

# ANNUAL REPORT

## ON ACTIVITIES OF THE BELGRADE OPEN SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR 2023



30  
YEARS

**BOS**  
—  
BELGRADE  
OPEN  
SCHOOL

**ANNUAL REPORT  
ON ACTIVITIES OF  
THE BELGRADE OPEN SCHOOL  
FOR THE YEAR 2023**

**RESILIENT SOCIETY  
BASED ON  
KNOWLEDGE, PARTNERSHIP  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

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## MISSION, VISION AND VALUES OF BOS

### MISSION

Belgrade (BOS) is a non-profit, educational civil society organisation founded in 1993. BOS empowers and networks change-makers, improves public policies and brings together public, business and civil sectors in order to build a resilient society, based on knowledge, partnership and accountability.

### VISION

Resilient society based on knowledge, partnership and accountability.

### BOS VALUES



# STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRUCTURE



## STRATEGIC PLAN

The new strategic plan of the Belgrade Open School for the period 2023 - 2025 was created as a result of the strategic planning process, which took place in 2022, after the end of the strategic plan of BOS for the period 2019 - 2021. The strategic document for the period 2023 - 2025 is the result of significant efforts made by the entire BOS team, in order to set a new development plan and priorities for the next three years.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Contributing to the development of civil society and individuals through educational programs, trainings, study visits, sharing information, counselling, financial and expert support, as well as mentoring and networking.

### IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Improving the process of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and enhancing their quality through research, advocacy, support of participation in decision-making processes, networking and mentoring support.

BOS contributes to both goals with its work in the following areas:

- Civil society
- European integration
- Energy, climate and environment
- Employability and career guidance and counselling
- Education
- Youth policies
- Good governance

DEVELOPMENT  
OF CIVIL  
SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS  
AND INDIVIDUALS

IMPROVEMENT OF  
PUBLIC POLICIES



CIVIL SOCIETY



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



ENERGY, CLIMATE AND  
ENVIRONMENT



EMPLOYABILITY AND CAREER  
GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING



EDUCATION



YOUTH POLICIES



GOOD GOVERNANCE

## **BOS GOVERNANCE: FUNCTIONING AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS' WORK**

### **ASSEMBLY OF THE BELGRADE OPEN SCHOOL**

#### **AND THE SUPERVISORY BOARD**

The Assembly of the Belgrade Open School, which consists of 13 founders, prominent individuals elected from the alumni community of the Belgrade Open School, held a meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Following documents were adopted at the meeting: the Report on the work of BOS as well as the Financial Report for 2022. Two new members of the Supervisory Board were elected. By inspecting the accounting records, they prepared and signed the report of the Supervisory Board, also for the year 2022. At this session of the BOS Assembly, it was confirmed that the mandate of the members of the Steering Committee will be extended for another two years. Since the celebration of 30 years of BOS was approaching, the members were informed about the plans regarding the celebration of the jubilee.

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

The meetings of the Steering Committee were held twice in the year 2023 - in April and in September. At the meeting held in April, the members of the Steering Committee were presented with the innovations to the educational program Future Studies. The program has been adapted to the needs and wishes of students, as well as current social trends. The mentoring program has also been improved, through which students will have the opportunity to collaborate more intensely with successful individuals from various fields, from the academic community to business. One of the topics of discussion was the celebration of 30 years of the Belgrade Open School - the Steering Committee has drafted the concept of the jubilee celebration. President of the Steering Committee, Slobodan Markovic, took on the task of arranging the participation in the jubilee celebration of the author of numerous world bestsellers & Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Misha Glenny.

At the session in September, the following were adopted: Report on the work of BOS for the year 2022, Financial report for the year 2022, as well as the report of the Supervisory Board, also for 2022.

The Steering Committee members are: Slobodan Markovic, PhD, President of the Steering Committee of the Belgrade Open School and Full professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade and the Institute for European Studies; Vladimir Cerovic, President of the Alumni Organization of the Belgrade Open School and Regional Director of Business Network International LLC; Jelena Jerinic, PhD, Full professor at the Faculty of Law, Union University, Belgrade; Natasa Nikolov, PR & Event Manager, Vladimir Pavicevic, PhD, Political scientist and politician; Djordje Petric, Director of Servus Hanyang Group Europe; Rade Rakocevic, PhD, Financial investor, Owner of Senzal Capital; Jelena Sribar, HR Consultant; Marinko Vucinic, President of the Assembly of the Belgrade Open School.



## **BOS COLLEGIUM (BOSco)**

BOS Collegium began its work in 2014 with the aim of improving internal communication and the overall work of the Belgrade Open School. BOSco consists of elected representatives of teams from the areas that BOS works on. During 2023, 20 meetings were held in order to actively work on the planning of ongoing activities of BOS, quality team collaboration and coordination goals of the organization.

## **GENERAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

In addition to the obligatory procedures prescribed by law, the Belgrade Open School has developed additional internal procedures. In 2023, the Belgrade Open School continued to introduce new and develop already existing internal procedures and rules. A new improved Labour Rulebook was adopted, which regulates the rights and obligations of all employees of the Belgrade Open School in accordance with the current Labour Law.

The Rulebook on the organization and systematization of workplaces has been changed, which follows the development of the Belgrade Open School by introducing new workplaces and detailing the scope of work, duties and responsibilities in existing workplaces. We have developed the Rulebook on House Rules, which regulates the issue of maintaining the work process in the premises of BOS, as well as the Rulebook on Prevention of Corruption in 2023. In accordance with the adoption of new laws and by-laws in 2023, Belgrade Open School adopted the necessary legal acts and adhered to the stipulated rules in its work.

On the basis of the Law on archival material and archival activity, a set of documents was adopted, among which are the new Archive Book, the new List of categories of registry material with retention periods, as well as the Rulebook on the method of recording, classifying, archiving and storing archival and documentary material.

Also, based on the new Law on Safety and Health at Work, new procedures and rules have been adopted and are being applied in order to: a) improve and implement safety measures for its employees and persons who find themselves in the working environment, b) to prevent injuries at work, occupational diseases and illnesses in connection with the work and c) to apply the general principles of prevention.

In addition, more than 400 individual legal acts were created - employment contracts, decisions, notices, agreements. In accordance with the adopted rules and instructions, in 2023, with the aim of training employees and engaged persons, two trainings were held on the topic "Implementation of the procurement procedure in Belgrade Open School", one training on the topic "Prevention of corruption in Belgrade Open School", as well as on the topic "Contracts and its implementation in Belgrade Open School".

## FINANCIAL SECTOR

In 2023, the financial sector of the Belgrade Open School successfully registered all business changes and implemented tasks arising from the entire business of the organization in accordance with the Law on Accounting of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the Rulebook on Public Procurement and Financial Procedures of BOS. These activities will result in the publication of the financial report of BOS for 2023, which will be publicly available on the Serbian Business Registry Agency, as well as on the official website of BOS.

In 2023, the financial reporting of 24 projects has started and been completed, of which we highlight the work on 10 large scale projects that include work with partner organizations, while 7 included working on grant schemes. The financial sector successfully worked on the processing the financial reports of 130 partners and grantees

In June 2023, an audit of the entire BOS operations was made. Furthermore, audits of five financial reports were successfully carried out, three of which are reports for projects with grant schemes in the following period, after the submission of the final accounts, an audit of the entire BOS operations and the financial report for 2023 is planned.

Given that BOS provides professional and innovative services by strengthening the capacity of the civil, public and business sectors, the financial sector performed a cost analysis, issued and collected 124 various invoices.

It should also be noted that the financial sector of BOS was reorganized in 2023. The finance team now has seven employees, including one financial manager, five financial coordinators, one administrative coordinator and one accountant. In accordance with business requirements, the procedures for control, approval and payment of expenses were changed, while other procedures, forms and internal documents that should ensure the smooth functioning of the entire business of BOS were also improved.

## IT SECTOR

In 2023, the IT sector of the Belgrade Open School created and redesigned numerous online platforms:

- The entire website of the Belgrade Open School was redesigned on the occasion of the organization's 30th anniversary. On the same occasion, the BOS Monograph30 was created.
- The website of the Future Studies educational program was redesigned to meet the jubilee 30th generation of students.
- A website was created for the EU resource center for civil society in Serbia, and within it a database of civil society organizations from all over Serbia.
- As part of the Together for the Environment project, the website [zazivotnusredinu.bos.rs](http://zazivotnusredinu.bos.rs) was designed and created.
- As part of the Mingl youth portal, the website Youth and Media for Democratic Development was created.
- A comprehensive educational platform was created for the project Virtual Internships for an Inclusive Society.
- For the purposes of the Move.Link.Engage conference, the website of the same name was redesigned.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communication strategy of Belgrade Open School has the long-term goal of establishing unified external communication, following the strategic goals. Belgrade Open School has its active accounts on the following social networks: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#), as well as podcast platforms such as [Spotify](#). In addition to the official website of the organization, communication with the interested public goes through the following BOS platforms: [BOS Career](#), [Mingle](#), [Let's Talk About Negotiations](#), [WorkPractices](#), [Move.Link.Engage](#), [Dialogue of Change](#), [Community Energy](#).

In addition to these communication channels, e-mail marketing is part of BOS communication strategy. In 2023, platforms for e-mail campaigns, newsletters and publications were improved, as well as the structure of online platforms to facilitate SEO optimization.

During 2023 the communication channels of BOS were improved, which resulted in constant growth of reach and engagement metrics, a larger number of followers, and also increased visibility of BOS projects and services. The total number of visits to websites and platforms was over 1.380.000, while the total reach of campaigns on social networks was over 6.000.000.

In 2023, we continued developing Instagram reels videos, in line with the transformation of this network and its algorithm that increasingly prefers short video content. BOS has also created 11 new podcast episodes with different thematic concepts – two episodes within Dialogue of Change series and 9 episodes within a whole new series Let's talk about negotiations.

Cooperation with traditional and electronic media, both at the national and local level, has been improved. More than 800 media announcements were made in print and online media, and more than 40 TV and radio appearances were secured.

In 2023, the communications team held external training on non-verbal communication to the Russian company Confidence Pharmaceutical Research, as well as internal training on business communication to the entire BOS team.

The year was also marked by the 30th anniversary of BOS, during which a successful campaign was carried out in the media and on social networks. General director Vesna Djukić gave an interview to the daily newspaper Politika (print and online edition), executive director Milorad Bjeletić spoke to the Nedeljnik portal, while program director Vladimir Pavlović was a guest on the Demostat podcast (reported by Beta agency, Danas online, N1). Three short promotional videos were filmed - PEOPLE, KNOWLEDGE, ACTIONS - about the origin, development and achievements of the Belgrade Open School. The central event marking the jubilee - a round table in which Misha Glenny, Ivan Vejvoda and Slobodan Marković - was covered by the media. After the jubilee celebration, the publication "Conversation with Misha Glenny and Ivan Vejvoda in Belgrade on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Belgrade Open School" was published.

Overview of website and online portals of Belgrade Open School in 2023

Website/ Online portal	Interaction number
Belgrade Open School	238.741
Let's talk about negotiations	59.379
EU Resource Center	141.588
Together for the Environment	202.047
Dialogue of Change	18.643
Mingle	184.885
BOS Career	517.096
Work Practices	1.915
Move.Link.Engage.	4.505
Active Citizens	15.123
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.386.808</b>

Overview of Belgrade Open School social networks in 2023

Platform	Page	Number of followers
Facebook	Belgrade Open School	15.920
Instagram	Belgrade Open School	4.794
Instagram	Mingle	2.507
LinkedIn	Belgrade Open School	2.922
YouTube	Belgrade Open School	283
<b>Total</b>		<b>26.426</b>

## IMPROVING HUMAN RESOURCES

### Employees' development and competencies

BOS is continuously investing in employee development, so during 2023 employees in Belgrade Open School participated in 66 domestic and 20 international public events, which resulted in capacity building for employees in various fields. Employees of the Belgrade Open School participated as speakers at 11 international and 75 domestic events.

In 2023, BOS introduced the practice of BOS days – one-day events where the entire team gathers and discusses all topics relevant to the work of BOS. For each BOS day, a special organizational team is appointed that prepares the agenda, which is related to important information and processes. Each BOS day included an educational part, but also a segment reserved for strengthening the team's capacity and socializing. In 2023, six BOS days were held.

In 2023, BOS team members went on study visits to Belgium, Albania, Romania, Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, North Macedonia and Germany.

Belgrade Open School works on the development of employees through the annual assessment of competences based on the values of BOS. After completing the survey on competencies, each employee had a regular, annual interview with his superior in order to gain insight into the achieved goals and planned development.

Additionally, during 2023, BOS has organized 5 internal and 10 external trainings for its employees on various topics such as time management, business communication, mental health, finance, public procurements, corruption prevention, types of contracts, audio and video production.

### Onboarding process

Belgrade Open School has actively developed internal procedures during 2023. Twenty colleagues acquired new knowledge and skills through eight trainings within the basic rules and procedures of BOS, business communication, event organization and study visits. The process itself is designed to suit the organizational culture of the BOS, in order to be more integrated into BOS team. An additional novelty is that all mandatory trainings are recorded and posted on an internal platform, so that colleagues have access to all the necessary content.

### Technical support and library

In 2023, BOS has redesigned and fully equipped podcast studio for recording podcast shows in top quality. In terms of technical equipment, six laptops were purchased, which significantly increased the mobility of the teams. Also, five existing 22" monitors were replaced with larger 27" monitors. A digital video beam was installed in the BOS classroom, which made it easier to follow lectures and hold video conference meetings.

During 2023, as before, the library was available to former and current students, as well as lecturers and friends of BOS. The BOS library has included 32 editions in its fund, of which part of the new publications (7) is a gift from former students, friends and associates of BOS. BOS has purchased 25 new books. Purchased books, in addition to maintaining the relevance of the library fund, also benefit employees to perform their duties on projects. The library of the Belgrade Open School consists of 3.500 books and is located within the EU National resource center for civil society.



## BOS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023



## TRAININGS AND PUBLIC EVENTS



**3.000+**  
PARTICIPANTS



**170+**  
TRAINING DAYS



**150+**  
EVENTS  
AND TRAININGS



REALIZED ONE-YEAR  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF

**THE 30TH GENERATION  
OF FUTURE STUDIES**



**200+**  
INDIVIDUAL CAREER  
COUNSELLING



33

PUBLICATIONS AND  
PUBLIC POLICY  
PROPOSALS



28

PUBLISHED  
RESEARCH



11

EXPERT NETWORKS  
BOS IS A PART OF



18

WORKING GROUPS  
AND BODIES WHERE  
BOS MEMBERS  
PARTICIPATE



1.386.808

VISITS ON BOS  
WEBSITES AND  
PORTALS



26.426

FOLLOWERS ON  
SOCIAL NETWORKS



800+  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND 40+  
APPEARANCES  
IN MEDIA



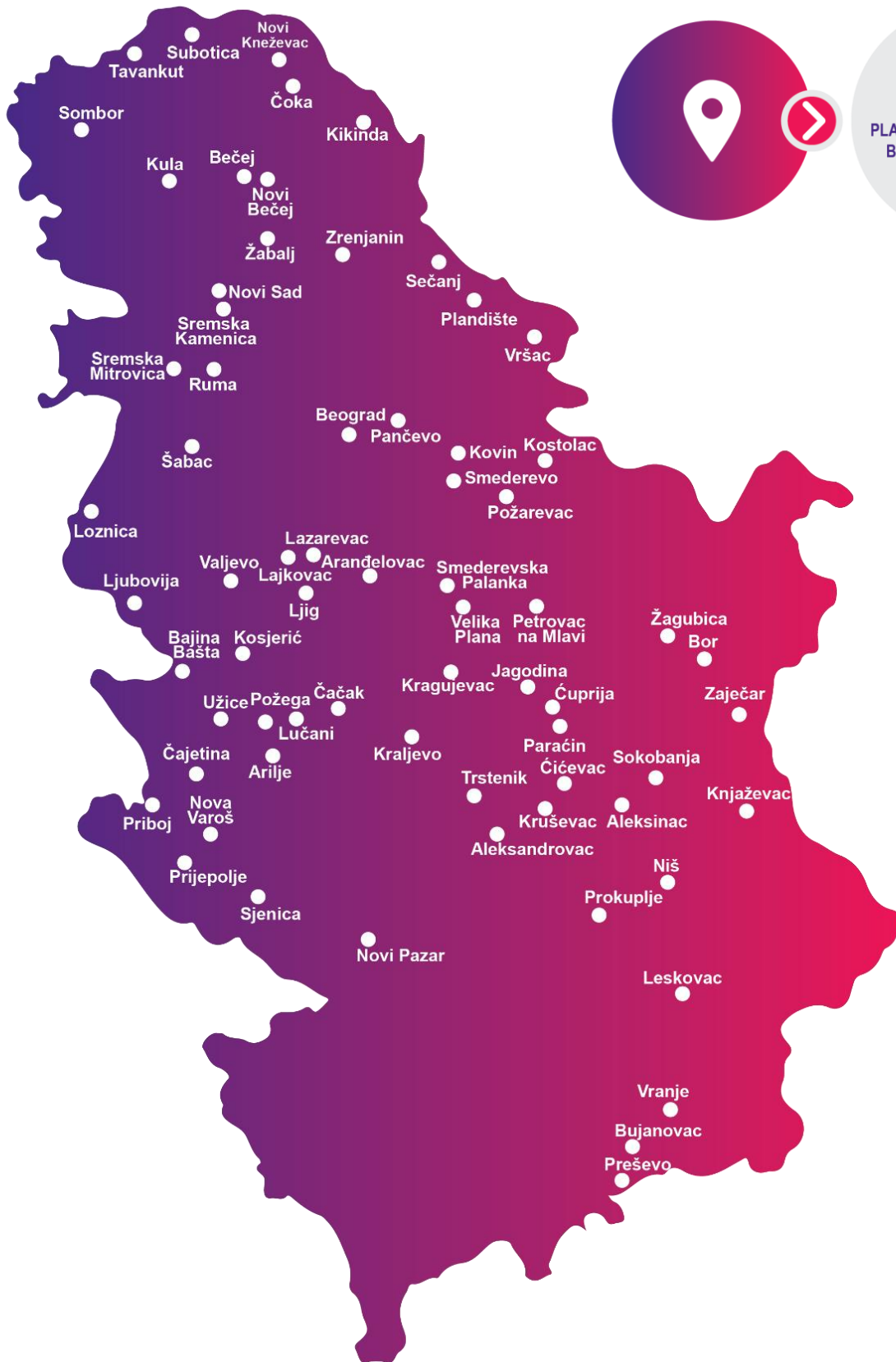
32

PODCAST EPISODES



86

PUBLIC EVENTS  
INCLUDING BOS  
REPRESENTATIVES  
AS SPEAKERS



**70+**  
PLACES IN SERBIA WHERE  
BOS ACTIVITIES WERE  
IMPLEMENTED

## PROJECTS AND DONORS

1. Project: *The EU National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Serbia*  
Donor: EU Delegation to Serbia



