



THINK BIG

do little

START AN AVALANCHE



Annual activity Report 2019

Belgrade, July 2020

Contents

ABOUT US	3
Vision	3
Mission	3
Aims	3
The jubilee 2019 year	4
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME	6
The scope of work and key activities	6
Environmental protection programs are targeting and/or being realized in cooperation with:	9
Projects and donors in 2019	9
Projects implemented in 2019	9
Partnerships/coalitions/membership in other networks	10
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME	12
International exchange of volunteers	12
Partnerships/coalitions/membership in other networks in 2019:	13
Projects and donors in 2019	14
EDUCATION PROGRAMME	15
E-training	15
Erasmus Plus Programme	15
In 2019, YRS coordinated or took part in several educational projects	16



About us

Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS) is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political organization that gathers young people around common interests, ideas and goals.

VISION

Our vision is to be the driving force for all those whose aim is to make our planet a more peaceful, just and healthy place.

MISSION

Through education, guided by scientific insight, **our mission** is to contribute to:

- the development of voluntarism and the promotion of its values;
- environmental protection and improvement through the promotion of sustainable development principles;
- creativity and the more active participation of young people.

AIMS

Our main aims are environmental protection, environmental education, youth exchange and work with young people, as well as the promotion of sustainable development, scientific creativity and voluntarism.

In 2019, we:

- **Implemented 9 and partnered in 8** international and national projects.
- Organized more than a dozen meetings of civil society organizations (CSO) and institutions, roundtables, seminars and training sessions.
- Together with 23 hosts of the workcamps from Serbia, we **organized 30 two-week international volunteer workcamps** with a total duration of 390 working days and 27,565 volunteer hours.
- Supported **135 youth volunteer actions of non-formal youth groups** within the “Šta nam teško” support programme and included **675 young people who donated more than 17,000 volunteer working hours.**
- **Actively participated in** the activities of **10** national, regional and international networks.



- Participated in **more than 20 public hearings, conferences and meetings**, and sent **more than 50 recommendations to institutions**, for the better implementation of policies in the field of horizontal legislation, water and environmental protection.
- Sent **385 volunteers from Serbia to international volunteer workcamps in 32 countries worldwide**, including ones outside Europe: Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan.

THE JUBILEE 2019 YEAR

- Young Researchers movement has been present for 50 years. Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS) and then Petnica Science Centre, have emerged from Young Researchers movement.
- YRS initiated the international volunteer exchange through the Voluntary Service of Serbia (VSS) 30 years ago.
- As one of the founders of the South-East European Youth Network (SEEYN), the YRS has been contributing to reconciliation in South-East Europe through youth networking, promotion of volunteering and assistance to local communities for 20 years.



Despite significant jubilees, there were not big celebrations in 2019, but we have tried to point out in an appropriate way the duration, continuity and overall value of the movement and organization of YRS.

Within the “Half a Century of Researchers” jubilee, the YRS actively participated in the Organizational Committee (as host of one session in Belgrade), took part in the Special Assembly of the “Vladimir Mandić Manda” Society of Researchers in Valjevo, numerous individual events and took part in the Conference “Science for All” marking 50th anniversary of the Movement of Young Researchers at the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts (SANU).

The 30th season of volunteer exchanges of the Voluntary Service of Serbia (VSS) had the highest number of individual volunteer programmes in history (small-scale and large-scale volunteer actions and volunteer workcamps). Recalling how it all started, with the organization of the first volunteer workcamp in Serbia, as part of the Conference and celebration of International Volunteer Day, and then the symbolic volunteer party at the end of the year, this jubilee opened the door to the global jubilee of “100 Years of International Volunteer Programmes” in 2020.

The South-East European Youth Network represents a unique example of a regional organization that has been around for 20 years. Together with other partner organization, the YRS have contributed to this jubilee, in their own way.

Looking forward to new jubilees, we keep on researching, together 100%.



