, level of development, as well as vulnerability to climate change. The expected start of the project is June 2022, while the completion of the project is expected in November 2028.

- The project is structured through the implementation of activities divided into three basic components:
- Component 1: Climate Smart Mobility
- Component 2: Strengthening capacity to provide services in the field of infrastructure
- Component 3: Project management and awareness raising

Together with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, AFD supports the expansion of infrastructure for solid waste management, through a loan of 150 million euros. Investments in the Western Balkans amount to more than 630 million euros, to which should be added support for two regional projects. The first project is dedicated to improving the quality of life in cities thanks to the “Smart City” programme. AFD also supports the RISE project, which provides support to young entrepreneurs from the Western Balkans, in cooperation with the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation (RYCO).

2.3.4 DONATION PROGRAMMES

Japan

The strategic framework of development cooperation with the RS is defined in the Japanese Development Cooperation Charter of February 2015. Priority areas of Japan’s bilateral development assistance to the RS²¹⁴ are:

- Environmental protection,
- Health and social protection and education i
- Entrepreneurship and support to small and medium enterprises.

Some of the examples of assistance that Japan provides to the RS are: non-project donations in the form of Japanese products, projects for the basic needs of the population (POPOS projects) which include one-time assistance such as the reconstruction of school buildings and kindergartens, the delivery of medical equipment and ambulances, garbage collection vehicles and containers, tanks, special vehicles for transporting people with special needs, etc., but also consulting assistance from Japanese experts since 2009 through the volunteer programme of the Government of Japan. Japan also provides concessional loans (yen loans), so the project “Construction of a desulfurization system at the Nikola Tesla Thermal Power Plant” will be realized from the funds of one of the loans.

Kingdom of Denmark

Denmark provides its development assistance to beneficiaries in most cases bilaterally, but also multilaterally mainly through the UN, EU institutions and the World Bank. Development cooperation strategy of the Kingdom of Denmark with the Republic of Serbia²¹⁵ is defined within a broader regional concept - the Danish Neighborhood Programme for Eastern Europe. Since 2017, with the completion of two large programmes financed by Danish bilateral grant aid in the

²¹⁴ <https://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/index.html>

²¹⁵ <http://serbien.um.dk/en/danish-cooperation/danish-cooperation-with-serbia/>

south of Serbia and the adoption of a new Danish development aid strategy, the Republic of Serbia has ceased to be the so-called Danish “partner state” and since then there has been no significant bilateral development aid from the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Serbia, given that the focus of Danish development aid in Europe is directed towards Ukraine and Georgia.

Kingdom of Norway

The Kingdom of Norway is one of the largest bilateral donors to the RS, whose support from 2008 to today amounts to more than 100 million euros. Norway provides assistance to Serbia through the Bilateral Cooperation Programme, the Embassy’s Fund for Small Projects, as well as direct grants to civil society organisations²¹⁶. In January 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MEI RS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, which refers to bilateral cooperation through projects and which defines the basic principles of cooperation between the two ministries with the aim of supporting Serbia’s integration into EU structures through projects that contribute to reform processes and the development of supported sectors in accordance with the requirements of the European integration process.

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Dutch development aid to the Republic of Serbia²¹⁷ has in the past years been focused on supporting the development of the agricultural sector, environmental protection, the private sector, employment, the rule of law, assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, and the building of institutional capacities. During 2019 and 2020, no new projects were contracted, and within two programmes - MATRA and the Human Rights Fund, which aim to help civil society organisations and the justice and internal affairs sectors, the Embassy of the Netherlands spent a total of 831,116 EUR. As part of the ORIO programme, the project Collection and treatment of waste water in Leskovac is being implemented in the Republic of Serbia. The total budget of the ORIO programme for the project in Leskovac is EUR 7.91 million.