2. Project: *Together for the Environment*  
Donor: US Agency for International Development (USAID)



3. Project: *Civil Society Advancing Serbia's EU Accession Process - Europe ASAP*  
Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



4. Project: *Advancing Media and Youth CSOs for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia*  
Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



5. Project: *Dialogue of Change: Nurturing Participative and Evidence Based Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes in Serbia;*  
Donor: EU Delegation to Serbia





6. Project: *Civil Society Advancing Serbia's EU Accession Process - CS4EU*  
Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



7. Project: *Civil Society for Energy Transition*  
Donor: British Embassy Belgrade



British Embassy  
Belgrade

8. Project: *Virtual Internships for Inclusive Society*  
Donor: European Education and Culture Agency



9. Project: *Active citizens – Better society: Advocating for Cooperation and Democratic Development*  
Donor: US Agency for International Development (USAID)



10. Project: *Public Finance Reform – 2030 Agenda: SDGs for all Platform*  
Donor: German International Cooperation Organization, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



11. Project: *Energy Transformation and Decarbonization in the Western Balkans*  
Donor: Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ



12. Project: *Local Actors for Clean Energy and Air*  
Donor: European Climate Foundation



13. Project: *Open Balkan Energy Mix*  
Donor: Open Society Foundations



14. Project: *Green Generation – Schools Engaged for Climate Action*  
Donor: Open Society Foundations



15. Project: *Energy Cooperatives*  
Donor: European Climate Foundation



16. Project: *Survey of Public Opinion on the Use of Natural Gas in the Energy Mix*  
Donor: European Climate Foundation



17. Project: *E4NEETs – Strengthening support structures for young people in the NEET situation in the field of entrepreneurship*  
Donor: European Commission



18. Project: *Cooperation to quality: Accessible career guidance and counseling services for everyone!*  
Donor: Ministry of Tourism and Youth



19. Project: *VOLVOX - Stronger involvement of civil society in environmental policy making and monitoring*  
Donor: EU Delegation to Serbia



20. Project: *E2E - Education to Employment*  
Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



21. Project: *Media for youth: Be aware that food is not garbage*  
Donor: British Council



22. Project: *Move.Link.Engage. Conference*



23. Project: *Educational program Future Studies*

Program is funded by Belgrade Open School and with the support of alumni donations



24. Project: *BOS Career*  
Belgrade Open School



25. Project: *Youth portal - Ming!*  
Belgrade Open School



## PARTNER DONORS AND CLIENTS

- EU Delegation to Serbia
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- British Embassy in Belgrade
- European Climate Foundation
- German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH
- Open Society Foundations
- Ministry of Tourism and Youth of Republic of Serbia
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- NIRAS-IP Consult GmbH
- European Commission
- Media centre Sarajevo
- BOS Alumni network
- University in Ljubljana
- Internews Network
- Confidence Pharmaceutical Research



## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Alternative for safer chemicals
- American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia (AmCham)
- Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation
- Association for the Development of Sustainable Communities
- Association of young researchers Bor
- AVITEM – Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories
- Balkan Green Foundation
- Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia
- Bonevet
- CEE Bankwatch Network
- Center for Advanced Economic Studies
- Center for Democracy Foundation
- Center for Educational Policies
- Center for EU Public Policy, University of Belgrade
- Center for free elections and democracy
- Center for the environment improvement
- Citizens' Association Novi put
- Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
- Demostat
- EcoNomic Expert Community Association
- Ekosvest Skoplje
- Energy cooperative Elektropionir
- Energy cooperative Sunčani krovovi
- Environmental Engineering Group
- Germanwatch
- Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
- Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
- International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN
- Junior Achievement EU, Belgium
- Junior achievements
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- Local Mission Marseille, France
- Local response
- Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue
- Movement of the Vojvodina highlanders
- National Association of Youth Offices
- National Youth Council of North Macedonia
- Nova Iskra
- Nova planska praksa
- Novi Sad School of Journalism
- Olaf & McAteer

- Olof Palme International Center
- PIXEL, Italy
- ProTok21
- Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia
- Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute – RERI
- RES Foundation
- RESET - Center for Sustainable Energy Transition
- Safe Trails
- Smart kolektiv
- SOS Pulse, French
- Spanish Chamber of Commerce
- The Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society (BFPE)
- The Nature Conservancy
- United branch union Nezavisnost
- Uzice Child Rights Centre
- WWF Adria
- XANO Channel Association, Spain
- Young farmers of Serbia
- Young researchers of Serbia

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND MEDIA WE SUPPORT THROUGH EXPERT, MENTORING AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- A 11 – Initiative for Economic and Social Rights
- Academic inclusive association
- Academy of Women's Leadership
- Agronews
- Around the corner - The center for international cooperation, culture and education
- Association for fountains
- Association for the fight against diabetes
- Association for the Protection of the Great Bustard
- Association for the support of persons with autism Maslacak
- Association of citizens GM Optimist
- Association of citizens Green wave Čačak
- Association of citizens Kokoro
- Association of citizens NEXUS-Vranje
- Association of citizens Novi put
- Association of citizens RIME
- Association of Journalists of Serbia
- Association of parents of children killed in traffic
- Association of Prosecutors of Serbia
- Association of women at a turning point
- Association of young researchers Bor
- Association Okular
- Association Porečje – Vučje
- Association Rainbow
- BaziMili
- Bečej Youth Association
- Beta
- Center for creation of policies and strategies
- Center for Empowerment of Women's Rights Promovere
- Center for Investigative Journalism of Serbia – CINS
- Center for judicial research
- Center for monitoring and activism
- Center for Sustainable Development of Serbia
- Center for the culture of communication
- Center for the Development of a Democratic Society Europolis
- Center for the Improvement of Mental Health
- Citizen's reading room Libergraf
- Coalition for Solidarity Economy Development
- Crime and Corruption Research Network - KRIK
- Cyber Security Network
- Deliblat Lake Association of Sports Fishermen
- Development Business Center Kragujevac
- Developmental cultural educational center of NatAna
- Eco Barajevo
- Education for the future Praskozorje

- Educational - humanitarian organization
- Ekoguard Novi Sad
- Ekomar
- Energy cooperative Elektropionir
- Energy cooperative Sunčani krovovi
- Environmental center Stanište
- Environment Improvement Center
- European Movement in Serbia
- European Movement in Serbia – Kraljevo
- European Western Balkans
- Evo ruka Association
- Factory of creativity
- Fakenews tracker
- For a healthy municipality of Stara Pazova
- Forum of civil action FORCA Požega
- Građanski preokret
- Green heart
- Group Come out
- HKPD Matija Gubec
- Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia
- Infovranske
- Institute for Regional Development
- Institute for Urban Policies
- Institute for Youth Activism and Diversity
- InTER
- iRevolution
- Kareja Institute for Corruption Research
- Karlovac Vineyards Association
- Kraljevo Development Center
- Kreni – Promeni
- Lady and the Tramp of Belgrade
- Let's defend our environment
- Lice ulice
- Local foundation Nis
- Local response
- Luna Media
- Lužnički scout detachment
- Magločistač
- Mental Disability Rights Initiative (MDRI-S)
- MentalHub
- National Association of Youth Offices
- National Association of Youth Work Practitioners
- National coalition for the decentralization
- National Environmental Association (NEA)
- National Youth Council of Serbia
- Neighborhood activists
- NFC Filmart
- Novi Sad School of Journalism
- Panpress
- Pčinjski District Regional Association for Helping Persons with Autism
- Prijepolje Women's Forum
- Proactiv

- Psychosocial Innovation Network - PIN
- Public Policy Research Center
- Rainbow Ignite
- Ray
- Reakt
- Regional Association of Private Forest Owners (Raš Omorika)
- Roma Student Association
- Rural association of women
- Safe paths
- Sandzak Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms
- Scientific and professional society for risk management in emergency situations
- SE Serbianews
- Society for the Development of Creativity
- Sombor educational center
- South News
- StartHub
- Streets for cyclists
- Studenac Nova Varoš
- Support center for sustainable development and growth – Hrast Priboj
- Support, education, justice
- Team 42
- Tebrizam
- The Lighthouse Association
- The Right to Life Mary movement
- TOC - Association for the Development of Sustainable Communities
- Union of beekeeping organizations of Serbia
- Union of High School Students of Serbia
- United branch union - Independence
- Užice Center for Children's Rights
- Užice Center for Human Rights and Democracy
- Voice of Podrinje
- Voice of Šumadija
- Vranjenews
- Women association - Etno čarolija
- Women association Nika Bor
- Young farmers of Serbia
- Youth association Our world – our own rules
- Youth creative center

## BOS PUBLICATIONS IN 2023



Conversation with Misha Glenny and Ivan Vejvoda in Belgrade on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Belgrade Open School



CBAM: Today's dues become tomorrow's debts, 2023



Integration of the just transition into the draft of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), 2023





Uključiti sve društvo za energetska tranziciju

**PREGLED**

Mera i aktivnosti energetske efikasnosti u okviru  
Integrisanog nacionalnog energetskog i klimatskog plana

Autori: Tanja Popovicki, Zeljka Delicic, Milica Vugent

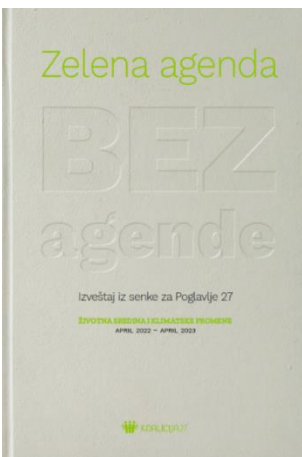
Ova analiza je nastala u okviru projekta Integriranih aktivnosti Srbije i Republičkog instituta za obnovljive  
energije i bezbedno snabdevanje "Zelena Srbija za energiju i tranziciju", koji se finansira od Privredne agencije  
Republike Srbije u skladu sa Strategijom Srbije i uključuje autoritativni i naučni pristup koji ne uključuje  
neposredne interesne strane. Projekat je sproveden uz podršku Republičkog instituta za obnovljive energije  
i bezbedno snabdevanje na koji su slične odgovornosti autoritativne.

Jun, 2023

## Energy efficiency measures and activities within the National Energy and Climate Plan, 2023



## Many challenges, little time: Is Serbia set on its development path? 2023



## Chapter 27 in Serbia: A green agenda without no agenda, 2023

E4NEETS

Priručnik za savetnike za rad sa NEET mladima u oblasti socijalnog preduzetništva (alati i tehnike za trening)



Handbook for counselors to work with NEET youth in the field of social entrepreneurship, 2023



Guidelines for the implementation of virtual internships in Serbia, 2023



Transnational report on virtual internships, 2023



National report on virtual internships in Serbia, 2023



## PRIRUČNIK ZA KARIJERNE PRAKTIČARE

*Standardi karijernog  
vođenja i savetovanja*

Handbook for career practitioners - Career guidance and counseling standards, 2023



Cluster analysis 6 – Foreign relations, 2023



Collection of final works of students of Belgrade open school, 2023

## BOS PORTALS

### BELGRADE OPEN SCHOOL

The website of the [Belgrade Open School](#) is the most important communication tool that contains all the information about the work of the organization, its vision, mission and structure, as well as relevant reports and documents. BOS website also contains segments about employees, current and accomplished projects, publications, achievements, partners and associates, while a simple overview provides



**BOS**  
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access to other BOS portals. The website is updated on a daily basis, so that visitors have access to the latest information on current calls and event announcements, as well as news related to the project activities of each team. The official website is designed to make all activities of the organization transparent and comprehensible to the general public. During 2023, the BOS website was redesigned in accordance with the trends and novelties that follow digital and visual content. User movement on the BOS website has been improved with the aim of making it more efficient and easier to find content, including a redesign of the main menu of the entire site. A monograph on 30 years of BOS, which will be on the front page, is also in the process of being created. A more recent approach was applied in the presentation of various program areas that BOS deals with, as well as in the presentation of the BOS team, publications and other important components of the site. The platform had as many as 238,741 interactions in 2023.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS

The [Let's talk about Negotiations](#) portal was created in 2013, and for more than ten years, it has been following the process of European integration of Serbia and the Western Balkans, as well as various events within the European Union. The main goal of the portal is to inform citizens and provide insight and up-to-date information about the integration process of Serbia and the region. In the News category, up-to-date information about the accession process and the European Union is published, almost every day.



In the category News you can find all issues of the portal's monthly newsletter. Each month, the newsletter covers various current topics and aspects as well as perspectives related to the European Union, at the national, regional and European level. In 2023, the newsletter was redesigned and switched to a new platform for displaying online newsletters, which succeeded in adapting it to the needs of readers and was made even easier to read.

The 'Analysis' category contains in-depth analyses, mostly focusing on current events in the European Union and the world. Some of the topics that were relevant during 2023 and covered in the analyses include: militarization of Europe, parliamentary elections in Serbia, various aspects of the European Commission's reports on Serbia, the importance of Humanitarian Law in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and many others.

During 2023, the podcast "Let's talk about negotiations" was launched with the aim of further diversifying the content related to the European integration process and bringing it closer to the audience. Nine podcast episodes have been created and, in addition to the podcast platforms, all episodes can also be found under the "Podcast" category on the portal. In the podcast episodes, the authors and guests discussed various clusters of negotiations on Serbia's accession to the European Union, as well as other current topics.

In addition, the portal provides information on the current course of accession negotiations between Serbia and the European Union, including all documents relevant to the process - agreements, contracts, reports of the European Commission, negotiating positions. During 2023, 106 news items, 16 analyses, 3 interviews, 9 podcast episodes and 12 newsletter issues were published. The reach on social networks was 863,306, while the number of impressions was 1,593,676. The number of website interactions was 59.379. A redesign of the portal is in the process, so that the entire site is more transparent, and the editorial staff of the portal was expanded by two more members in August 2023.

BOS team creates and edits a monthly newsletter called "Let's talk about negotiations". This newsletter includes a variety of articles, texts, analyses and interviews, focusing on monitoring the process of European integration at the national, EU and regional levels. In October 2023, the jubilee 100th issue of the newsletter was published, which contains a review of how long we have been working on monitoring the process of European integration of Serbia, as well as the state and future prospects of this process. There are more than 4,000 subscribers to this newsletter. During 2023, the newsletter moved to the Issue platform, which, together with the redesign, helped adapt it to the readers' needs.



## EU RESOURCE CENTER E-PLATFORM

The [EU Resource Center's E-platform](#) was launched at the end of April 2013. The platform aims to support civil society according to its real needs by strengthening the internal capacities of organizations through group training and individual mentoring, networking civil society organizations, and providing financial support through various types of grants.

**ЕУ РЕСУРС ЦЕНТАР ЗА  
 ЦИВИЛНО ДРУШТВО У  
 СРБИЈИ**

One of the goals is also to establish the first national database of civil society organizations working towards Serbia's accession to the European Union. The E-platform currently consists of five sections – ABOUT US, RESOURCE CENTERS (introducing regional and expert RCs led by partner organizations in this project), NEWS (current information from the civil sector, calls for donations and programs, as well as authored articles by BOS experts and external collaborators in the BLOG section), SUPPORT, and CIVIL SOCIETY DATABASE.

Financial support receives significant attention, with 5 types of donations offered. A SUPPORT MAP has been created, showing supported civil society organizations. Since December 2023, 11 introductory lessons have been recorded and posted for the most sought-after trainings, divided into expert topics, soft skills, and communications. In less than nine months, there were over 30,556 visits with almost 50,000 pages viewed. The site was visited by 17,808 unique visitors. Partners from regional centers in Novi Sad, Užice, and Niš, as well as expert centers in Belgrade, Bor, and Jagodina, have sub-sites providing additional support to organizations in those regions, as well as those involved in agriculture and rural development, transport policies, and urban development.



## FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The website [For the Environment](#) is the main communication channel of the five-year project "Together for the Environment" created with the aim of connecting with different target groups of the project - managers of protected areas, decision makers, the business community, representatives of civil society organizations and the media, as well as interested citizens. Current calls for open support programs, as well as the latest news about the activities of project consortium and local partners throughout Serbia, are regularly updated on the homepage of the portal. The column "Eko Reflektor" was created in order to inform and educate citizens about current topics and events in the field of environmental protection. Within the contact form, all interested citizens can share their questions with the project consortium or propose a special type of cooperation. The Together for the Environment website was founded by the BOS team, who is actively updating it. During the year 2023, since its launching in March, the portal recorded 32.000 visitors, 77.000 views and 202.000 interactions.



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## MINGL

The [Mingl portal](#) was created in 2007, and since then information and news about informal educational programs, scholarships, workshops, courses, exchanges and topics that are important to young people have been published. During the first six years, mainly high school students were informed through Mingl, however, over time, young adults could also satisfy their interests on Mingl.



The Mingl portal contains several categories: Discover, Come, Move and Mingl corner

During 2023, the correspondent network was further developed, and the Mingl corner represents the most important category with original articles by reporters. In 2023, more than 80 reporters' texts were published, covering various topics of importance to young people, such as youth in the labour market, ecology, mental health of youth, media literacy, gender equality, etc. In addition to original texts, articles in other categories were also published, and the total number of news items published on the portal exceeds 290 posts.

In 2023, the editorial staff of the portal was expanded with 12 permanent reporters coming from different cities in Serbia, a photographer also joined the editorial staff. On the Instagram account 12 video contents were published, which have a total of 416,636 views, while the number of followers is more than 2,500.

In 2023, several socially responsible campaigns were published, such as Women to women (Žena je ženi), Show (all of) yourself (Pokaži s(v)e), and To avoid a bigger problem, let's be aware that food is not garbage (Da ne dođe do nevolje veće, budimo svesni da hrana nije smeće). These campaigns drew attention to the role that young people play in areas such as gender equality and ecology, while also providing support and giving space to other young people to express their talents. The total reach on social networks in 2023 is 2,815,055, while impressions are 4,494,416.



The subpage of the Mingl portal named "[Youth and Media](#)" was officially launched in February 2023, with the aim of increasing the visibility of the results of projects supported within the programme "Advancing Media and Youth CSOs Partnership for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia – MAY4DD". Target group of this subpage are youth civil society organizations, media and young people. The portal consists of four main categories: About the Project, News, Public Call, and Partners.



In the About the Project category, as well as on the homepage, extensive information about the entire programme can be found, along with key results.

In the News section, visitors can inform themselves about local initiatives throughout Serbia, individual activities such as training sessions organized by BOS team, opportunities for youth (trainings, competitions, seminars), as well as other activities in which they can participate. This part of the portal also provides an opportunity for supported youth organizations and media to publish their news and through that could achieve greater visibility for their media content, even after the completion of the "Advancing Media and Youth CSOs Partnership for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia – MAY4DD" programme.

For those planning to apply for support, the section Open Call contains deadlines and requirements of the calls open within the programme. A general overview of all supported organizations and media, their goals, missions and project summaries can be found in the Partners section.

A special section of the portal is dedicated to the [Academy of Journalism](#), and was launched in June 2022. Its main goal is to provide information regarding this educational program to all interested groups. The subsite is consisted of four main categories: Call, Final Projects, Participants, and News.



In the Call category, one can find information about current and previous open calls for application. This category includes guidelines for application, application forms, and other important information about the programme's conditions and timeline. The Final Projects category represent the most important section of this site, as it contains all media content produced under the scope of this programme. The Participants category, also found on the homepage, provides brief resumes of all participants of a given cycle of the Academy of Journalism. In the News section, website visitors can stay informed about all the news related to the implementation of the programme, such as organized trainings and meetings, awarded best media papers, and open calls for new cycles of the programme.

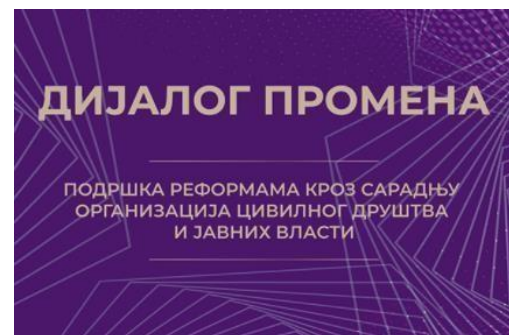
## BOS CAREER

The web portal [BOŠ Karijera](#) (BOS Career) is the very first free online system in Serbia for support and empowerment of students of secondary schools and other users for independent and planned career management, launched in 2011. So far the user groups include students of secondary schools, young individuals, teachers, parents and career counselors. The questions asked by young individuals were promptly answered by a team that underwent a through career information and online career counseling training. The total number of interactions in 2023 was 517,096, while the total number of registered members by 2023 is 58,436. Also, in 2023, more than 50 articles aimed at young people were published, and more than 200 young people were supported in the field of career management.



## DIALOGUE OF CHANGE

BOS has developed a platform <https://dijalogpromena.bos.rs/sr/> for the needs of external communication with the public and internal communication with partners in the project "Dialogue of Change: Nurturing Participative and Evidence Based Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes in Serbia". The platform was a hub for all information regarding the project implementation, as well as information on program partners. In addition, the intranet platform was used for program and financial reporting of partners, but also for downloading the necessary materials. In 2023, the platform recorded 18,643 interactions.



## WORKING PRACTICES

The Working Practices Portal is the main hub of all important information on quality internships. The website [radneprakse.bos.rs](http://radneprakse.bos.rs) contains all relevant information, research, analysis and documents important for quality regulation of work practices. In 2023, the Work Practice Platform recorded 1,915 interactions.



## MOVE.LINK.ENGAGE.

[Move.Link.Engage.](#) is the portal of the Belgrade Open School dedicated to the annual conference organized by Belgrade Open School which has been a forum for open discussions and a meeting place for experts from the civil, public and business sectors for the previous eight years, as well as a gathering place for representatives of national, regional and European institutions. MLE was redesigned in 2023 in accordance with the new visual identity of the conference.



## PUBLIC ADVOCACY

In order to respond to the needs of external communication with the public and the need for internal communication with partners on the project "Active citizens - Better Society: Advocating for Cooperation and Democratic Development", BOS has developed a platform <http://www.javnozagovaranje.bos.rs/>. In addition, one part of the portal was built as an intranet platform for internal communication on the project and was open only to partners. The intranet platform contained a calendar of program activities, useful materials on public advocacy and policy making. During 2023, the portal recorded 15,123 interactions.



## COMMUNITY ENERGY

The [Community Energy](#) Portal was launched in December 2023 with the aim of providing more detailed instructions on energy production from renewable sources owned by energy cooperatives. A dedicated section is allocated to showcasing examples of best practices within Serbia's territory, intended to inspire and catalyze the formation of new cooperatives. Furthermore, fostering a network encompassing both new participants and seasoned founders of energy cooperatives is a fundamental principle of this community initiative. The portal will undergo promotion and enhancement throughout the upcoming year.



## BOS PODCAST

In 2023, BOS produced two new podcast episodes with different thematic concepts within the series "Dialogue of change". Also, a whole new series on the topic of European integration, called "Let's Talk about negotiations", was filmed. Each of the BOS podcast episodes can be listened to as an audio file, but also downloaded to a personal computer or mobile phone. In order to further promote and popularize its series, BOS cooperated with the regional podcast aggregator - Podcast.rs, a platform that gathers podcasts from Serbia and the region in one place.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS

Let's talk about negotiations is an educational podcast about the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union. It deals with various aspects of integration, as well as current events related to the European Union and world and regional events. Around 500 people listened to the podcast in 2023. During 2023, nine episodes were released:

- The first seven episodes were dedicated to different clusters in the process of the negotiation process, while the eighth and ninth episodes were thematic: in the eighth episode, a review was made of the entire integration process of Serbia, while the ninth episode dealt with the current events in Gaza. In the first episode, authored by Tijana Obradović, the guest Stefan Surlić explains the importance of the Chapters that were not included in the Clusters according to the new methodology, Chapters 34 and 35. The author and the guest discuss the topic of dialogue between Belgrade and Priština, as well as the importance of the opening of Chapter 34.
- The second episode analyses Cluster 6 concerns foreign relations. Author Andrijana Lazarević and guest Milan Krstić explain the concepts of foreign policy orientation of the state and the importance of harmonizing foreign policy with the European Union.
- In the third episode, author Pavle Nedić and guest Jovana Popova discuss Cluster 1 - Basics. They provide insight into what the Rule of Law, freedom and security mean in practice for citizens, and the impact of reforms on quality of life.
- The fourth episode is dedicated to Cluster 4 - Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity. Renewable and non-renewable energy sources, water pollution and climate change were discussed by Ognjen Pantić and Žaklina Živković.
- In the fifth episode, Andrea Matijević and Nemanja Purić provide insight into Cluster 3 - Competitiveness and Inclusive growth. They touch on topics that indicate the importance of this Cluster for the daily life of citizens and deal with the topics of the abolition of roaming, reform of the tax system, student mobility and labour rights.
- Petar Alimpijević discusses the importance of Cluster 5 - Resources, agriculture and cohesion with guest Oliver Aleksić in the sixth episode of the podcast. They point out the benefits that Serbian farmers can have from Serbia's membership in the European Union, the importance and meaning of IPARD funds, and the issue of fisheries as part of the negotiation process.
- In the seventh episode, Ivan Stanojević and Aleksandar Milošević talk about Cluster 2 - Internal Market and explain the high prices in Serbian retail stores compared to the average in the European Union, as well as the obstacles faced by Serbian citizens in finding employment in the European Union. This episode concludes the series of podcasts covering specific Clusters.
- The eighth episode concerns the entire process of the European integration of Serbia, which has been going on for more than two decades. Jelena Pejić Nikić and Vladimir Međak talk to Vladimir Pavlović about what we did well in the negotiation process, how we fight against myths related to membership in the European Union, and who is responsible for the sluggishness of the accession process.
- In the ninth, last episode for 2023, Branislav Cvetković talks to Mihajlo Kopanja about current events in Gaza. The author and guest explain the context and potential consequences of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as the possible role of the European Union as a mediator.



## DIALOGUE OF CHANGE

Belgrade Open School has launched the [“Dialogue of Change” podcast series](#) in order to initiate a discussion about the (non)existence of dialogue between civil society organizations and public authorities in Serbia. As many as six episodes have been published: Green activism; Civil and public sector: how to establish the partnership; Air pollution; Women's entrepreneurship; Public-private partnership; Children, sport and violence. The guests of the podcast series were Kristina Urošević from Kreni-promeni, Aleksandra Đurović from BOS, Ana Pecarski from Team 42, Mirjana Prodanović from EPUS Kraljevo, Vesela Vlašković from InTER and Jelena Žunić Cicvarić from the Užice Center for Children's Rights.

## THE OTHER SIDE OF STORY

The podcast series "The Other Side of the Story" was filmed by Belgrade Open School in partnership with the Open Society Foundation and initiated a discussion on gender equality, European integration, activism and education. Is the future female, is Serbia a credible partner to the European Union, what does it mean to be functionally literate and what are the achievements of direct democracy? Some of these questions were answered in the episodes: [The future is female](#), [The European path between hope and realpolitik](#), [Civic activism: democracy in action](#) and [Functional literacy education](#). The guests of the podcast were alumni of the Open Society Foundation, who finished their education abroad and are now dealing with important social issues in Serbia - Zorana Antonijević, Bojan Elek, Biljana Djordjević and Aleksandar Bulajić, while the podcast host is journalist Filip Lukić.

## STEP BY STEP

The podcast ["Step by step"](#) was filmed by the students of the 29th generation of the Future Studies, with the goal of encouraging youth activism. From this podcast episode, listeners can learn what it looks like to be involved in activism from an early age, as well as why it is important to be a change maker.

## HURRY UP SLOWLY

Former students of the Belgrade Open School from the 27<sup>th</sup> generation have prepared their final works in the form of the podcast ["Hurry up slowly"](#). This series consists of 12 thematic episodes, in which students explored topics of interest - civic journalism, marketing, future pensions, Neolithic culture, virtual reality, the impact of the aviation industry on climate change and the impact of popular music on young people. The goal of the podcast was for students to express their opinions, but also to create a final project within the Future Studies through this interesting and innovative form.

## NETWORK AND MEMBERSHIPS OF BOS IN 2023



**Coalition 27** - Network of civil society organizations dealing with environmental protection, established for the purpose of coordinated monitoring of the process of harmonization and implementation of policies and regulations of the Republic of Serbia with the Acquis Communautaire in Chapter 27. The mentioned chapter refers to the environment and climate change. Coalition 27 consists of nine organizations: Alternative for Safer Chemicals, Belgrade Open School, Society for the Protection and Study of Birds of Serbia, European Climate Action Network (CAN Europe), Center for Environmental Improvement, Environmental Engineers Group, One Degree Serbia, Young Researchers Of Serbia and the World Nature Organization (WWF). The vision of Coalition 27 is a preserved environment for the benefit of people and nature, a low-carbon economy, as well as efficient and fair use of natural resources in the Republic of Serbia. Through the work of Coalition 27, Belgrade Open School contributes to its strategic goal, the improvement of public policies in the field of environmental protection and the field of European integration. By working on the annual shadow report published by Coalition 27, BOS contributes to improving transparency and strengthening the accountability of administrative bodies in charge of working on the negotiating chapter 27 in the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union. Through its work in Coalition 27, BOS participated in working groups, consultative meetings and public discussions in the process of decision-making, improvement of public policies and adoption of public policy instruments in the field of environmental protection and climate change



**Regional Civil Society Network for Monitoring Public Administration Reform** - Weber's Regional Civil Society Monitoring Network monitors public administration reform in the Western Balkans. Belgrade Open School has been a member of this network since 2016, and the overall goal of the Network is to emphasize the importance, increase participation and strengthen civil society in the Western Balkans.

Belgrade Open School became a member of the eminent business association, **American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia (AmCham)**, in 2015. Through partner cooperation, BOS and AmCham started multiple initiatives in the fields of human resource development as well as in connecting the world of education and the labour market. Since 2016, BOS has had its representatives in the AmCham HR Board and the AmCham Labor Regulations Task Force.



Belgrade Open School has been a member of the **National Youth Council of Serbia** since 2011, and it is also one of the organizations that participated in the founding assembly of KOMS. BOS actively contributes to the work of this organization, which aims to represent the interests of young people by developing partnerships with the state, intersectoral and international cooperation and to encourage active participation of young people in the development of Serbian society.







as well as informing over 500 representatives of business and civil sector.

**Serbian Association of Managers (SAM)** - During the five years of membership in the Serbian Association of Managers (SAM), BOS contributed to the work of the association. Belgrade Open School has improved its visibility in the business community and contributed to its development and intersectoral partnership through a series of activities, realization of two events, organization of 30 meetings, as

**Serbian National Internet Domain Registry** - Belgrade Open School is one of the founders of the Serbian National Internet Domain Registry and since 2007, BOS contributes to the development of internet in Serbia and provides support to the foundation.



**Beyond Fossil Fuels** is an initiative of civil society organizations from the European Union, the Western Balkans and Turkey to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement - transform Europe's energy sector into a low-carbon system and abandon coal as an energy source. The initiative aims to eliminate the negative effects of coal on public health, social, economy and the environment.



countries of the European Union and in non-member countries. By participating in the work of the CAN Europe network, Belgrade Open School contributes to its strategic goal, through the improvement of public policies in the field of energy and climate change.

**Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe** is the leading European coalition of organizations working to address climate change. With over 170 active member organizations, from 38 European countries, representing more than 1,500 CSOs and more than 47 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes a sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe. This network encourages civil society organizations to influence the design and development of effective policies related to climate change in Europe, both in

**Network of good energy** - A voluntary platform for connecting local governments and partners from the governmental, non-governmental and business sectors, who are committed and have ambitions to apply and disseminate good practices and solutions in local energy. The Good Energy Network brings together actors who show a greater degree of ambition in the implementation of local climate and energy policies, compared to the nationally set framework. The network currently consists of three cities and municipalities (Pirót, Sabac and Vrbas) and three civil society organizations (Belgrade Open School, RES Foundation and the Movement of Gorani of Vojvodina) that have decided to work on the development and implementation of ambitious energy and climate policies at the local level. Through its work in the Good Energy Network, BOS contributes to its strategic goal, the improvement of public policies at the local level.



Mreža  
Dobre  
Energije



ASOCIJACIJA  
ONLAJN  
MEDIJA

Belgrade Open School has been a member of the **Online media association** since 2015 and is also one of its founders. The Online media association aims to develop and promote ethical standards of online reporting, affirmation of free, independent and professional work of online media and promotion of ethical standards and public interest in the field of public information, as well as strengthening the role of online media in the democratization of society. Also, Belgrade Open School has its representative in the Supervisory Board of the association.