Environmental protection programme

THE SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

In 2019, the key areas of action under the YRS Environmental Protection Programme were: protection of nature and biodiversity, water protection and management, environmental policies, sustainable development, and the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Nature protection and biodiversity

One of the significant changes this year in this area has been intensified cooperation with organizations in the Western Balkans region on the protection of biodiversity. Activities at the national and regional level were realized through education (training sessions and seminars such as participation in WWF and BioNET programmes, online courses, the development and distribution of education materials), as well as through work in protected areas during volunteer workcamps and actions. **In 2019, the YRS became a member of the supervisory board of the “EU for Natura in Serbia – continuation of support for Chapter 27 implementation in the area of nature protection (NATURA 2000)”**. World Wetlands Day was marked on 2 February, by organizing the “Sremska lepotica – Obedska bara” quiz on the Facebook page [@arhushnbq](#) and [@mladiistrazivacisrbije](#) where winners received awards with motifs of Obedska bara (pond), while the main prize was a tour of the pond.

Water protection and management

In 2019, the YRS was engaged in this area mostly through activities with children and youth, by organizing prize competitions and school competitions, as well as through the participation of YRS representatives in themed events regarding water:

- Environmental protest against the construction of mini-hydropower plants “NO TO SHPPs” (*srb. “NE MHE”*), an event attended by several members of the Aarhus Centre New Belgrade Activist Group (January);
- Meeting of CSO representatives with the Ministry of Environmental Protection organized in town Sremski Karlovci. The YRS attended the meeting as a part of the “Right to Rivers” non-formal initiative (February);
- Opening-conference of the EU twinning project: “Support for policy planning in the water management sector”, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic Water Directorate (April);
- Meeting of the Public Participation and Communication Expert Group of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (PP EG ICPDR),



organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Republic Water Directorate. At this meeting, YRS representative presented impressions of the national organizer of the “Danube Artist” competition in Serbia (April);

- Workshop/brainstorming session “Synergy for the Environment”, as a part of the “Strengthening visibility and communication activities on IPA programmes in the Republic of Serbia”, based on the idea to consult CSOs about the preparation of “EU za Tebe – Let’s Talk about Environment”, planned by the Ministry of European Integration and the Delegation of the European union to the Republic of Serbia (April);
- Conference “Environmental impact of small hydropower plants” organized by the Academic Committee “Humans and the Environment”, SANU (June);
- Public hearing “Status of water in Serbia”, organized by the Committee of Agriculture of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. The YRS was invited to the event through the Green Chair mechanism (September).

Environmental protection policies

The environmental protection policies represent one of the priorities of YRS work. YRS contributions in this area include:

- Participation in the implementation of international environmental treaties (Aarhus Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, etc.);
- Monitoring the implementation of international water treaties and EU water legislation transposition;
- Participation in consultations and public hearings during law’s drafting (for example, in 2019, through Aarhus Centre New Belgrade, the YRS organized consultations with stakeholders on the amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Draft Law on Liability for Environmental Damage);
- Membership in working groups for the development of strategic documents (for example, **in 2019, the YRS participated in the preparation of the Draft Nature Conservation Programme of the Republic of Serbia 2019-2025, in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia** (“Official Gazette of the RS“, No. 30/18);
- Development of the joint positions of CSOs on environmental policies, etc.

Involvement of the public in programmes and processes related to environmental protection is carried out through the coordination of the Green Chair mechanism (organizing the participation of CSO representatives in the Environmental Protection Committee of the National Assembly, organizing open doors with members of parliament, preparing educational brochures) as well as activities on stimulating the dialogue between CSOs and institutions by organizing roundtables, meetings, etc.



In order to strengthen the monitoring of legislation implementation and the promotion of cooperation, in 2019, the YRS cooperated with the Ministry of Environmental Protection – Environmental Monitoring and Precaution Sector, regarding the preparation of a 5-day seminar on strengthening the cooperation of this sector (focus was on inspection) with citizens' associations.