Kingdom of Sweden

Sweden has adopted a new Strategy for supporting reforms in Serbia, the Western Balkans and Turkey 2021-2027²¹⁸. Financial support according to the new strategy for 2021-2027 amounts to 560 million euros, of which 500 million are distributed to the Western Balkans and 60 million to Turkey. Sweden’s total grant so far amounts to around 283 million euros. Sweden will continue with the trend of supporting the financing of programmes and projects in the RS in the amount of 12 million euros annually. The largest amount of non-reimbursed aid per sector in the period from 2000 to today was allocated by Sweden to the environmental protection sector in the total value of around 43 million euros. Among the ongoing projects, the following stand out:

- The PEID project (Priority Environmental Infrastructure for Development), through which support to the environmental protection sector continues - providing technical

²¹⁶ <https://www.norway.no/en/serbia>

²¹⁷ <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/serbia>

²¹⁸ <http://www.swedenabroad.com/sr-Latn-RS/Embassies/Belgrad/>

assistance to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, in order to prepare potential projects for financing in the coming period. The main goal is the creation of project-technical documentation for large infrastructure projects. The budget of the project is around 3 million euros.

- EISP 2 project (Environmental Infrastructure Support Project), which provides support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection in the implementation of smaller components of large infrastructure projects as well as in identifying potential projects in the field of environmental protection so that they are ready for the preparation of the necessary project-technical documentation. The project budget is around 2.9 million euros.
- The continuation of the project dealing with preparations for negotiations under Chapter 27 takes place through the ENVAP 3 project - Environment Accession Project (September 2016 - March 2021), where the budget is around 3 million euros.

People's Republic of China

The legal basis for cooperation between the RS and the People's Republic of China is the Agreement on t of the People's Republic of China, which is signed annually.²¹⁹ The priority areas of development cooperation are health, education, energy and security. In the past few years, several projects in the field of healthcare were implemented, which provided medical equipment for hospitals and health centers throughout the country. The People's Republic of China also provided significant support in terms of flood defense. The Government of the People's Republic of China also facilitated professional training by organizing seminars in various fields for representatives of institutions at the national and local level, chambers of commerce, small and medium-sized enterprises, universities, and hospitals.

Republic of Austria

Through development aid projects, the Republic of Austria supports the RS policy aimed at the prospect of EU accession²²⁰. Projects were implemented in the areas of regional development, education, environmental protection, agriculture, health, entrepreneurship development, social protection, strengthening of management capacity at the local level, as well as support for civil society organisations. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) as the implementing agency of the Republic of Austria applies European standards in the implementation of various EU programmes/projects:

- Implementation of the EU programme entitled "Socio-economic development of the Danube region in the Republic of Serbia", financed from EU funds - The project consists of several components, including the construction and renovation of infrastructure, such as the construction of a water supply system in the municipality of Veliko Gradište, as well as rehabilitation Golubac Fortress, for which the Republic Austria provided 1,800,000 euros in grants.

²¹⁹ <http://rs.chineseembassy.org/srp/>

²²⁰ <http://www.entwicklung.at/en/>

- Regional project to support the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans - The overall goal of the project is to improve the transition of the Western Balkans towards modern, resource-efficient and competitive economies. The specific goal is to support the implementation of the Green Agenda, which achieves the commitment to transforming the economy in a sustainable way and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The total budget of the project is 11,000,000 euros. The regional project was started in 2022.

According to the volume of allocated funds, the Republic of Austria is the third largest bilateral donor participating in the financing of WBIF, with funds provided in the amount of 17.9 million euros cumulatively, in the period 2009-2020. year.