**The Green Chair** represents a network of over 60 non-governmental organizations dealing with the issue of environmental protection. It was founded in 2013 with the idea of permanent participation of representatives of the civil sector in the sessions of the Environmental Protection Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. The mission of the Green Chair is to improve communication with the legislative branch of government through an established mechanism, the only one of its kind, and to influence the improvement of legislative proposals in the field of the environment. This unique mechanism enables the continuous and coordinated participation of civil society representatives in the work of the Committee and is one of the most important mechanisms for involving citizens in the work of parliamentary committees used in the National Assembly. Representatives of the Green Chair have the opportunity to participate in the debate during the session, give comments on the topics on the agenda, as well as proposals for the improvement of legal and by-law solutions presented at the session. The basic idea and intention of working through this mechanism is to provide MPs, members of the Committee with professional expertise and insight from the civil sector, as well as from the local.



## MEMBERSHIPS

Belgrade Open School had its representatives in the following working groups and bodies:

- Advisory Board of Coca-Cola HBC;
- Council for creating a supportive environment for the development of civil society;
- HR Forum of the American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia;
- Inter-ministerial working group for monitoring the implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy for the period 2021 - 2030, with the associated Action Plan;
- Labor Task Force of the American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia;
- Open Data Working Group;
- Open Method of Coordination in Adult Education;
- Special inter-ministerial working group for the development and monitoring of the implementation of the fifth Action Plan for the implementation of the Partnership for Open Administration initiative in the Republic of Serbia;
- Special working group for the proposal development of an action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for creating a supportive environment for the development of civil society, for the period 2022 - 2030;
- Working group for improving the Quality of Career guidance and counseling services;
- Working group for Internships;
- Working Group for monitoring of implementation of the Employment Strategy for the period 2021-2026 and the Action Plan for the period of 2021-2023;
- Working group for the development of Environmental protection Strategy;
- Working group for the development of Integrated national energy and climate plan;
- Working group for the development of Strategy for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention;
- Working group for the development of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention on the availability of information, public participation in decision-making and the right to legal protection in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention) with an Action Plan;
- Working group for the diagnostics of Just energy transition;
- Working group for the preparation of Energy development Strategy;

## 30 YEARS OF THE BELGRADE OPEN SCHOOL

Belgrade Open School marked 30 years of its existence with a two-day celebration. On the first day of the celebration, a panel discussion was organized with the British journalist and rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Misha Glenny, entitled "Serbia, the Balkans and Europe before Global Challenges". The panel was held on October 19th, 2023 in the Youth Centre of Belgrade. The second day of the celebration took place in the Copernicus Event Centre, on October 20th.

### Panel discussion "Serbia, the Balkans and Europe before Global Challenges"

General Director of the Belgrade Open School, Vesna Đukić, opened the event organized in the Belgrade Youth Centre, recalling that since 1993, when a group of friends launched the first innovative academic multidisciplinary program, it was difficult to imagine that the education of individuals would continue for the next 30 years. Over the past three decades, BOS has implemented more than 600 projects and trained over 65,000 individuals - changemakers. After as many as 30 generations of students on the Future Studies program, BOS has an Alumni network of 1,300 individuals who occupy important positions in all areas of society.



The President of BOS Steering Committee and Full professor at the University of Belgrade, Slobodan Marković, referred to the importance of the organizations' 30 years of work, as part of which this panel discussion was organized. He emphasized that BOS has always been involved in various domestic, regional, European and transatlantic projects in the field of interreligious dialogue, multiculturalism, rule of law and good governance, as well as European integration, empowerment of citizens, development of a civil and environmentally conscious society.



The British journalist and rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Misha Glenny, emphasized how important it is for Serbia to become a member of the European Union. "It is up to every individual in the Western Balkans to stand up and do what they can to show that the EU is still a goal to be aspired to", Glenny said. The author of several world bestsellers added that Belgrade and Pristina need to show that they can build a bridge of reconciliation, which is why creative ways to resolve diplomatic conflicts are now needed. According to him, the interest of the West has left Southeast Europe, and little attention is being paid to the real challenges that the region is facing.

Another panelist, Ex Senior Vice President for Programs of the German Marshall Fund and permanent fellow of the Institute for Human Sciences Ivan Vejvoda, pointed out that currently in the hierarchy of world conflicts - the issue of Kosovo\* is in a lower place than other hot spots. According to him, the geopolitical security structure of Europe is now asking Serbia to solve the Kosovo problem\* and complete the reforms.



## Celebration of 30 years of the Belgrade Open School

The festive program included three symbolic segments: People, Knowledge and Actions. The program began with a speech by General Director of the Belgrade Open School, Vesna Đukić, who thanked the large number of guests who made the celebration possible and referred to the most important achievements.

During the part of the ceremony named "People", a short film was broadcast that emphasizes the people who helped built Belgrade Open School throughout all these years. After that, General Director Vesna Đukić presented special thanks to the employees who have been with BOŠ the longest.

Rewards:

- Radinka Janjuš: 10+ years for BOŠ;
- Aleksandar Stankić: 15+ years for BOŠ;
- Nataša Pajović: 20+ years for BOŠ;
- Vladimir Pavlović: 20+ years for BOŠ;
- Vlado Vranešević: 20+ years for BOŠ;
- Dragica Bakić Vučinić: 25+ years for BOŠ;
- Davorka Tomanović Baralić: 28+ years for BOŠ;
- Milorad Bjeletić: 28+ years for BOŠ;
- Vesna Đukić: 28+ years for BOŠ;
- Marinko Vučinić: 30 years for BOŠ.





The "Knowledge" segment included the broadcast of a short film under the same name, as well as an address by the coordinator of the Future Studies educational program. This was followed by the ceremonial awarding of diplomas to the jubilee, 30th generation of students of the Future Study of the Belgrade Open School. The largest Alumni community in Serbia, which has more than 1,300 successful individuals, has thus become richer for 17 more members. The celebration was attended by many alumni of previous generations.



As part of the "Actions" program segment, a short film with the same name was broadcast, about the most important achievements of BOS in the previous 30 years. Afterwards, Executive Director Milorad Bjeletić, Program Director Vladimir Pavlović and Project Coordinator Marija Todorović presented the now traditional BOS awards, The Change-makers. Awards were given to the Novi Sad Bicycle Initiative (in the Cooperation to Change category), Aleksandra Paunović (in the Initiator of Change category), Mlavaska Vojska (in the Campaign for Activism category), FemPlatz Association of Citizens (in the First Voice of Citizens category).



## PROGRAM AREAS



### CIVIL SOCIETY

Within program area Civil Society, Belgrade Open School contributes to capacity building of the civil and public sector by providing professional, innovative and quality services, but also by recognizing organizations and institutions that are ready to change and improve their environment and the community where they cooperate.

BOS develops and strengthens civil society and independent media in Serbia, both through capacity building and networking. Our goal in this area is to respond to existing challenges within the cooperation of civil society organizations and public authorities to solve specific community problems, but as well as to improve existing and develop new approaches in dialogue between different stakeholders.

During 2023, within the program area Civil Society, the following projects were implemented:

- EU National Resource Centre for civil society in Serbia;
- Together for the Environment;<sup>1</sup>
- Civil Society Advancing Serbia's EU Accession Process – Europe ASAP;<sup>2</sup>
- Advancing Media and Youth CSOs for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia;
- Dialogue of Change: Nurturing Participative and Evidence Based Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes in Serbia;
- Civil Society Advancing Serbia's EU Accession Process – CS4EU;<sup>3</sup>
- Civil Society for Energy Transition;<sup>4</sup>
- Active Citizens - Advocating for Cooperation and Democratic Development.

<sup>1</sup> Please find more information about the project *Together for the Environment* within the program area Energy, climate and environmental protection.

<sup>2</sup> Please find more information about the project *Civil Society Advancing Serbia's EU Accession Process – Europe ASAP* within the program area European Integration.

<sup>3</sup> Please find more information about the project *Civil Society Advancing Serbia's EU Accession Process – CS4EU* within the program area European Integration.

<sup>4</sup> Please find more information about the project *Civil Society for Energy Transition* within the program area Energy, climate and environmental protection.

## EU Resource Centre for Civil Society in Serbia

In 2023, Belgrade Open School started the implementation of a four-year program called the EU Resource Centre for Civil Society in Serbia. The program is supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia. Belgrade Open School leads the Consortium, along with the Užice Centre for Children's Rights, ENECA, and the Novi Sad School of Journalism, representing regional resource centres, as well as Young Farmers of Serbia, New Planning Practice, and Safe Paths as expert resource centres responsible for specific, underdeveloped areas focused on the program.

The first year covers the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. During the first year of the program, the team from the Belgrade Open School laid the foundations for this long-term program through various activities and components aimed at providing financial and expert support to civil society and informal groups throughout Serbia, decentralization, and bringing Serbia closer to the European Union as the ultimate goal.

The three main pillars of activities during 2023 were:

- Community Support Program (civil society and informal groups, Help Desk system),
- Capacity Building Program for Civil Society Organizations, and
- Donation Program;



### The Community Support Program

During 2023, the EU Resource Centre for Civil Society in Serbia established direct communication with a total of 220 civil society organizations and informal groups while simultaneously developing new tools and procedures to enhance its operations. Over the past 12 months, a total of 4 procedures were developed, further improving communication with the community: a communication scenario, a package for regional resource centres, a crisis communication manual, and guidelines for conducting training sessions. Additionally, the team responsible for community communication developed 4 additional tools: an individual interview questionnaire, call statistics, an online training questionnaire, and a contact table.



BOS has established direct communication with organizations and informal groups from a total of 68 cities/municipalities, totaling 25 districts, namely: Belgrade, Bor, Braničevo, Central Banat, South Bačka, South Banat, Jablanica, Kolubara, Mačva, Morava, Nišava, Pčinja, Piroć, Podunavlje, Raška, Rasina, North Bačka, North Banat, Middle Banat, Srem, Šumadija, Toplica, Zaječar, West Bačka, and Zlatibor.

During 2023, a database of registered CSOs was created, comprising a total of 133 organizations in its portfolio. This database serves as a profile for each organization, providing a snapshot of their activities. Based on this data, anyone visiting the E-platform can easily find information about active and relevant NGOs in Serbia.

Furthermore, to reach as many active organizations, media, informal groups, and activists as possible, the team responsible for community communication began mapping all active organizations and informal groups across Serbia. The created database currently consists of more than 841 contacts. This database serves as an internal document and represents the first step in communication with active representatives of civil society throughout Serbia.

### **The Capacity Building Program**

The Capacity Building Program started in April 2023, and has since developed along three lines: Soft and Expert Skills Training; Mentorship Program; Video Lessons.

During the past 12 months, a total of 50 trainings were conducted on over 20 different topics, covering both soft skills training and expert training in areas of expertise of Consortium members.

The number of unique organizations that participated in the internal capacity building program is 192 organizations. The number of individuals who completed our training and mentorship program is 627. The idea of decentralization also extended to the internal capacity building program, so in terms of territorial coverage, organizations that participated in our program in 2023 came from almost all districts. Out of 25 districts, 24 and the City of Belgrade were covered (with the exception of the Toplica district).



Topics covered by the capacity building program:

- PR and Communications;
- Networking of Civil Society Organizations;
- Strengthening Internal Capacities of NGOs;
- Project Writing;
- Writing Public Policy Proposals;
- Public Advocacy;
- Financial Project Management;
- Project Cycle Management;
- Financial Sustainability;
- Mental Health and Well-being of Civil Sector Employees;
- Community Mobilization;
- Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing;
- Expert Training in Economic Development;
- Expert Training in Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Expert Training in Urbanism and Urban Planning;
- Expert Training in Child Rights;
- Expert Training in Transportation and Transport Policies.

After the training sessions, organizations had the opportunity to engage in additional mentoring sessions with trainers who are experts in their respective fields, should they deem it necessary. As many as 20 organizations, comprising 41 individuals, participated in these mentoring workshops.

The third pillar of internal capacity building comprises video lectures covering various areas of civil society organization activities. The diversity of video lectures aims to facilitate the work of organizations and informal groups on multiple fronts and provide guidance on addressing various challenges they may encounter. As many as 11 video lectures, accompanied by written manuals, have been published and made publicly available on the EU Resource Centre website. These video lectures provide brief introductions to the basics of specific topics. If organizations and informal groups require deeper and broader knowledge, they have the option to apply for a full training session on the given or similar topic.

The lectures are divided into three groups: Soft Skills, Expert Video Lectures, and Strengthening Communication Capacities. The topics of the video lectures (11) are: Community Engagement, Networking, Protection of Employee Mental Health, Urban Planning, Social Entrepreneurship, Traffic Safety Issues in Serbia, Agricultural Subsidies, Non-Discrimination as Human and Child Rights, Business Development for Civil Society Organizations, Crisis Communication, Media and Information Literacy.

### **Financial support to civil society organisations**

During 2023, the consortium gathered around BOS published five calls for the program supporting civil society organizations. In July 2023, two calls were announced, and they are continuously open.



**Call for Rapid response:** Within this call, organizations can receive support for activities aimed at contributing to addressing challenges or issues that have arisen six months prior to the project proposal submission and may hinder the reform process (e.g., deterioration of the strategic/legal framework, negative changes in institutional practices, and changes in the community context). During 2023, within this call, five organizations were supported.

**Call for Initiating New Ideas and Organizational Development:** Within this call, civil society organizations can receive support for activities aimed at contributing to the development of existing organization activities or piloting new ideas within the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union, as well as strengthening the internal capacities of organizations to increase their impact. During 2023, within this call, BOS and regional EU Resource Centers supported 29 organizations.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BOS opened a **Call for Donations for Innovative Solutions in Environmental Protection at the Local Level** within the Sustainable Local Development Fund. This call was intended for civil society organizations and local government units that have contributed to improving the strategic and normative framework, local public policies, institutional work in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development at the local level, as well as designing innovative solutions in this area. During 2023, within this call, three organizations were supported, which will implement their projects from 2024, in partnership with local government units. The EU Resource Centre for Civil Society in Serbia opened a **Call for Donations for intermediary organizations within the EU accession framework** on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This donation program is implemented by regional EU Resource Centres, and eight civil society organizations have been selected to start implementing their projects on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. The Novi Sad School of Journalism supported two organizations, while the ENECA organization and the Užice Centre for Children's Rights supported three civil society organizations each. The selected civil society organizations received support to strengthen their institutional and programmatic capacities and to provide support for up to 10 informal initiatives through the donation program. On October 31<sup>st</sup> BOS has opened a **Call for Public Advocacy and Citizen Engagement**. Within this call, 21 organizations were supported. Selected organizations will carry out activities to strengthen the role of civil society through public advocacy, contributing to the strengthening of democratic society, and enhancing their capacities through active citizen involvement.

Activities implemented in the program:

- 50 training sessions were conducted on over 20 different topics (soft and expert skills).
- Mentorship programs were implemented for 20 organizations and 41 individuals.
- 11 video lessons were recorded and published.
- Five different calls for donation programs were announced.
- Information sessions for the announced donation programs were conducted.
- Info days of the EU Resource Centre were carried out - 5 events held in 5 different cities: Užice, Niš, Novi Sad, Bor, and Jagodina.
- Consultations with civil society regarding new calls from the EU Delegation in Serbia were conducted - events held in Užice, Aleksinac, Leskovac, and Bor.
- 6 bulletins were published.
- A map of support for civil society organizations was created.

## Advancing Media and Youth CSOs Partnership for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia – MAY4DD

Under the project "Advancing Media and Youth CSOs Partnership for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia – MAY4DD", three main groups of activities are continuously implemented. The first programme activity focuses on providing financial support to media and youth CSOs, the second on capacity-building programmes for supported media and organizations, and the last one on the Academy of Journalism.

During 2023, financial support was provided to 29 youth civil society organizations and media, 15 in the second programme cycle and 14 organizations and media in the third cycle. All media and organizations implemented their projects in partnerships, meaning that a total of 15 different projects were supported in 2023. Some of the areas in which these projects are implemented include: improving media literacy, digital empowerment of young farmers, enhancing media access for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, promotion of dialogue between youth and decision-makers, reducing ethnic distance among youth, youth mental health, development of traffic safety for young people, and many others.

The call for the third cycle of the project was announced on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 and lasted until June 29<sup>th</sup> 2023. Within the open call period, BOS held an online information session as well as an additional question and answer (Q&A) session, where interested representatives of youth civil society organizations and media had the opportunity to learn more about the application conditions and the project. Projects to be supported were selected through comprehensive three step selection process.



During this process, a pre-selection training was also held for potential supported organizations and media. This event took place from 24-25 July 2023, in Belgrade, and on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 via Zoom. During the first day, participants were briefed by the BOS team on the rules and objectives of the "Advancing Media and Youth CSOs Partnership for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia – MAY4DD" programme, and they were provided with detailed explanations regarding project documentation submission and project proposal writing. Additionally, on the second day, BOS team organized individual consultations with each media/CSO to help them successfully complete the necessary project documentation. Financial aspects of the project were discussed during the last day of this pre-selection training.

Afterward, the BOS team continued with providing ongoing mentorship support to assist the registered youth civil society organizations and media in partnerships to successfully develop project ideas into full project proposals. The implementation of projects supported within the third cycle began on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

When it comes to capacity-building programmes, BOS team managed a significant number of diverse training sessions in 2023 for supported organizations and media aiming to strengthening and acquiring new knowledge and skills, both at the group and individual levels.

**Individual training sessions for CSOs/media:** Over 15 individual capacity-building programmes were organized for supported media and organizations in the second and third cycles. These sessions were created according to the previously conducted training-needs analysis. Some individual training topics included: strategic planning, new media and communication formats, fundraising, SEO optimization, financial and administrative project and organizational management, Google Analytics, mobile journalism, paid advertising on social media, journalistic rights, etc.