Republic of France

Based on the Agreement on Strategic Partnership and Cooperation, the French government provides support to the RS in public policies in the EU accession process. According to the agreement between the Governments of Serbia and France on the French Development Agency and PROPARCO signed in 2019, the AFD office in Belgrade functions as a regional office for the Western Balkans and has been fully operational since 2019. In accordance with the aforementioned Agreement, AFD Group provides financial support, such as grants and guarantees for long-term loans to the state, local governments, public and private companies and financial institutions, as well as subsidies, in accordance with the rules of foreign exchange operations of the RS. The areas of cooperation are:

- Development of the metro system in the city of Belgrade - At the end of November 2020, an agreement was signed between the governments of Serbia and France on cooperation in the field of priority infrastructure projects, investment value of 581 million euros, which foresees that 454 million will be invested in the construction of the first line of the Belgrade metro euros. It is envisaged that French companies will provide the metro compositions and carry out work on the “electromechanical part”, while Chinese companies will carry out construction work. The official start of works on the development of the metro system began in 2021, with the execution of preparatory works and works on filling the ground, construction of collectors at the location of the planned Depot (terminal) in Makiško polje.
- In the energy sector, an amount of up to 127,000,000 euros is foreseen. for the automation of the medium voltage electrical distribution network
- Within the Programme, the so-called “green development loans” RS has at its disposal a credit arrangement of 300 million US dollars from the World Bank, KfW and AfD group. The estimated funds of the AfD group are in the amount of 90 million US dollars.
- In the field of environmental protection, the city of Belgrade chose the company BeoČistaEnergija d.o.o. (consisting of a consortium consisting of the French company “SUEZ” and the Japanese company “ITOCHU”) as a partner within the Public-Private Partnership, for the project of construction and financing of a waste-to-energy plant in Vinci. The Vinca project includes rehabilitation of the existing landfill, construction of a new storage center according to European standards and an incineration unit with the production of electricity and heat (incinerator).

- In the third quarter of 2021, the law was adopted on the confirmation of the Loan Agreement in the amount of 50,000,000 euros, between the AFD Group and the RS for the implementation of reforms aimed at the so-called “green recovery” through the Programme Loan for Public Policies “Urban Environments Resilient to Climate Change”. An integral part of the Programme is a grant in the amount of 500,000 euros for the needs of technical support to the Government of Serbia, which includes the development of a Road Map for climate activities at the national and local self-government levels (Smederevo and Užice). Support was provided for the drafting of by-laws of the Law on Climate Change and the assessment of capacity building.

Republic of Greece

The Hellenic Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans (HiPERB) is a programme of Greek development assistance within the framework of which the Government of the Republic of Greece has designated grants for six Balkan countries - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania²²¹. The target sector of this aid programme is infrastructure modernization, especially in the transport sector. Two extremely important projects for Serbia that are supported by the HiPERB plan are the construction of Corridor 10.

Republic of India

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) is implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of India as a bilateral aid programme of that country to friendly countries. This programme mainly targets developing countries, including RS, which are offered free training courses in India for various technical and professional occupations, as well as the possibility of faster and easier adaptation to an increasingly globalized world.²²². In the period from 2013 to the end of 2019, approximately 80 civil servants of the RS attended ITEC courses (from 2008 to today there are about 167 experts, representatives of the government and private sector) in various fields and scientific disciplines, including information and communication technologies, expenditure management, entrepreneurship, the WTO area, banking and finance, renewable energy sources, issues related to climate change, legislation, improving the English language, etc.

Republic of Korea

The Knowledge sharing programme (KSP) is implemented in cooperation with the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and aims at institutional development and strengthening the capacities of employees in state administration bodies of partner countries. The programme provides consultations focused on the needs of partner countries, which are carried out through a series of joint research works, trainings, consultations, which are held alternately in Korea and partner countries. This is how the following programmes are implemented:

²²¹ <http://www.mfa.gr/serbia/sr/the-embassy/>

²²² www.itecgoi.in

- KOICA Fellowship programmes - KOICA partner programmes - The primary goal of this programme is additional education for technical skills and knowledge, as well as capacity building for sustainable socio-economic development;
- Master's studies (KOICA Scholarship Programme - Master's Degrees) - postgraduate (master's) studies;
- Serbian-Korean IT Access Center (SKIP Center) - opened in Belgrade in 2017, and a second SKIP center is planned in Niš, intended for free IT training for citizens, civil servants and start-up companies

Republic of Poland

Polish development cooperation in Serbia²²³ implemented through small development projects, which are implemented by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland with local partners. The main goal is to implement projects that will improve the living standards of the local population. Within the framework of the system of small grants, the initiatives of small development projects that bring positive effects on the daily life of local communities are carried out. Bilateral aid can be used by institutions from the public finance sector, research institutes, non-governmental organisations and persons from the private sector. Partners in projects are usually local non-governmental organisations, public institutions or local governments. The projects implemented in Serbia in the period 2007-2020 had a total value of 253,856 euros. At the third session of the "Belgrade Conference" held in Warsaw in 2019, three parallel panels took place: environmental protection, judicial system and communication in the field of European integration.

Republic of Singapore

During the 1970s, Singapore began to share its experiences with partner countries around the world through various programmes. These programmes were brought under a unified framework when the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) was established in 1992. The cooperation programme is a series of courses, programmes, seminars, workshops, consultations, as well as study visits in a number of areas organized by the Government of Singapore and aims to share with partner countries Singapore's experience in acquiring important technical skills and knowledge that are of vital importance for the economic and social progress of a country. SCP training areas include education, environment (climate change, environmental protection...), transport and infrastructure, economy and economy, social issues (social entrepreneurship and innovation, social cohesion, empowerment of people with disabilities and special needs...), health, cyber security, sustainable development (renewable energy, sustainable cities, energy efficiency and emission reduction), state administration and digital government. Candidates for training programmes can be civil servants - managers of narrower internal units in public administration institutions as well as civil servants in position, unless otherwise indicated.

²²³ www.belgrad.msz.gov.pl

Republic of Slovenia

Technical assistance activities²²⁴ are focused on supporting the institutions of the Republic of Serbia in the process of European integration, including support in harmonizing regulations, harmonizing procedures in the work of our institutions with EU standards, improving the quality of services, improving organisational structures through the transfer of the experience of Slovenian institutions and organisations. The amount of funds allocated for development aid is determined annually by the Development Plan of the Republic of Slovenia. Currently, a project called “Help in preventing corruption” is being implemented, which aims to improve the conditions for ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of public sector institutions in the RS, as well as strengthening the capacity for effective implementation of legal competences of institutions in the fight against corruption. The project holder is the Anti-Corruption Agency, and the total value is 95,580 euros.

Republic of Turkey

The legal framework for cooperation with the Republic of Turkey in the field of donor, development and humanitarian aid in emergency situations is represented by the Agreement between the governments of the two countries on technical and financial cooperation²²⁵ from 2009. With its signing, the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination in the RS (TIKA) officially began its work, through which cooperation with the institutions of the RS is directed and achieved. Priority areas that are supported through the programme of development cooperation with education, health, agriculture, culture, historical heritage and tourism. The total estimate of the realization of the development assistance funds of the Republic of Turkey amounts to over 37 million euros.

Important examples of support through donor funds are: the reconstruction and equipping of the General Hospital in Novi Pazar, the Center for the Protection of Children, Infants and Youth “Zvečanska”, the reconstruction of the High Court building in Novi Pazar, works on the restoration of Ram Fortress near Veliko Gradište, works on to the restoration of the “Sultanija” Mosque Valide” in Sjenica, construction and reconstruction of several elementary schools in Novi Pazar. During 2020 and 2021, most donor funds were directed through projects in the field of health, environmental protection, media, education, culture, sports, humanitarian aid, cultural and historical heritage, as well as support in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal Republic of Germany

Bilateral development cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the RS has been ongoing since 2000. The Republic of Serbia was granted over 1.8 billion euros in development aid from the funds of the German Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the funds of the Ministry of the Environment, the Stability Pact and others in the form of grants and soft loans. Financial support projects are implemented by the German Development Bank (KfW), while technical assistance projects are implemented by the German Cooperation Agency²²⁶ (GIZ). In the past period, German development aid funds in the RS