**The final training for supported CSOs and media** in the second programme year of Advancing Media and Youth CSOs Partnership for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia – MAY4DD, took place from 9-11<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 in Belgrade. In addition to presenting key achievements on their projects, this three-day event provided an opportunity for evaluation of the fulfilment of programme objectives, experience exchange, and gaining new knowledge on topics such as media reporting on youth, strategic planning and fundraising.



**The initial training for supported youth civil society organizations and media within the third cycle of the programme.** This training, which was organized at the beginning of the project year, provided participants the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the financial and programmatic aspects of the project, as well as learn more about social media communication and anti-corruption measures from experts. The training took place in Sabac from 6-8<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

**The training tailored to the specific needs of supported CSOs and media.** This training was held from 12-13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, in Vrnjacka Banja for representatives of CSOs and media. Topics that were presented and delivered were: fundraising, storytelling, effective communication and engagement with youth, and project monitoring and evaluation.



A total of 36 representatives of supported youth organizations and local media benefited just from group training sessions and tailored workshops adapted to their specific needs.

**The Academy of Journalism**, as a distinct group activity, was also implemented in 2023. During the second cycle, 14 young journalists from various media outlets across Serbia were supported. Programme of the Academy, defined by the Curriculum, involved two in-person meetings, online lectures, and an individual mentoring process with the writing of a final work.

**Initial training of the Academy of Journalism.** Besides the opportunity to get to know each other, participants in this training, held in Sabac on 25-27 January 2023, took part in workshops and practiced storytelling, TV interviewing, mobile journalism, as well as basic tools of investigative journalism.

**Online lectures** were held from 7 February to 21 March 2023, during which 10 different training sessions were organized on topics such as fact-checking, photo and video forensics, scientific and economic journalism, media ethics, reporting on vulnerable groups, data visualization, and content promotion on social media.

**Mentoring process.** During the lectures, participants of the Academy of Journalism selected topics for their final media product and received mentor support from prominent journalists.

**The final training of the Academy of Journalism** was organized in Ub on 17-19 May 2023. On this occasion, all the final media products were presented, and valuable monetary awards were given for the eight best-written or produced media content pieces. Additionally, during the three days, participants had the opportunity to engage and socialize with media experts who conducted separate sessions on safety of journalists, challenges in investigative journalism, and the future of various media formats.



Within the Academy of Journalism, 14 complex journalistic pieces were created and published investigative stories, radio reports, and analyses, addressing some of the pressing issues at the national and local levels. The new call for the third cycle of the Academy of Journalism was open during the December 2023.

## Dialogue of Change: Nurturing Participative and Evidence Based Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes in Serbia

The goal of the Dialogue of Change project was to contribute to reforms in Serbia based on the dialogue of stakeholders. The specific goals of the project were to support dialogue on developing public policies based on evidence and cooperation between CSOs and public authorities; strengthening the capacity of CSOs for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating public policies; improving the general public's understanding of the need and results of dialogue between CSOs and public authorities in the process of decision-making and problem solving. During the duration of the Dialogue of Changes project, there were 44 initiatives implemented by 58 civil society organizations, which were aimed at dialogue, problem solving and positive changes in public policies. Following activities were conducted as a part of strengthening capacities of involved CSOs: School of Public Policy, a consultative training session for writing projects, and a study visit to Croatia and Sweden..

As part of the activities coordinated by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, seven workshops and training sessions were held on the topic of partnership "Cooperation of public administration bodies with civil society organizations in the decision-making process". These activities were conducted online and live in Belgrade, Kruševac and Kraljevo - for over 250 participants, and since the beginning of the project, the scope of this capacity building program is over 500 participants. The training participants were representatives of local CSOs, representatives of local self-governments from the ranks of contact points for cooperation with CSOs. 60 maps of cooperation between the civil sector and public authorities were created and various models of cooperation were piloted in practice in over 50 local communities;

Within the Support Program designed for researchers, a total of 40 researchers were supported in producing various analyses, studies and practical policy proposals. All of these projects were developed based on the demand of concrete civil society organisations, for the purpose of their engagement in evidence informed policy making. .

The second study visit to Croatia was held in September 2023, and the participants of the study visit were representatives of civil society organizations supported within the program.





The host of the visit was the Office for NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, which organized visits to more than 10 institutions, organizations and conferences with the aim of exchanging experiences and good practices on the cooperation of CSOs and public authorities. The Minister for Human Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Tomislav Žigmanov, took part in the visit, so this visit had a semi-bilateral character for the first time since BOS has organized it.

With the aim of imparting knowledge about the creation, monitoring and implementation of public policies to representatives of the civil sector in the Republic of Serbia, and with the expert support of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, the School of Public Policy for Representatives was held in Šabac for civil society organizations.

Through the project's communication activities, the [dialoguepromena.bos.rs](http://dialoguepromena.bos.rs) platform was improved, 12 newsletters were created, 12 blogs were written, six podcast episodes were recorded, and a documentary film was recorded about the entire project, entitled "Strength of Partnership".

The end of the year on the project was marked by a conference called Move.Link.Engage - The Power of Partnership. The conference was held in Belgrade and gathered over 170 participants - representatives of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia, representatives of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, activists, experts, citizens and the media.

## Active Citizens - Better Society: Advocating for Cooperation and Democratic Development

In May 2023, Belgrade Open School successfully finished implementing the project Active citizens - better society, which has lasted from November 2018. At the end of the project, meetings of two working groups were held, which continued the discussions that started in November 2022.

Members of the working group that deals with the education and employability of young people from vulnerable social groups met in April 2023. Representatives of the business, civil, public sector and schools discussed the motivation of young people from vulnerable groups (Roma, people with disabilities, young people from rural areas) to join the labour market, the importance of work practices and the possibilities of social entrepreneurship. Meeting of the working group dealing with sustainable development was held on April 27. Representatives of the business, civil and public sectors discussed the importance of socially responsible business, the inclusion of civil sector expertise in the work of companies, but also the necessity of intersectoral cooperation, in order to ensure better living conditions for all citizens.

In order to improve the knowledge and skills of cooperation between civil society organizations and companies for joint public advocacy initiatives and to gain direct insight into the best examples of advocacy cooperation between these sectors, Belgrade Open School organized a study visit to the United States in April 2023. The study visit was attended by 15 representatives of prominent local, regional and national CSOs and business sector actors, who are dedicated to improving the practice of public advocacy in Serbia, citizen participation in the implementation of public policies and improving cooperation between civil society and the business sector. The visit included meetings with local and international organizations, companies and private foundations, which have records of successful public advocacy practices, mobilization of citizens in public advocacy campaigns, and cooperation between civil society and business in these initiatives.

In April 2023, the final event of the project called All Faces of Activism was held, which brought together representatives of the international community, the civil and business sectors. Through financial and mentoring support during the duration of the project, 74 civil society organizations across Serbia actively involved more than 55,000 citizens from 32 cities in creating positive changes and highlighting the importance of association, perseverance, and support and community mobilization.





## EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Belgrade open school improves public policies in the process of Serbia's accession to the EU by strengthening dialogue, building partnerships and educating agents of social change for adoption of European standards and values. BOS encourages open dialogue on European integration, with an aim to inform citizens and educate them on their rights and obligations. BOS contributes to engaging of local communities in accession process of Serbia to EU and advocates transparent and accountable public authorities.

Our main initiative in order to complete the mentioned goals is the “Let’s Talk about Negotiations”. This initiative contributes to the Europeanization of Serbia while promoting transparent and accountable process of EU accession negotiations based on dialogue and partnership between civil society and public authorities.

During 2023, within the program area European integration, the following projects were implemented:

- Civil Society Advancing Serbia’s EU Accession Process – Europe ASAP;
- Advancing Media and Youth CSOs for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia;<sup>5</sup>
- Civil Society Advancing Serbia’s EU Accession Process – CS4EU.

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<sup>5</sup> Please find more information about the project *Advancing Media and Youth CSOs for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia* within the program area Civil society.

## Civil Society for Advancing Serbia's Accession to the European Union – Europe ASAP

Within this project, the following activities have been conducted: 1. Financial and mentor support to partner civil society organizations (CSOs) and media; 2. Capacity building and networking programme; 3. Public outreach. Through the financial and mentor support, as many as 14 CSOs and media were supported, and selected based on the civil sector analysis, targeted areas, and the experience of CSOs and media, within a closed call for project submissions. The types of provided support vary, with 4 investigative media outlets receiving programme support, and 10 projects of CSOs operating in different areas and engaging in reform processes within the European integration of Serbia. Programme partners (investigative media), worked on creating media content focused on Cluster 1, addressing challenges and obstacles in some of the most significant areas for democratizing Serbia. Various contents were created and published, including investigative stories, videos, podcasts, and reports covering current topics in the country that attracted public attention, such as judiciary, money laundering, rule of law, electoral process, EU integration, school murders/shootings and the state's response, and others. Project partners dedicated their work to public policy proposals, analyses, methodologies, and campaigns dedicated to topics such as platform work, public procurement, prosecution, judiciary, security, rule of law, smart specialization, and media financing.



As part of capacity building activities, the following were organized:

**Initial capacity building** training (Project management training) for partners in project management, both programme and financial. During this training, partners had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with project documentation and financial and programme requirements and conditions in project implementation.

**Ten mentorship programs were initiated** (mentorship programme for supported CSOs and investigative media), covering areas such as public advocacy, policy monitoring and evaluation, participation in decision-making processes, strategic planning, digital marketing, fundraising, and crowdfunding, according to partners' needs.

**A peer exchange program** was implemented by one supported investigative media – representatives attended one of the most significant conferences for investigative journalists held in Sweden.

**The annual networking event** focused on discussing the findings of the European Commission's Report on Serbia 2023, involving programme and project partners through the Move.Link.Engage. conference held on November 29th in Belgrade.

The activity of connecting with the target group implies several different sub-activities, which aim to promote democratic values, European integration and increase the visibility of various topics of importance to society:

The first sub-activity relates to the creation of media content for two portals edited by the BOS team – Let's Talk about Negotiations portal and the Mingl youth portal. Let's Talk About Negotiations portal is focused on expert monitoring of the European integration process, as well as creating different types of content that will enable citizens to understand this process. During 2023, expert analyses, monthly newsletters, video materials, podcasts, and more were created. When it comes to the youth portal Mingl, the content that is published is dedicated to young people and provides them with information about various opportunities for training, events, but also the opportunity to try their hand at creating quality content through the correspondent network.

As part of the activities of the Local Youth Forum, during the year 2023, the BOS team conducted research on the attitudes of high school students in Serbia about the European Union. The research was conducted in two phases: desk research was conducted during July, while focus group interviews were conducted in October and November 2023. The Belgrade Open School team spoke with high school students from Subotica, Belgrade, Bor, Užice, Vranje and Prokuplje. The results of the research showed that high school students in Serbia are Eurosceptics who recognize the advantages of the regulated system of the European Union, but doubt that the society they live in could fit into what they perceive as "European regulation." The research served as a starting point for the development of curriculum for further work with this group of young people, which BOS team will continue through sub-activities. These activities will be conducted within the Local Youth Forum with the aim of getting high school students interested in socio-political topics such as the importance of Serbia's accession to the European Union, as well as building their critical thinking skills. Also, one of the conclusions or recommendations of the research is that it is necessary to apply models of work with high school students that would be informative at the same time, enable active involvement, teamwork and creativity.





## Civil Society for Enhancing Serbia's Accession to the European Union – CS4EU

During 2023, the last phase of the seven-year program "Civil Society for Enhancing Serbia's Accession to the European Union – CS4EU" was implemented. The activities carried out in the final phase focused on communicating the European integration process and promoting democratic values through the creation of diverse content accessible to a wider audience. The aim was to facilitate citizens' understanding of complex reforms by providing information in a way that is tailored and understandable to all citizens. Activities covered in this final phase included:

**Regular updating of the "Let's talk about Negotiations" portal.** Various educational and media content was created: interviews, analyses, infographics, video materials, daily news, etc. Additionally, a monthly newsletter with the same name was published, covering current topics in more detail.

**"Let's talk about Negotiations" Podcast.** Seven podcast episodes were released during 2023, each addressing topics related to the six Clusters for Serbia's EU accession and one related to two chapters not covered by the Clusters.

**Study visit to Brussels** was organized from May 28 to June 2, 2023, for 21 representatives of organizations that had been supported in previous years. Thematic meetings and visits to EU institutions were organized.

**The final event "Let's Give an Impulse to Integration"** was held at the Botanical Garden in Belgrade on June 14, 2023. The event was attended by more than 70 representatives of civil society organizations, media, public officials, representatives of the business sector, political activists, and agents of change. Discussions were held on the European integration process and its perspectives, as well as on how civil society can contribute to reforms.





## ENERGY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Belgrade Open School brings together and supports activists, local civil society organizations, media, energy cooperatives, trade unions, and other stakeholders, advocating for improved public policies in environmental protection and climate change. Our objectives include effective environmental management and achieving climate neutrality by 2050 through the successful application of European legal norms and standards. We support the democratization and decarbonization of the energy sector, emphasizing a just energy transition and increased integration of renewable energy sources into the energy mix. Our advocacy extends to enhancing national policies and regulations in air quality, climate change, and nature protection. Collaborating with citizens, we strive to enhance air quality monitoring through citizen science principles and promote the adoption of nature-based solutions in adapting to changing climate conditions. Advocating for good environmental management, we stress the importance of accessible information and citizen participation in decision-making, in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention. We also call for adequate funding and increased allocations for environmental protection. Our work aligns with the principles of the UN Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

During 2023, within the program area Energy, climate and environmental protection, the following projects were implemented:

- Together for the Environment;
- Civil Society for Energy Transition;
- Public Finance Reform – 2030 Agenda: SDGs for all Platform;
- Energy Transformation and Decarbonization in the Western Balkans;
- Local actors for clean energy and air;
- Open Balkan Energy mix;
- Energy cooperatives;
- Survey of public opinion on the use of natural gas in the energy mix;
- VOLVOX - Stronger involvement of civil society in environmental policy making and monitoring.

## Together for the Environment in Serbia

Together for the Environment Project aims to improve the protection of the environment and biodiversity in Serbia. Through its three components, the project will improve the capacities of managers of protected areas (with a special emphasis on the good governance of nature protected areas), improve the financing mechanisms of environmental protection and biodiversity (with a focus on the involvement of the private sector) and enable citizens to understand and participate in decision making on environmental, biodiversity and clean air public policies. Belgrade Open School is implementing the project in cooperation with partner organizations International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), international organization The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS), American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia (AmCham) and the association ENECA.



### Main activities in 2023:

#### **Analysis of Protected Area management system across Serbia:**

In cooperation with the IUCN, the work of international and national nature protection experts began on a comprehensive analysis of the institutional, legislative and public policy framework for nature protection in Serbia. The results of the analysis will be used in the further course of the project, as an evidence base for advocacy for improvement of legislation and public policies governing nature protection.

#### **Capacity and competency needs assessment of Protected Area managers:**

In cooperation with the IUCN, the work of international and national nature protection experts began on the analysis of the capacities and needs of protected areas' managers in Serbia. The results of the analysis will be used in the further course of the project for the development and implementation of the capacity building program for protected area managers.

#### **Establishment of Users' Councils in Protected Areas:**

In cooperation with the Young Researchers of Serbia, the Users' Council of the Special Nature Reserve "Kraljevac" was established, the first of its kind in Serbia (besides national parks, which are legally obliged to do so).



**Protected Areas' Transparency Improvement Actions:**

In cooperation with the Young Researchers of Serbia, the research "Life in a protected area from the perspective of residents and visitors" was conducted. Research analyzes the public opinion of local communities within and in the immediate vicinity of eight protected areas: Fruška gora, Đerdap, Tara, Suva planina, Gradac, Ludaško lake, Obedska bara, Great War Island.

**Analysis of the regulatory framework and structure of PAs revenues:**

In cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia (AmCham), an analysis of the regulatory framework for the financing of protected areas was carried out, with a focus on the Law on Charges for the Use of Public Goods, on based on which protected areas' managers are funding part of their operational costs needed for nature protection. In cooperation with the The Nature Conservancy (TNC), an analysis of international practices in the financing of protected areas and the participation of the business sector in the financing of biodiversity protection was carried out. The results of both analyzes will be the basis of advocacy for the improvement of the financing system for biodiversity protection in the further course of the project.

**Advocacy campaign for improved system of environmental charges, focusing on PAs revenues:**

Insufficient financial resources invested by the state and the business sector in environmental protection is one of the main challenges in this area. For this reason, the Belgrade Open School focused its advocacy activities on participation in the Working Group for the development of the Environmental Protection Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2024-2033 with the Action Plan. Through our work in the Working Group, we influenced the inclusion of financial objectives in the draft Strategy that will contribute to a greater volume and better quality of environmental protection financing in Serbia. Adoption of the Strategy is expected in 2024. Amendments to the Law on Charges for the Use of Public Goods were an opportunity to advocate for the improvement of the provisions of the Law regarding fees for the use of protected areas. Together with the project partners, we gathered managers of protected areas, we have jointly formulated comments and recommendations for the improvement of the Law and participated in a public discussion.