²²⁴ www.belgrade.embassy.si

²²⁵ <http://www.tika.gov.tr/en>

²²⁶ <http://www.belgrad.diplo.de/> and www.nemackasaradnja.rs

were directed to the implementation of projects and programmes in three priority areas: 1) public infrastructure (energy and water) - electricity and thermal energy supply, water supply, sewage infrastructure (wastewater management); 2) sustainable economic development and employment - improvement of legal frameworks in the field of finance and economy, development of the financial sector, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, support for secondary vocational education and training reforms and 3) democracy, state administration, civil society - support for the development of decentralized administration, efficient and results-oriented, especially in the domain of improving transparency, the rule of law, the justice system and balancing the forces of different parts of the state administration, as well as helping in the preparation for accession negotiations and supporting the EU accession process over the last few years. In terms of the volume of approved funds and the significance of the achieved results, the Federal Republic of Germany undoubtedly represents the most important bilateral development partner of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition to projects implemented at the national level, FR Germany provides both financial and technical assistance to regional projects and programmes. Regional financial cooperation is implemented through the following cooperation instruments: 1) Regional instrument for support of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; 2) European Fund for Southeast Europe and 3) Green Fund for the Development of Southeast Europe. Regional technical cooperation is implemented through three regional programmes: 1) Open regional fund for Southeastern Europe; 2) Regional programme for the establishment of the Danube Center of Competence to strengthen the region of the lower reaches of the Danube and 3) Cross-border cooperation in the field of social inclusion of persons who are victims of human trafficking.

United States of America

Development cooperation with the United States of America (USA) is implemented through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The legal basis for cooperation is the assistance agreements between the RS and the USA for better functioning of the administration and a more competitive market economy. Priority areas of development cooperation between the RS and the USA include the development of local self-governments, development of small and medium-sized enterprises, institution building, rule of law, European integration and strengthening of the civil sector. Significant projects within the framework of better functioning of the administration²²⁷ are: “Rule of Law” (*The Rule of Law project*), “Strengthening the media system” (*Strengthening of the media systems*), “Strengthening resilience to the refugee crisis” (*Enhancing Local Resilience to Refugee Crisis*). Significant projects within a more competitive market economy²²⁸ are: “Support for the development of the private sector in southern and southwestern Serbia” (*Private Sector Development Project*) and “Project for a competitive economy” (*Competitive Economy Project*).

²²⁷ <https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/democracy-human-rights-and-governance>

²²⁸ <https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/economic-growth-and-trade>

Slovak Republic

Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and RS²²⁹ focuses on supporting the transformation process, implementing reforms, including public finance reform, increasing the involvement of the private sector in development cooperation, and supporting reconciliation and dialogue between communities. In the past period, Slovakia provided aid to Serbia through the Slovak Development Agency “Slovak Aid”. In the following period, the focus of bilateral development cooperation with Slovakia will be the transfer of experience related to the integration of countries into Euro-Atlantic structures, the encouragement of innovation and the start-up of enterprises, assistance in the digitalization of public administration, support for small and medium-sized enterprises in connection with employment, with a focus on female entrepreneurs, as well as integration of socially marginalized citizens. The Slovak Republic also participates in the implementation of projects financed under the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

United Kingdom

Within the development cooperation between the RS and the United Kingdom²³⁰, representatives of the British Embassy in RS play an active role in the process of coordinating development aid. The Good Governance Fund (GGF) is a multi-year programme and part of this fund is available to Serbia to support reforms in the following areas: rule of law (judiciary, fight against corruption, human and minority rights, etc.), public administration, economy and business environment, strengthening freedom of expression. The Good Governance Fund operates through three channels: 1) The Strategic Support Fund (SSF), which targets pilot projects and civil society organisations, through the provision of direct grants. Supported projects focused on priority areas of the GGF Fund: from improving the business environment to strengthening government accountability and freedom of expression; 2) International Financial Institutions (IFIs) channel, which is designed to support reforms through cooperation with international financial institutions. The most significant resources are focused on the development of e-Government (the project “Digital transformation” and the project “Open Data”), implemented with the help of UNDP and the Office for Information Technologies and Electronic Administration of the Government of the RS, and 3) the Management Fund (MOF), which managed by a consortium led by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and includes technical assistance for projects developed in cooperation with state institutions.

Swiss Confederation

The state of Switzerland has been present in Serbia since 1991. So far, financial support amounts to 350 million euros. The Government of the Swiss Confederation has two institutions in its composition that are responsible for development aid. Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC, engl. *Swiss Development Agency, SDC*) is attached to the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is in charge of development assistance related to the support of capacity building projects, technical assistance, i.e. the so-called “soft” projects aimed at reforming

229 <http://www.mzv.sk/belehrad>

230 <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-belgrade.sr>

the administrative and general social system. State secretariat for economic affairs (SECO, Engl. *State Secretariat for Economic Affairs DRY*), of the Swiss Ministry of Economy is responsible for development projects that are exclusively of an infrastructural nature.

The new Strategy for the period 2018-2021 is focused on the areas of management, economic development and sustainable energy sources. Switzerland decided on 95 million euros, which is 10% more in relation to the previous strategic period:

- In the area of management, support in the amount of 36 million euros will be provided to legislation at the republican and local level in order to strengthen the position of representative bodies, as well as their supervisory role. Attention will be focused on the capacities of local self-governments in managing public finances in order to improve the overall quality of services to citizens and the business sector. Support to civil society will have a stronger role with the aim of strengthening ties between civil society organisations and citizens in order to increase their participation and ensure a voice in the decision-making process;
- In the area of economic development and employment, support in the amount of 45 million euros it is intended to improve the macroeconomic framework, business environment and inclusive policies to overcome inequality. Attention will be focused on local economic development, trade promotion, youth employment, dual education and private sector development with the aim of sustainable development and quality employment, especially in rural areas;
- In the area of self-sustainable energy and resilient cities, support in the amount of 14 million euros it is intended to strengthen the exploitation of renewable energy sources, the application of energy efficiency measures and the strengthening of capacities for management and planning of infrastructural activities. Additionally, support in this area will be extended to activities that will contribute to the development of self-sustainable cities, with the aim of reaching national goals of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Switzerland provided support in strengthening capacities for migration management, improving capacities for reception, registration of asylum seekers and approval of an innovative housing model for migrants on the territory of Serbia in the amount of 2 million euros.

Organisation HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation²³¹ implements in Serbia “Social Sciences for a better society”, “Act for a Stronger Civil Society”, “Building Economies Where All Can Prosper” projects. In 2023, HELVETAS and Transparency Serbia published the results of the Local Participation Index (LIPA) survey.²³² where it is pointed out that the citizens of Serbia are not sufficiently involved in the process of making decisions, regulations, decisions on spending money from local budgets, in public discussions and other mechanisms of LGU functioning. This index classifies municipalities and cities into six clusters. None of the 44 local governments in Serbia included in the research is in the rank of the highest cluster, the so-called “full participation”, and the average grade, that is, the average level of participation index in Serbian municipalities is only 26.4 percent, which is in the range of “basic participation”. According to

231 <https://www.helvetas.org/en/eastern-europe/what-we-do/where-we-work/partner-countries/serbia>

232 <https://n1info.rs/biznis/istrazivanje-gradjani-nedovoljno-ukljuceni-u-odluke-o-trosenju-novca-na-lokalu/>

the LIPA research results, only one JLS has a “high” level of participation (above 60 percent) - and that is the city of Užice. LIPA results from 30 percent to 45 percent (moderate level of participation) have 14 LGUs, among which Veliko Gradište and Sombor are the best. The average index of 26.4 percent, which is in the range of “basic participation”, has almost half of LGUs (20 of them), and less than 15 percent (low level of participation) has nine municipalities

ANNEX 5 - DECISIONS ON ADOPTION OF THE TERRITORIAL STRATEGY

На основу члана 40. став 1. тачка 4. Статута града Зајечара („Службени лист града Зајечара“, бр. 4/2019 и 67/2021), Скупштина града Зајечара, на седници одржаној 26.06.2024 године, донела је

ОДЛУКУ

о усвајању Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац

Члан 1.