**Development and implementation of "Hired by Nature!" support program for small eco-friendly businesses:**

In cooperation with the association ENECA, the support program "Hired by Nature!" was designed. Support is dedicated to the innovation and sustainable development of business initiatives of small and micro enterprises that operate in territories or in the immediate vicinity of protected areas. The call for proposals was open from October to December, and more than 60 small and micro-enterprises from Serbia have applied, covering the following protected areas: Djerdap National Park, Golija Nature Park, Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve, Nature Park Stara Planina, and Radan Nature Park). Successful applicants will be awarded small grants between 5,000.00 to 10,000 USD to develop their businesses in 2024.

### **Mobilizing private sector for environmental protection:**

In cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia (AmCham), "Sustainable financing of protected areas in Serbia" conference was organized in December 2023, where representatives of the business sector were presented with the preliminary findings of the analysis of the financing system carried out as part of the project. Companies were presented with recommendations for improving the legislative framework, as well as several different mechanisms for the participation of companies in the financing of nature protection that can potentially be applied in Serbia. In this way, the conversation and cooperation on the establishment of new financing mechanisms for protected areas in Serbia began. BOS and project partners will work on piloting and establishing these mechanisms through the project in the coming years.

### **"My Piece of Nature" campaign**

In order to diversify sources of income for protected areas, raise awareness of the importance of nature protection and promote voluntary fundraising from local communities, during this year of the Together for the Environment project, a pilot crowdfunding campaign was developed, based on the concept of fundraising for the protection of endangered species and habitats from the wider community - natural and legal persons. This campaign is implemented by partners from the Young Researchers of Serbia (MIS) project consortium, but as this is one of the crucial activities of this five-year project, BOS as the leading partner in the project is actively involved in the implementation of the campaign. Overall, the campaign should serve as a good practice of inter-sector partnership and connect the system of protected areas, local communities, businesses, civil society and citizens around common goals, which is the improvement of environmental protection and biodiversity in Serbia.

### **Public policy monitoring and reporting on national level:**

During 2023, the Belgrade Open School monitored national public policies in the areas covered by Chapter 27 of the EU acquis - environment and climate change. The research results were published as part of the tenth Coalition 27 Shadow Report, and the Belgrade Open School team contributed to three areas of the report: climate change, air quality and horizontal legislation. The report was promoted at a public event in the premises of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce in the presence of more than 120 representatives of the public, civil and private sectors, media and international organizations. By working on the annual shadow report published by Coalition 27, BOS contributes to improving transparency and strengthening the responsibility of the administrative bodies in charge of working on the negotiation chapter 27 in the process of joining Serbia to the European Union.

One of the important activities within the project "Together for the Environment" involves the creation of environmental knowledge packages adapted to the public to improve the understanding of citizens and their knowledge of topics in the field of environmental protection and climate change. BOS has created a special section on the project website named "Eko Reflektor" where articles are regularly published that shed light on key concepts, legal mechanisms and reports of various domestic and foreign institutions participating in environmental policy and decision making, both at the national and global levels.

During 2023, the first knowledge packages were created on the new EU instrument – the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) through three articles and a publication entitled "CBAM: Today's dues become tomorrow's debts".



### **Citizens participating in policy and decision making on national level**

As part of the process of adopting the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (INECP), the Belgrade Open School organized a series of public events and a parallel consultative process during the public debate in order to bring this document closer to the domestic public and highlight its importance. A dedicated platform was created to collect and publish comments on the draft document that citizens could independently download and send to the line ministry on their own behalf. In addition to comments, the page also contained expert analysis to make the content of INECP and the measures it brings more understandable to the general public.

### **Participation of civil society in the development of formal environmental protection policy**

During the year 2023, BOS actively participated in the work of several working groups of different ministries, and in several public debates, thus contributing to decision-making and public policies in the field of environmental protection, energy and climate change. We participated in the work of five working groups for the development of the following public policy documents: WG for the development of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, WG for the Environmental Protection Strategy, WG for the development of the Energy Development Strategy, WG for the development of the Strategy for the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention and WG for the Just Energy Transition Diagnostics. Also, through our work with a wider circle of civil society organizations we collected and consolidated their comments, and forwarded to decision makers in formal processes.

### **Support Program for CSOs and Media “Learn.Mobilize.Participate”**

The “Learn.Mobilize.Participate” Program aims to empower civil society and the media to actively engage in decision-making processes and monitor the implementation of public policies concerning environmental protection and climate change. In addition to providing financial support ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for initiatives undertaken by CSOs and media, the program provides capacity building activities focusing on project development, management, and financial administration; expert guidance and mentorship; capacity development in monitoring local public policies related to environmental protection and climate change; participation in the Coalition 27 activities. During the first cycle of the Program, 15 organizations and media were selected to implement their projects across the country, as well as to monitor local public policies focused on nature protection, air quality, waste management, water management, climate change and horizontal legislation. “Learn.Mobilize.Participate” program will be implemented through four cycles and will last until 2027.



### **Communication and outreach campaign on the national level:**

Communication within this project is particularly based on the project's main communication channel, the project website [zazivotnusredinu.bos.rs](http://zazivotnusredinu.bos.rs), and the continuous creation of diverse content intended for different target groups.

During 2023, the main focus was on several communication activities. The big conference that launched the project was held on March 22, on World Water Day. The first competition for the annual award "Volunteers are Nature's peers" and the event was on May 22, on World Biodiversity Day. On the occasion of World Environment Day, on June 5, a public call was announced for the first cycle of the BOS support program "Learn.Mobilize.Participate" intended for civil society organizations and the media, and the entire campaign lasted a month. During the summer, a new column "EkoReflektor" was launched on the website, with the aim of educating and informing the public, in order to approach complex topics in the field of environmental protection through a simple and easy-to-understand approach. The Young researchers of Serbia (YRS) then published the "Guide for the establishment of User Councils in protected areas in Serbia" and initiated the establishment of the User Council in the Special Nature Reserve "Kraljevac", which was followed by a campaign, as well as promotion of the research results "Life in a Protected Area – from the perspective of Residents and Visitors". The campaign also followed the activities of the ENECA association, which at the end of 2023 published a call for the support program "Hired by Nature" with the aim of starting or improving business initiatives that will have or have a positive impact on the environment and the local community in the municipalities where there are protected areas. In December, the campaign followed the activities of AmCham, which organized the conference "Sustainable financing of protected areas in Serbia".

All activities are accompanied by communication promotion on other channels, including traditional and online media.

### **Annual Award the Nature Volunteers**

On the International Day of Biodiversity, May 22, with our partners Young Researchers of Serbia we held to awarding the most dedicated nature protection volunteer with the "Volunteers are Nature's Peers" award. The winner of the award was Ms. Aida Paljevac, a volunteer and activist from Nova Varoš, awarded for exceptional volunteer engagement in the field of nature protection and widely known for her dedicated volunteer commitment to the preservation of Zlatar Mountain and its surroundings. The award "Volunteers are Nature's Peers" is just one of the ways in which the "Together for the Environment" project creates more favorable conditions for volunteering and enables better protection of nature.

## Civil Society for Energy Transition

The Belgrade Open School, in cooperation with the Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute (RERI) and seven other local partners is implementing a project called Civil Society for Energy Transition.

The general goal of this project is to contribute to the implementation of the energy transition in Serbia to achieve zero emissions of greenhouse gases, energy independence, democratic and decentralized management of energy and climate policy, through increased participation of civil society in the development and monitoring of the implementation of reforms in this area.

### The main activities in 2023 were:

**Providing mentoring and financial support to partner organizations** in carrying out advocacy initiatives in the field of energy and climate policy at the local level

As part of the capacity building program, **two thematic trainings were organized** - during the first training, the structure, content and goals of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) were presented, while one of the main topics of the second training was preparation for public consultations on the NECP, as well as the development of action plans for the continuation of project implementation. Throughout the year, local partners had mentoring and expert support at their disposal, in the preparation of analyzes and in the implementation of daily activities at the local level.

**Two Green Talks were held**, public events during which representatives of local CSOs, the academic community, the public sector, experts in the field of energy, activists, prosumers and the media were gathered





The first Green Talk was organized with the focus on the domain and role of the local level government with regards to energy and climate policy, as well as what are some of key recommendations at the local level. The second Green Talk was organized on the topic of the analysis of the National Energy and Climate Plan; the revised text was presented and key areas within NECP were discussed: decarbonization, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources; the experts who worked on the analysis of the document gave comments on the draft, while the representative of the Ministry of Mining and Energy had the opportunity to respond to the comments of the experts and the present participants.

**A round table dedicated to the discussion of the results of the NECP** text analysis was held. This event brought together about 20 domestic and international experts for energy and climate policy, and the goal of the event was the discussion of experts on the revised draft of NECP in accordance with their expertise, experience and knowledge in this field. As a result of joint work of experts, two analyses were published on the topic of energy efficiency and just energy transition in Serbia.

**Participation in the Working Group for the preparation of NECP.** In addition to participation in the Working Group, as a result of project activities, a total of over 200 comments related to the areas of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, decarbonization and just energy transition was sent to the Ministry of Mining and Energy.

**Conducted communication campaign** and organized working breakfast with journalists. A communication campaign was designed and implemented on social networks and media to present the main activities and achievements of local partners. A working breakfast with selected journalists and editors was organized to present project activities in the context of current reforms, and exchange ideas on reporting on their implementation.



## Public Finance Reform - 2030 Agenda: SDGs for All Platform

The project is implemented with the aim to facilitate a society wide dialogue over the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the action of the "SDGs for All" Platform.

The Platform seeks to recognize the development priorities of society in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, map the shortcomings in Serbia's readiness to implement the Agenda and actively advocate better implementation of the Agenda in the coming period.

The platform is divided into three dimensions dealing with economic, social and environmental issues. The project partners are the Belgrade Open School, Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society, Center for Advanced Economic Studies, the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, the Center for Democracy Foundation, the Timok Youth Center and Smart Collective, and the implementing partner is the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ).

### Activities during 2023:

#### The research on Serbia's progress in implementation the Agenda 2030 in Serbia

In order to monitor the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Serbia, BOS has issued the third monitoring report entitled "Serbia 2030 – Many Challenges, Little Time: Is Serbia set its development path?". The report represents a comprehensive analysis of Serbia's readiness to implement the Agenda 2030 and is intended for state institutions and the expert public, as a form of assistance in the work on this internationally significant agreement. The report was presented at the annual conference held on November 15, attended by 120 representatives of all three sectors.





### **Informing the public at the national and local level about Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals in the field of environmental protection**

BOS has been raising awareness about the importance of sustainable development goals in environmental protection through its communication channels and collaboration with online and traditional media outlets.

### **Fund for sustainable local development**

The Belgrade Open School provides financial and mentoring support to civil society organizations at the local level and local self-government units to implement initiatives that contribute to building resilient and clean communities, responsible and efficient use of natural resources, and green growth and development. The call for application of project ideas was opened in October, after which three projects were selected that passed the first phase of mentoring support. Project implementation will begin in 2024, and throughout its duration, the BOŠ team will provide program mentoring and financial support.

## **Energy Transition and Decarbonization in the Western Balkans**

The project "Energy transition and decarbonization in the Western Balkans" aims to support reforms in the region through the engagement of civil society, in the direction of fueling the energy transition and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Belgrade Open School, in cooperation with GermanWatch from Germany, Balkan Green Foundation from Pristina and Ekosvest from Skopje, participates in the implementation of this project.

### **Main activities implemented during 2023:**

#### **Introductory meeting of the project consortium**

The meeting was held in Pristina in March 2023 and resulted in the creation of a detailed project implementation plan for 2023 and putting focus on the issue of small-scale renewable energy sources and citizen participation in the energy transition process.

#### **Gathering of associates on the topic of decarbonization**

BOS team, in order to identify participants in the project activities, formed an informal group of representatives of CSOs and experts with whom it is planned to act jointly on advocacy activities related to the integration of renewable energy sources. This informal network of partners is also involved in other project activities, such as study visits.

#### **Study visit to North Macedonia**

The project consortium carried out a study visit to North Macedonia, held from October 1 to 3. 25 participants from the region took part in the study visit, during which they had the opportunity to learn about examples of good practice in the energy transition in North Macedonia. The study visit was opened with a series of lectures on the energy transition in North Macedonia, and the participants then had the opportunity to visit a coal mine near the thermal power plant "Oslomej" in Kičevo, where a brand-new solar power plant was installed on the 22 hectares of a coal pit. In addition, three other significant locations had been visited: the factory of batteries for solar plants, the agricultural cooperative that is preparing to implement projects in the field of renewable energy sources, as well as the Belica vilage, where projects in the field of "citizen energy" are being implemented.

## Local Actors for Clean Energy and Air

The project "Local actors for clean energy and air" represents a continued cooperation which is realized through one-year projects, with a long-term focus on developing public policies that enable a just transition towards clean energy.

The central part of the project was support to civil society organizations and activists working on air pollution, strengthening of the citizen network for air quality monitoring, research activities focused on energy poverty in Serbia, meetings of interested parties and support for dialogue on just energy transition in Lazarevac.



**In 2023, the following activities were carried within this project:**

- Maintenance and expansion of the network for citizen air quality monitoring in Serbia;
- Organization of 2 trainings on monitoring of public policies in the area of air quality for 50 activists and representatives of civil society organizations;
- Organization of a conference on air quality in the Republic of Serbia, attended by 72 participants;
- Workshop on just energy transition with 10 students of Grammar school in the Lazarevac Municipality;
- Developing models for citizen monitoring of industrial pollution;
- Development of a new generation of sensors for air quality monitoring;
- Providing support to the organizations working on air pollution in different local environments;
- Conducting research on public calls for energy sanitation of residential buildings and family houses, conducted by the Ministry of Mining and Energy in cooperation with local self-government units. The goal of the research was to gain insight into the potential of these programs to address the problem of energy poverty in Serbia;
- Participation in the work of two Working Groups initiated by the Ministry of Mining and Energy;
- Participation in the exchange program within the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, initiated by the European Commission.

### **Open Balkans Energy Mix**

The "Open Balkans Energy Mix" project aims to determine the possibilities and preconditions for greater integration between the energy systems of Serbia, North Macedonia and Albania, primarily in the domain of renewable energy sources, for the sake of easier management and balancing of these sources and reduction of dependence on the import of electricity, as well as fossil fuels. This will be done through research conducted by experts from the above-mentioned countries.

**In 2023, the following activities were implemented:**

- Team of experts from Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia was formed;
- A detailed research framework has been defined that specifies the steps and research method, as well as the content of the regional concept that will be analyzed. The first part of the research has already been carried out according to the agreed framework, which laid the foundation for further analyzes and conclusions;
- The stakeholders who should be informed about the project results have been mapped out;
- The planning of a regional workshop has begun. It will be organized to present the research results to representatives of the public sector, the academic community, and the business sector. This meeting will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss research findings and identify possible steps for further actions or regional cooperation.

## Energy cooperatives

Through cooperation with the first two energy cooperatives established in Serbia, "Elektropionir" and "Sunny Roofs", the Belgrade Open School implemented a project aimed at providing support to these cooperatives in designing and carrying out their initiatives and projects in the field of renewable energy sources.

### **Main activities realized during 2023:**

#### **Support to project partners**

Energy cooperatives "Sunny Roofs" and "Elektropionir" have made significant progress in promoting projects of renewable energy sources. "Sunny Roofs" secured investments for solar panels for roof owned by the energy community itself, while "Elektropionir" expanded its portfolio with two PV solar plants and continues to develop projects that demonstrate the potential of energy cooperatives in Serbia.

#### **Participation in the gathering of energy cooperatives in Athens organized by REScoop**

Representatives of BOS participated in a large spring gathering of representatives of energy cooperatives from all over Europe, organized by REScoop - the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives, in Athens. Members of the BOS team, by participating in the gathering, improved their knowledge about the concept of "energy democratization" and established contact with new partners in this area.

#### **Participation in the conference within the project "Balkan Sunny Roofs" in Kragujevac**

The representative of BOS participated in the conference within the project "Balkan Sunny Roofs" in Kragujevac, held on 27-28. September 2023. During the event, discussion about the establishment of energy communities through the cooperation of state and private actors was brought up. The representative of BOS introduced the audience to the legal norms that regulate the energy communities in Europe and Serbia.

#### **Consultative meeting in Lazarevac**

In order to encourage cooperation and present sustainable alternatives to the energy sector dependent on coal, the BOS team participated in the organization of a meeting in Lazarevac that gathered enthusiasts for the energy transition, representatives of civil society, the startup community and local self-government.

#### **Completion of website creation**

The representatives of BOS completed the development of the website [energijazajednice.bos.rs](http://energijazajednice.bos.rs), created to show the steps necessary for establishing an energy cooperative and case studies of examples of good practice.

#### **Podcast Electrification 2.0**

Together with the Environmental Improvement Center, BOS supported the recording of the episode of the podcast "Electrification 2.0", in which a representative of the energy cooperative "Elektropionir" was a guest.



## Survey of Public Opinion on the Use of Natural Gas in the Energy Mix

The central part of the project is the research of public opinion on the attitudes towards the use of natural gas in the energy mix of the Republic of Serbia. The research will contribute to a better understanding of the use of natural gas in Serbia and complete the picture of citizens' awareness of the use of this energy source.

### **The activities envisaged by this project, which will be implemented in 2024, are:**

- Research on the attitudes of public opinion on the use of natural gas in the energy mix of Serbia. It will be conducted on a random and representative sample of citizens, which will cover all socio-demographic and geographic categories of the population;
- Organizing focus groups during which key findings from public opinion research will be checked and tested;
- Creation of a short publication on the advantages and disadvantages of using natural gas in the energy mix of Serbia;
- Organizing a public campaign through which key findings and messages from the overall research will be promoted.

## **VOLVOX - Stronger Involvement of Civil Society in Environmental Policy Making And Monitoring**

The project "VOLVOX - Stronger involvement of civil society in environmental policy making and monitoring" aimed to streamline the transformative power of EU integration process and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans into environment and climate change reforms in Serbia. The project was implemented in partnership with the Young Researchers of Serbia and the Renewables and Environment Regulatory Institute (RERI).

### **In 2023, the following activities were implemented:**

#### **Consultations on development key strategic and legislative documents in the area of environmental protection and climate change**

BOS actively participated in the Working Group meetings for the drafting the Environmental Protection Strategy. As the strategic direction and the framework of the Strategy are based on the goals of the Sofia Declaration and the five pillars of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, BOS participated in the work of two sub-groups: 1) decarbonization, energy efficiency and reduction of industrial emissions and 2) reduction of environmental pollution with a focus on air quality.

The project's main activity was the organization and holding consultative meetings on drafting the Strategy. The aim of the consultative meetings was to make the process more transparent and to enable a wider circle of actors (organizations and representatives of the academic sector who are not members of the Working Group) to participate in the earliest stage of drafting the Environmental Protection Strategy. The participants of the consultative meetings had the opportunity to discuss the documents created by the work of the Working Group and to give their contributions in the form of proposals and comments in accordance with their expertise. Comments collected during the consultative processes were forwarded to the Working Group for further consideration. In this process, 440 comments were collected.



### **Creating a knowledge base for informed participation processes of citizens, civil society organizations and activists**

This activity is carried out by the project partners, with BOS contributing through the development of documents in the form of infographics and guidelines that provide more detailed description of citizens' rights to participate in decision-making processes, the process of creating and adopting public policy documents, as well as the ways in which citizens and civil society organizations can actively engage in their development.

### **Public advocacy and media campaign for transparent and participatory policy-making processes**

To increase the transparency of the Environmental Protection Strategy development process, BOS regularly informed the public through its communication channels about the start and progress of the document drafting process. Within the published news, the main conclusions from the consultative meetings were highlighted and the planned further steps in developing the Strategy. Also, through its participation in the Working Group, BOS emphasized the importance of involving a wider circle of civil society organizations and the academic sector in drafting public policy documents.

### **Developing and implementing innovative tools with the aim of increasing citizen participation**

To increase the interest and participation of citizens in decision-making processes, BOS has developed a participatory video game whose scenario is based on the legal framework of the environmental impact assessment process. The goal of the game is to bring this process closer to the public in a creative and educational way.



## EMPLOYABILITY, CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Belgrade Open School supports individuals in finding creative answers to the challenges of finding, getting and keeping a job and advancing in both their professional and personal lives. In the era of a dynamic changes of global labour market, common economic and social crisis, we believe that it is important to affect the development of career management skills, lifelong learning and to provide quality guidance in transition from education system onto the labor market (or vice versa when the career development demands it).

BOS encourages individual's continuous development, lifelong learning and overall economic development of our society by contributing to the establishment of the career guidance and counselling system and by strengthening the connection between education and the labour market

During 2023, within the program area Employability career guidance and counselling, the following projects were implemented:

- Virtual internships for an inclusive society;
- Green Generation – Schools engaged for climate action;
- E4NEETs – Strengthening support structures for young people in the NEET situation in the field of entrepreneurship;
- Cooperation to quality: Accessible career guidance and counseling services for everyone!;
- E2E - Education to Employment.

## Virtual Internships for Inclusive Societies

To overcome the barriers and create equal educational opportunities for developing young people's skills, Belgrade Open School implements the project "Virtual Internships for Inclusive Societies". The project represents a base for improving the access of young people to internship programs within the formal and informal education system. A special emphasis of the project is placed on the inclusion of young people from rural areas and young people with disabilities, as well as on empowering young people to get involved and cooperate with decision-makers in the field of youth education and employment policies and thus become key actors in decision-making processes in regarding own rights and interests.

Within the Virtual Internships for Inclusive Societies project, three national forums on virtual practices were organized, the European Forum on Virtual Internships, a National Report was created and Guidelines for the implementation of virtual internships were prepared. BOS team organized three national fora on virtual internships that brought together more than 130 representatives of educational institutions, employers, and civil society organizations dealing with youth employment issues, as well as young people who had the opportunity to present their experiences in the field of organizing work internships intended for young people and to give their recommendations for improving the internships program. As part of the national fora, workshops were organized with participants through which the possibilities and models of implementation of the virtual internship program in Serbia were discussed.

In parallel with that, BOS team conducted desk research on virtual internships in Serbia, which presented the legislative framework for implementation, examples of good practices that have been implemented so far in the system of formal and informal education, as well as an analysis of the existing capacities of internship organizers for the future improvement and application of the model of virtual internships.

Based on the data and recommendations received from the participants of the national fora and research findings, Guidelines for the implementation of virtual internships were created. The guidelines present a how-to document for educational institutions and employers, as well as decision makers for the implementation of the virtual internship model for young people in Serbia. The set of guidelines focuses on the basic conditions that virtual internships should provide to enable young people to develop the necessary skills for personal and professional development.

In September 2023, a two-day European Forum on Virtual Internships was organized, which gathered more than 60 participants from Serbia, North Macedonia, Italy, and Spain. Examples of good practices in the implementation of such programs and recommendations for further improvements at the level of public policies were presented at the European Forum. Young people who went through the "Student Company and Girls Go Circular" program, which allows students to be involved in the development and management of their own companies, with real products and services, presented themselves at the event. The students presented the programs on how student companies encourage students to develop entrepreneurial skills, creativity, and innovation.



The following student companies were presented at the event: Maccuero, Resourcerer, as well as representatives of the Alumni Network of Junior Achievement in Serbia. In addition, as part of the Forum, a consultative meeting was held with representatives of employers and civil society organizations where areas for further improvement of cooperation in the field of internships for young people were discussed.

### **Cooperation to Quality: Accessible Career Guidance and Counselling Services for Everyone!**

To improve the employability of young people, Belgrade Open School in partnership with the National Association of Youth Offices implemented the project "Cooperation to quality: Accessible career guidance and counselling services for everyone!"

Within the framework of the project, the following activities were carried out, which contributed to the achievement of significant results in the area of CGC:

#### **Trainings to strengthen the capacity of local Youth Offices, CSOs, and school teams for CGC, following the Service Standards for CGC:**

Contributed to strengthening the capacities of 30 representatives of Youth Offices, CSOs, and school teams for CGC from 19 local governments to establish and improve CGC service programs by the adopted standards. Two two-day trainings were held to strengthen the capacity of local youth offices, civil society organizations, and school teams for career guidance and counselling. The first training "Career guidance and counselling as a support mechanism for students from vulnerable social groups" brought together 15 participants.

Special focus in this context was placed on issues such as changes in the number of available jobs, quality of jobs and wages, the importance of social protection, flexibility of work, but also dialogue in industrial relations. The training participants had the opportunity to practically apply knowledge about innovations accompanying the activities of CGC, with a focus on the use of digital tools, respect for the goals of sustainable development, and principles of gender-sensitive CGC, through workshops.



The second part of the training is dedicated to the initial planning of activities that the participants will implement in their local communities, with the support of mentors.

### "Career days" – implementation of local CGC activities

The aforementioned activity contributed to the establishment of 13 local teams, which implemented career guidance and counselling services in local self-governments, which are oriented towards the development of career management skills. Local CGC activities included workshops with a large number of young people (520 in total) from the following local governments: Šid, Belgrade, Požarevac, Kula, Niš, Subotica, Kragujevac, Žabalj, Knjaževac, Novi Sad.

### Fair of Career guidance and counselling

To increase the employability of young people and to connect key actors (schools, youth offices, CSOs), Belgrade Open School organized public event for the promotion of quality career guidance and counselling services for young people, in the form of the Career Guidance and Counselling Fair. Career Guidance and Counselling Fair has been organized for the ninth year in a row. It represents a unique forum that gathers interested parties for the exchange of experiences and examples of good practices that implement CGC services in their local areas. The Career Guidance and Counselling Fair brought together a total of 103 representatives of schools, youth offices, civil society organizations, public authorities, and all other interested parties, who had the opportunity to get acquainted with examples of good practice, as well as ways of quality implementation of CGC services for young people. 16 examples of good practices in the field of CGC from schools, organizations, and youth offices were presented at the Fair.





## Green Generation – Schools Engaged for Climate Action

The "Green Generation – Schools engaged for climate action" project aims to contribute to informing teachers, parents, and students in schools about the importance of climate justice, participation in energy policy and democratization, to contribute to the self-sustainability of schools through the improvement of fundraising and advocacy capacities and to provide mentoring support to schools for active participation in decision-making processes at the local level.

As part of the first activities of the "Green Generation – Schools engaged for climate action" project, the BOS team established cooperation with six primary schools in Valjevo, where educational workshops were held with students.

Participants of the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades of elementary schools were included in the workshops and had the opportunity to participate in discussions and interactive activities on environmental protection. Students worked on presentations and preparations for the "Bazaar of Ideas", where they presented their works in pairs.

Students also worked on presentations about solar panels and their contribution to environmental protection. Through these workshops, it was explained how solar panels use solar energy to produce electricity, reducing the need for fossil fuels and the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere. The workshops also focused on personal responsibility in preserving the environment, where students shared ideas about recycling, waste reduction, and energy saving. They also worked on writing mini-projects, the presentation of which will be held at the Bazaar of Ideas in April 2024.



Also, students had the opportunity to consult with mentors to get additional advice and guidance for improving their projects. This interaction contributed to the additional education of the students and encouraged them to think creatively and innovatively about their ideas and the long-term consequences of their actions on the planet and to contribute to the preservation of nature for future generations with their activities. As part of the "Green Generation – Schools engaged for climate action" project in Valjevo, 138 elementary school students went through the workshops.

## **E4NEETs – Strengthening Support Structures for Young People in the NEET Situation in the Field of Entrepreneurship**

As a contribution to the development of the support system for NEET youth (not in employment education and training), the following intellectual results were produced:

- Support program framework for staff working with young people in NEET situations. This framework presents a summary of available resources, providers, mentors, and other actors of importance for encouraging the development of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Serbia and a comprehensive overview of the support ecosystem for potential entrepreneurs.
- Handbook for counsellors working with young people in NEET situations. The expert team of BOS was responsible for this result, the starting point set by the project was to design a methodology and create a Program for training counsellors who work or intend to include young people in the NEET situation in their counselling work.
- Created a series of newsletters intended for career practitioners and counsellors who work with young people in the NEET situation, to bring the concept of social entrepreneurship as a career option closer to them and the developed tools;
- The BOS team provided expert support for the creation of a tool for mapping service providers in the field of entrepreneurship.
- Designing a methodology and training program for counsellors to work with young people in the NEET situation.
- Participation in consortium meetings in Paris and Skopje.

In March 2023, BOS team has organized an international webinar where they presented an improved methodology and tools for working with young people in NEET status, based on which a pilot was conducted for over 160 young unemployed people from Spain, France, and North Macedonia.

In December 2023, BOS hosted the final national event of the project and organized the Expert Panel: "Career in focus: Career options in accordance with the needs of young people, youth entrepreneurship and young people in a NEET situation". The panel emphasized the importance of youth entrepreneurship, pointed out the obstacles and challenges young entrepreneurs face, and also provided insight into the support mechanisms available to young people in achieving career progress and professional goals. The representative of the social enterprise Women on the Way - Katarina Ejduš, representative of the Center for Youth Work Ivan Topalović, Marina Lukić, manager of BOS, who presented the key achievements of the project, spoke on the panel. The panel brought together over 80 young people, career practitioners, representatives of schools, civil society organizations, and the wider community.

## Education to Employability

In 2023, the expert team of Belgrade Open School conducted trainings for representatives of the National Employment Service from various branches throughout Serbia, as well as for representatives of the business sector, such as specialized employment agencies, on the topic of "Quality career guidance and counselling services". The trainings were carried out based on the Recommendations for the implementation of the Plan for the implementation of CGC service standards adopted by the Council for the National Framework of Qualifications. Through this type of training, career practitioners from the ranks of advisers in the national service, specialists in recruitment and selection, and employee development became more familiar with the Standards of career guidance and counselling services and strengthened their application in daily work with different users.



To bring the CGC Standards closer to career practitioners, BOS team created the first Handbook for career practitioners on the topic of applying the Standards of Career Guidance Services. The manual contains knowledge and experience of trainers and a complete presentation of the elements of the CGC service standards. The manual is primarily intended for people who work directly with users in the field of providing career guidance and counselling services (counselling, information, career training).

During 2023, BOS has provided consultative support to the working group for career guidance and career counselling at the Qualifications Agency.



## EDUCATION

The educational program of the Belgrade Open School has 30 year-long tradition. For as many as 30 generations of students, the Belgrade Open School has introduced new knowledge and skills that contribute to their professional and personal development.

Through a multidisciplinary educational program, BOS strives to educate and connect selected students from different faculties, building a network of successful and free-thinking individuals. Through its educational programs, the Belgrade Open School has influenced the progress of over 1.300 participants, and this number is still increasing today. Many of the alumni are lecturers and mentors at the Program and share their knowledge with new generations.

The Future Studies program of the Belgrade Open School today includes several units:

- Lectures of knowledge;
- Skills workshops;
- Mentoring program;
- Psychological support;
- Free activities.



## Future Studies

During 2023, two semesters of the Future Studies educational program were implemented:

- Second semester of academic year 2022/23. year for 20 students of the 30th generation of the Program;
- First semester of academic year 2023/24 for 25 students of the 31st generation of the Program.

### **The second semester of the 30th generation in the academic year 2022/23**

The autumn semester started on February 1st with the Intensive EU module, which included 4 lectures. These lectures aimed to prepare students for the Perspectives on Europe Module.

#### **Perspectives on Europe Module**

Within this module, 10 lectures were held that enabled students to learn about the development of the European Union from different angles, the Serbian European perspective, various political processes in the European Union, as well as the problems that the EU is facing.

#### **Classroom 4.0 Module**

Students had 10 lectures focused on the consequences of the technological revolution. The goal was to explain what kind of changes in society are taking place in this environment. The topics dealt with the positive aspects, but also the negative implications of the new technological society on the environment. There were lectures about artificial intelligence, modern medicine, new technologies, and climate changes that occurred as a result of social development.

#### **Internship program and mentorship program**

Nine students successfully completed their internships in the following institutions: Olaf&McAteer, Demostat, Center for Educational Policies, Center for Free Elections and Democracy, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, Nova Iskra, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Belgrade Open School. As part of the Alumni2Students mentorship program, eighteen students had the opportunity to connect with mentors, alumni of the program, and initiate cooperation with them.

#### **Free activities**

The BOS literary club was one of the most interesting activities for the 30th generation, so 4 of them were organized and held. The goal of this activity is to start a debate on certain books that the students choose by themselves, and to interpret and exchange opinions. The 30th generation also had Psychological workshops during the fall semester. Six workshops were held with psychologist Jana Stojanović. The goal of the workshops was to teach students how to rationally face problems, how to communicate, while in the process students had the opportunity to get to know themselves and other students better. In 2023, participants of the Future Studies program also had the opportunity to participate in the Winter Teamwork School, which is traditionally organized by the Belgrade Open School. The winter school was held on mountain Gučevo from March 24th to 26th. At the end of the spring semester, the students gave four lectures to their colleagues as part of the Students2Students programme. Two lectures were held under the title "Symbolism of the Balkans - what does the Balkans actually mean?" and "Sophists", and two workshops were organized dedicated to the LinkedIn platform and Sociological tendencies in contemporary society.





### Final papers

The last step in Future Studies programme was the Final paper. Students could choose between writing an academic essay, a public policy proposal, or a case study. Four students wrote a public policy proposal, twelve students opted for an academic essay, while one student defended a case study. Seventeen students successfully completed the program. The awarding of diplomas for students of the 30th generation was a part of the celebration of 30 years of the Belgrade Open School.



### Program reform

Following the completion of the Program in the academic year 2022/23, the Future Studies Team has reformed the program to be attended by the 31st generation. Wanting to keep the fundamental values of the Program, while introducing novelties that will further improve Future Studies, the Team introduced new modules that, in addition to knowledge, will also focus on practical skills that will be important for students' personal development. The reformed program consists of the modules Knowledge for the Future, Skills of the Future, New World and Career Management and Work Practices.

The first semester of the 31st generation in the academic year 2023/24

In May 2023, the application period for the admission of the 31st generation of Future Studies started. The campaign for enrolment of the new generation included a campaign on social networks, as well as the presentation of the Program at faculties. The goal of the campaign was to give students and future participants the opportunity to learn more about the selection process itself, as well as the Program activities.



The selection of candidates was carried out from May to September in two enrolment rounds. Based on personal applications, personality and ability tests and individual interviews with the candidates, the commission formed a final list of 25 candidates who will be a part of the Program in the academic year 2023/24.