Овом Одлуком, усваја се Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац

Члан 2.

Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац је саставни део ове Одлуке.

Члан 3.

Ступањем на снагу ове Одлуке, престаје да важи Одлука о усвајању Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац I број 011-5/2024 од 21.02.2024. године.

Члан 4.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у "Службеном листу града Зајечара".

I број: 011-15/2024
У Зајечару, 26.06.2024 године

СКУПШТИНА ГРАДА ЗАЈЕЧАРА

ПРЕДСЕДНИК
Стефан Занков



На основу члана 30. став 1. Статута општине Књажевац – пречишћен текст („Службени лист општине Књажевац“, бр. 6/2019), Скупштина општине Књажевац, на седници одржаној 14.06.2024. године, донела је

ОДЛУКУ

о усвајању Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац

Члан 1.

Овом Одлуком, усваја се Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац.

Члан 2.

Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац је саставни део ове Одлуке.

Члан 3.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у "Службеном листу општине Књажевац".

Број: 001940867 2024 05261 004 004 017 001
У Књажевцу, 14.06.2024. године

ПРЕДСЕДНИК СО КЊАЖЕВАЦ,
Марко Стојановић, с.р.

Тачност преписа оверава:



СЕКРЕТАР СО,
дипл. правник Љиља Миленковић

Љ. Миленковић

На основу члана 42. став 1. тачка 4. Статута општине Сокобања („Службени лист општине Сокобања“, бр. 6/19 и 8/23), Скупштина општине Сокобања, на седници одржаној 11.03.2024. године, донела је

ОДЛУКУ

**о усвајању Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина
Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац**

Члан 1.

Овом Одлуком, усваја се Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац.

Члан 2.

Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац је саставни део ове Одлуке.

Члан 3.

Ова Одлука ступа на снагу осмог дана од дана објављивања у "Службеном листу општине Сокобања".

I број: 02-31/24
У Сокобањи, 11.03.2024. године

СКУПШТИНА ОПШТИНЕ СОКОБАЊА

ПРЕДСЕДНИЦА
Данијела Васиљевић, с.р.



На основу члана 10. и 38. став 3. Закона о планском систему Републике Србије („Сл. гласник РС“, бр. 30/2018), члана 13. став 1. и члана 32. став 1. тачка 6) Закона о локалној самоуправи („Сл. гласник РС“, бр. 129/2007, 83/2014- др. закон, 101/2016- др. закон, 47/2018 и 111/2021- др. закон), члана 40. став 1. тачка 4) Статута Општине Бољевац („Службени лист Општине Бољевац“, бр. 2/2019, 13/2022 и 23/2023), Скупштина Општине Бољевац, на седници одржаној 07. 03. 2024. године, донела је

ОДЛУКУ

о усвајању Стратегије развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац

Члан 1.

Усваја се Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац.

Члан 2.

Стратегија развоја урбаног подручја града Зајечара и општина Књажевац, Сокобања и Бољевац, саставни је део ове Одлуке.


Члан 3.