The multidisciplinary nature of the program enables students with different interests to expand their knowledge. The 31st generation of participants of the program come from different faculties, among which are the Faculty of Political Sciences, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Organizational Sciences, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Philology, the Faculty of Diplomacy and Security, Faculty of Informatics and Computing, Belgrade Polytechnic and Faculty of Business. Students of the 31st generation had the opportunity to be the first ones to participate in workshops and lectures after the reform of the program. Lectures in the autumn semester are part of the modules Knowledge for the Future, Skills for the Future and Psychological Support, while the spring semester will be focused on the modules New World and Career Management and Work Practices.



### **Knowledge for the future Module**

During the fall semester, 11 lectures were held within this module. The aim of this module is to provide a wide variety of knowledge in numerous fields and to introduce students to the social, economic and political influence on the state. Among other things, the lectures discussed social problems, international relations, global crises, climate change and other topics that are current and important at the given moment.



### **Future Skills Module**

This module was carried out through 11 workshops and lectures. Through the workshops, participants had the opportunity to become familiar with numerous practical skills that are necessary and useful for further professional and personal advancement and development. One of the skills the students focused on was public speaking and public presentation skills. They had the opportunity to improve those skills through various individual and group exercises. Students and lecturers cantered on skills of television performance, managing social networks, building a personal brand and other skills that contribute to the development of students in today's world and environment.

### **Psychological support Module**

As part of Psychological Support, 6 psychological workshops were organized with the help of psychologist Jana Stojanović. The goal of this module is to introduce the participants of the program with tools that can help them establish healthy relationships, deal with conflicts, anxiety, negative emotions or self-criticism. Students had the opportunity to get acquainted with assertive communication and other instruments that they can use in everyday life. As part of the program, two BOS Book Clubs were also implemented.



### **Mentoring program**

During the autumn semester consultations on the mentoring program were held, where each of the students had the opportunity to express interest in a specific topic, area or specific person who, as a mentor, could guide the participant of the program towards progress. Unlike previous years, when the mentoring program was called Alumni2Students and meant connecting former program participants with the current generation, the reform of the program expanded the network of experts who help the professional development of program participants.



## YOUTH POLICIES

Ever since the founding of Belgrade open school, the focus of its activities has been young people, to whom we offer educational programs and services which empower them to become active members of society and agents of social change. Apart from this, BOS also advocates for the establishment of a systematic and continuous support for young people, which would lead to improving youth employability, gaining economic independence, as well as active participation on issues that concern them.

With the aim to inform young people about all issues that concern them, BOS founded the Mingl portal in 2007. Since then, young people visit the website in order to find daily information and news on non-formal educational programs, scholarships, workshops, courses, competitions, exchanges, announcements of events and other topics intended for the younger audience.

During 2023, within the program area Youth policies, the following projects were implemented:

- Advancing Media and Youth CSOs for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia;<sup>6</sup>
- Media for youth: Be aware that food is not garbage.

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<sup>6</sup> Please find more information about the project *Advancing Media and Youth CSOs for Prosperous Democratic Development of Serbia* within the program area Civil society.



## Media for Youth – Be Aware that Food is not Garbage

One-third of globally produced food ends up as waste. This is a complex issue with a range of negative social, economic, and environmental impacts. Food waste is a significant problem in Serbia, without a clear strategy on how to deal with it. Therefore, the Belgrade Open School, specifically through the youth portal Mingl that originated within its framework, and the Center for Environmental Improvement, implemented a project from November 2022 to February 2023 titled "Da ne dođe do nevolje veće, budimo svesni da hrana nije smeće." The project was supported by the British Council as part of the Media for Youth program.

As part of this project, an awareness-raising campaign was implemented to present to the audience of the Mingl portal what individuals can do, in line with their own capabilities, to reduce food waste and protect the environment and minimize its negative effects.

The problem is to be presented to the target group in three separate stories (a general overview of the situation with food as waste in Serbia, an example of good practice, an interview) which, in addition to the Mingl website, was also distributed on the Mingl Instagram page. As the form of short videos - Instagram reels is an increasingly popular form of expression among young people on social networks, three videos were prepared that presented "tricks" on how everyone can contribute to reducing food waste. In addition, 10 Instagram stories were prepared and published as part of the social media campaign, as well as two carousel posts that will be linked to the main theme. This project was largely based on research conducted by the partner organization - the Center for Environmental Improvement.



## GOOD GOVERNANCE

Belgrade open school deals with research and advocacy for responsibility, transparency and participation. BOS researches and advocates the participation of citizens in the decision-making process, especially at the local level, as well as transparency in decision-making, but also in the work of public administration. So far, BOS has been engaged in research on participation and transparency in the field of European integration, higher education, work of local self-government, regional development, energy and the environment.

During 2023, within the program area Good governance, the following project was implemented: Dialogue of Change: Nurturing Participative and Evidence Based Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes in Serbia.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Please find more information about the project *Dialogue of Change: Nurturing Participative and Evidence Based Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes in Serbia* within the program area Civil society.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN 2023

### Strategic goal 1: development of civil society organizations and individuals (change-makers)

#### AV1.1

Supported civil society organizations are empowered to be more financially and programmatically sustainable and more resistant to internal organizational challenges and external risks related to the environment in which they operate

#### AV1.2

Supported civil society organizations are empowered to participate in decision-making processes and advocate for changes in public policies

#### AV1.3

BOS has contributed to the improvement of the framework for transparent, inclusive and responsible inclusion of CSOs in decision-making processes and creation of public policies

#### AV1.4

BOS has contributed to the improvement of cooperation between companies, institutions and civil society organizations in decision-making processes

#### AV1.5

BOS has contributed to the improvement of employability and career development of individuals

#### AV1.6

Improved knowledge and skills of selected individuals through the educational, multidisciplinary program that deals with the future

### Strategic goal 2: improvement of public policies

#### AV2.1

BOS has contributed to the foundation of public policies and regulations in data in its areas of expertise

#### AV2.2

BOS has contributed to the quality of public policies and regulations in its areas of expertise, by participating in available official civil society mechanisms



### Strategic goal 1: development of civil society organizations and individuals (change-makers)

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.1. Number of supported CSOs and media that prepared contributions and participated in public consultations/public debates for the creation/amendment of public policy documents, laws, regulations and other acts at national or local level	<b>77</b>
1.2. Number of supported CSOs and media that participated in working groups for drafting public policy documents, regulations and other acts and temporary or permanent working bodies at all levels of governance (from local to national)	<b>31</b>
1.3. The number of supported CSOs and media that contributed to the EC's annual report on Serbia and other documents that monitor the process of European integration (shadow reports, monitoring action plans, etc.)	<b>43</b>
1.4. Types of contributions of the supported CSOs/media during public consultations/public hearings and participation in working groups for drafting public policy documents, laws, regulations and other acts, as well as types of contributions of CSOs/media during participation in temporary and permanent working bodies	<p><u>Energy, Climate and Environmental protection:</u> Comments on the Draft of the Environmental Protection Strategy; Comments on Draft of the Decree on the methodology of drafting public policy documents; Comments on National Energy and Climate plan, Comments on the Drafts of local budgets.</p> <p><u>European Integration:</u> Draft documents, comments, recommendations, analyses (Independent Association of Journalists of Serbia and Coalition for Media Freedom, ANEM and CRTA, amendments to the Law on electronic media (adopted: 14/49) and the Law on public information and media (adopted: 12/15)).</p> <p><u>Civil society:</u> Written contributions in the form of comments on existing public policies and participation in public debates, consultations and working bodies.</p>
1.5. Types of public policies for which contributions of supported CSOs/media have been prepared	<p><u>Energy, Climate and Environmental protection:</u> Environmental Protection Strategy, Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan; Public policies related to air protection (budgets of local self-government units).</p> <p><u>European integration:</u> Regulation of digital food delivery platforms based on European standards; Prosecutorial police; Regional specialization; Public procurement; Media competitions.</p> <p><u>Civil society (MAY4DD):</u> Youth participation in decision making process; Youth policies; Agriculture; Interculturalism.</p> <p><u>Civil society (Dialogue of Change):</u> Inclusive public policies in the field of student scholarships; Inclusive public policies in the implementation of programs and tenders for financing local CSOs by LGUs; Local policies in the field of female entrepreneurship; Protection of children in sports from violence; Promotion and protection of human rights through the adoption of the optional protocol; Contribution to the drafting of laws on labor practices; Contribution to the drafting of the Law on youth; Contribution to the development of educational policies in the field of intercultural education.</p>



**Expected value 1.1 : Supported civil society organizations are empowered to be more financially and programmatically sustainable and more resistant to internal organizational challenges and external risks related to the environment in which they operate**

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.1.1. Number of CSOs/media that received financial, mentoring and expert support through BOS programs	<b>340</b>
1.1.2. Number of training days for CSO capacity building	<b>172</b>
1.1.3. Diversity of capacity building programs (training, study visits, experience exchange programs...)	Trainings (both individual and group), Workshops, Mentorships, Video trainings, Study visits, Experience exchange, Conferences.

**Expected value 1.2. Supported civil society organizations are empowered to participate in decision-making processes and advocate for changes in public policies**

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.2.1. The number of supported CSOs that have enrolled in different trainings on the following topics: writing public policy proposals, policy monitoring and evaluation, and public advocacy	<b>104</b>
1.2.2. The number of supported CSOs that have received mentoring support for creating public policies and for public advocacy	<b>54</b>

**Expected value 1.3. BOS has contributed to the improvement of the framework for transparent, inclusive and responsible inclusion of CSOs in decision-making processes and creation of public policies**

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.3.1. The number of submitted proposals for improving the environment for the inclusion of CSOs in decision-making processes and the creation of public policies	<b>20</b>

**Expected value 1.4. BOS has contributed to the improvement of cooperation between companies, institutions and civil society organizations in decision-making processes**

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.4.1. Number of organized events that bring together representatives of all three sectors	<b>6</b>
1.4.2. Number of supported CSO initiatives implemented with the participation of citizens and/or representatives of public authorities and/or representatives of the business sector (on an annual basis)	<b>33</b>
1.4.3. Number of joint initiatives/collaborations of companies, institutions and civil society organizations, where BOS has participated in the creation process	<b>1</b>

**Expected value 1.5. BOS has contributed to the improvement of employability and career development of individuals**

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.5.1. Number of individuals empowered in the career development process	<b>850</b>
1.5.2. Number of career practitioners empowered to provide career support to young people and adults (based on the sector they work in)	<b>51</b>
1.5.3. Number of created resources in the field of career and academic counseling	<b>2</b>

**Expected value 1.6. Improved knowledge and skills of selected individuals through an educational, multidisciplinary program that deals with the future**

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
1.6.1. Percentage of program participants who believe that they improved their knowledge and skills during the program	<b>80%</b>
1.6.2. Different types of knowledge and skills that program participants feel they have improved during the program	Ecology, Climate, Banking, IT, Public policy proposals Economy, International relations, Psychology, Labor law, Communication, Entrepreneurship, Financial literacy
1.6.3. The percentage of program participants who state that they applied the knowledge and skills acquired during the program - six months after completing the program	<b>80%</b>



## Strategic goal 2: improvement of public policies

Indicator	Achieved value in 2023
<p>2.1. Changes in public policy documents, laws, regulations and other acts in accordance with the recommendations of BOS</p>	<p><u>Energy, Climate and Environmental protection:</u> Law on Amendments to the Law on Charges for the Use of Public Goods.</p> <p><u>Civil society:</u></p> <p>a) The success of the advocacy initiative A11 - Economic and Social Initiative is reflected in the adoption of the Law on ratification of the Optional protocol to the International covenant on Economic, social and cultural rights by the National Assembly in September 2023.</p> <p>b) Thanks to the intervention, the Academic inclusive association improved the existing practices and procedures of the city authorities at the local level. An example of good practice is the City Administration of the City of Novi Pazar, which adopted inclusive criteria in project tenders.</p> <p>c) During both cycles of the "Dialogue of Change" project, the Uzice Center for Children's Rights provided expert support to the Ministry of Sports in the process of drafting the General and Special Protocol for the protection of children from violence, abuse and neglect in the sports sector. The drafting of the Special Protocol is an obligation arising from the General Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.</p> <p>d) Inter - Agreement on greater participation of citizens in the process of planning and implementation of the public-private partnership project, signed by the municipalities of Opovo and Bajina Basta.</p> <p>e) MDRI - 10 proposals were adopted at the initiative of MDRI at the public discussion of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for improving the position of persons with disabilities in the RS in the period from 2020 to 2024, for the period from 2023 to 2024.</p>
<p>2.2. Changes in the institutional framework in accordance with the recommendations of BOS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p>

**Expected value 2.1. BOS has contributed to the foundation of public policies and regulations in data in its areas of expertise**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Achieved value in 2023</b>
2.1.1. The number of conducted and supported research conducted by: a) BOS team members, b) external collaborators as part of activities on projects in which BOS participates, and c) BOS partners and grantees (if the research was carried out with the support of BOS)	<b>28</b>
2.1.2. The number of prepared public policy proposals implemented by a) BOS team members, b) external collaborators as part of activities on projects in which BOS participates, and c) BOS partners and grantees (if the research was carried out with the support of BOS)	<b>20</b>

**Expected value 2.2. BOS has contributed to the quality of public policies and regulations (in its areas of expertise) through participation in official available civil society mechanisms**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Achieved value in 2023</b>
2.2.1. Number of written contributions/sets of comments/sets of recommendations that were made in the process of drafting, implementing and monitoring public policy documents, laws, regulations and other acts (for each area)	<b>9</b>
2.2.2. Number of working groups for the creation of public policy documents, laws, regulations and other acts in which BOS is a member (for each area)	<b>10</b>
2.2.3. Number of advocacy initiatives	<b>3</b>



## BOS TEAM IN 2023

1. Vesna Đukić, General Director
2. Milorad Bjeletić, Executive Director
3. Vladimir Pavlović, Programme Director
4. Davorka Tomanović Baralić, Office Manager
5. Nataša Pajović, Financial Manager
6. Vlado Vranešević, IT Manager
7. Mirjana Jovanović, Programme Manager, Energy, Climate and Environment
8. Ognjan Pantić, Programme Manager, Energy, Climate and Environment
9. Tamara Arsić, Project Manager, European integration
10. Marina Lukić, Project Manager, Civil society
11. Bojana Džulović, Project Manager Civil society
12. Lazar Jovčić, Project Manager, Energy, Climate and Environment
13. Marija Milosavljević, Project Manager, Employability, Career guidance and Counselling
14. Iva Svilar, Project Manager, Energy, Climate and Environment
15. Nina Cvetanović, Project Manager, Energy, Climate and Environment
16. Jovana Božičković, Communication and Public advocacy Manager
17. Marija Todorović, Project Coordinator, Civil society
18. Sanja Ilić, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
19. Branislav Cvetković, Project Coordinator, European integration
20. Damir Dizdarević, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
21. Miljana Jovanović, Project Coordinator, European integration
22. Milica Terzić, Project Coordinator, Civil society
23. Marko Pajović, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
24. Tijana Obradović, Project Coordinator, Civil society
25. Angelina Ivanović, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
26. Filip Ljubojević, Coordinator of the Future studies educational programme
27. Miloš Golubović, Project Coordinator, Civil society
28. Maja Popović, Project Coordinator, Civil society
29. Jelena Ivković, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
30. Nemanja Petrović, Project Coordinator, Employability, Career guidance and Counselling
31. Milja Zdravković, Project Coordinator, Civil society
32. Mina Kuzminac, Coordinator of the Future studies educational programme
33. Tatjana Avramović, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
34. Jovana Pantović, Project Coordinator, Energy, Climate and Environment
35. Aleksandar Boganović, Researcher
36. Marija Z. Todorović, Researcher
37. Aleksandra Đurović, Research Team Coordinator
38. Goran Radlovački, Researcher
39. Aleksandar Stankić, Programmer
40. Ana Vranešević, Web Developer
41. Ivana Tomić, IT Assistant
42. Dana Tasovac, Graphic Designer
43. Radinka Janjuš, Accountant
44. Aleksandar Gajić, Legal and General Affairs Coordinator
45. Gordana Petković, Financial and Administrative Affairs Coordinator
46. Bojana Bulatović, Financial Coordinator
47. Jelena Mitrović, Financial Coordinator

48. Boris Čukić, Financial Coordinator
49. Olivera Ilić, Financial Coordinator
50. Maša Pavlović, Financial Coordinator
51. Jelena Šego, Financial Coordinator
52. Nenad Šović, Financial Coordinator
53. Milica Krstić, Financial Coordinator
54. Maja Parežanin, Communication Team Coordinator
55. Milica Đerić, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
56. Sandra Pekić, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
57. Simona Vidojević, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
58. Nina Arandžević, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
59. Sara Stamenković, Project Assistant, Employability, Career guidance and Counselling
60. Rajna Bošković, Project Assistant, Energy, Climate and Environment
61. Janko Jačović, Project Assistant, Energy, Climate and Environment
62. Marija Milenković, Project Assistant, Civil society
63. Jovana Jović, Project Assistant, Energy, Climate and Environment
64. Milica Borovac, Project Assistant, Energy, Climate and Environment
65. Jelena Stojićević, Assistant-Trainee, Future studies educational programme
66. Esmeralda Lukić, Housekeeper
67. Nikola Stevanović, Project Assistant, Energy, Climate and Environment
68. Danica Opačić, Assistant-Trainee, Civil society