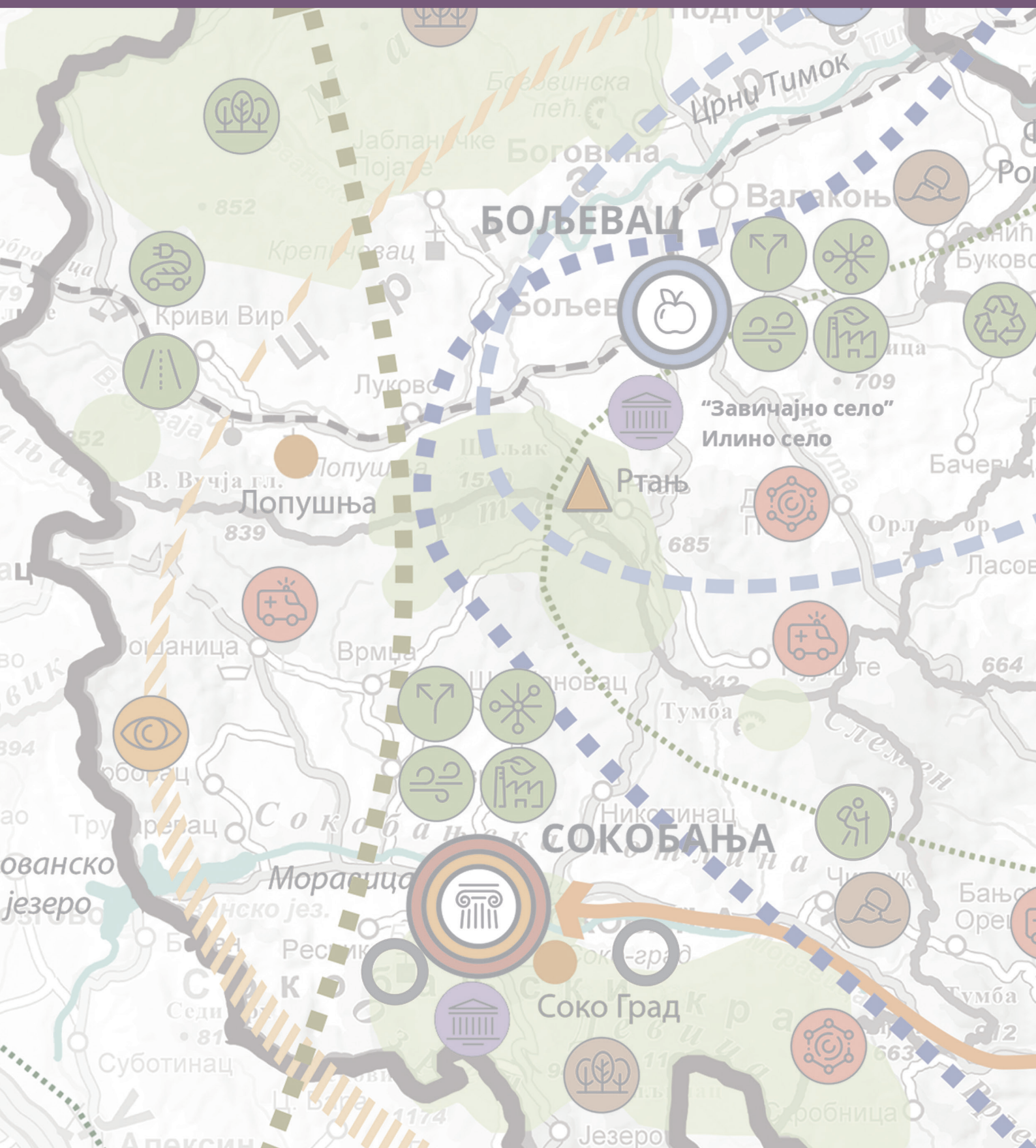
Ову Одлуку објавити у „Службеном листу Општине Бољевац“.

СКУПШТИНА ОПШТИНЕ БОЉЕВАЦ

Број: 06-18 / 2024- I/2
Бољевац, 07. 03. 2024. године

ПРЕДСЕДНИК
СКУПШТИНЕ ОПШТИНЕ
Јелена Милосављевић Радисављевић





Ministry of European Integration
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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