The activities at the national and international level in the field of EU integration, i.e. **monitoring Chapter 27**, continued. Work in this area includes monitoring the EU *acquis* transposition and implementation, providing recommendations for horizontal legislation, water and nature protection. In 2019, YRS opinions and recommendations were presented in the **Coalition 27 Shadow Report**. The YRS also attended the meeting of the Negotiating Group 27 regarding the European Commission comments on the second draft of the Negotiating Position and Activity Plan for drafting and sending the Negotiating Position for Chapter 27. In addition, the YRS assisted in research works of two international students regarding their master thesis: student at Vienna University (through interviews and organizing visits to Serbia) whose master thesis was related to Chapter 27 in Serbia, and student at the French Institute of Geopolitics in Paris whose master thesis was related to the issue of SHPP construction in Serbia.

Sustainable development (sustainable development goals)

In 2019, the YRS continued its cooperation with the Global Compact in Serbia which performs activities related to sustainable development and gathers over 60 members including private and public companies, institutions and organizations.

In cooperation with the Belgrade Open School and other Coalition 27 members, the YRS participated in the development of the methodology for monitoring the implementation of sustainable development goals at the local level in Serbia. Such a complex task of methodology development was implemented as a part of the “SDG 2030 Local Monitor in Serbia” project.

YRS representatives attended several events (seminars, conferences) organized by institutions and partner organizations regarding sustainable transport, climate change and other aspects of sustainable development.

Aarhus centre New Belgrade

The central activities focused on informing the public about the state of the environment (in accordance with the possibilities of Aarhus centre New Belgrade) as well as stimulating public participation in the decision-making processes.

In cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, two consultative meetings on amendments to the laws and bylaws were held in Belgrade.

YRS representative also attended the annual meeting of the Aarhus centres in Vienna in Austria, organized by OSCE. This annual meeting contributed to strengthening cooperation between the Aarhus centres, sharing of experience and further planning of work. World Water Day was marked on 22 March by organizing workshop for pupils in Primary School “Vasa Čarapić” in Beli Potok (area in Belgrade) with help of Aarhus Centre New Belgrade Activist Group.

During the New Year and Christmas holidays, the Facebook campaign “Decorate the Christmas tree – save the planet” at [@arhuscentarnbg](#) and [@mladiistravacisrbije](#) pages was organized. This



New Year's campaign consisted of a photo competition (making decoration from materials at home, instead of buying new decorations), publishing the New Year's resolutions of the Aarhus centre New Belgrade activists, collecting votes for the top 3 finalists through the social networks and sending the awards.

The Aarhus centre New Belgrade activities are published at www.arhusnbg.mis.org.rs and the [@arhuscentarnbg](https://www.facebook.com/arhuscentarnbg) Facebook page.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS ARE TARGETING AND/OR BEING REALIZED IN COOPERATION WITH:

- Citizens;
- CSOs working to protect the environment and promote sustainable development;
- Managers of protected natural areas and
- Relevant institutions at the local, national and international level.

PROJECTS AND DONORS IN 2019

The largest share of YRS projects related to environmental protection this year was devoted to the development of three major projects. One of them, "Tracking Nature", developed at the international level and, submitted for support within Horizon 2020, has not been approved.

Two projects, each lasting for three years, have been approved by the donors and agreements were signed in 2019. Still, their implementation is planned to begin in January 2020. These are the following projects: "ECO SYSTEM – environmental reforms supporting programme", supported by Sweden, with the YRS as the project leader, and "Green Incubator", supported by the European Union, with the YRS as the partner to Belgrade Open School and Environment Engineering Group.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2019

Volunteers for Nature

"Volunteers for Nature" project co-funded by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. The general objective of the project was to improve the protection of nature through the cooperation of CSOs and managers of protected areas, with active citizen participation. The project was implemented in the protected area, landscape of outstanding qualities george of the river Gradac. The main project activities were: printing and setting up new information boards with the aim of improving the informing and raising awareness of visitors to the george of the river Gradac, volunteer activity cleaning the gorge, organized in order to promote volunteer work in protected areas and promote the george of the river Gradac in media.



SDG 2030 Local Monitor in Serbia

“SDG 2030 Local Monitor in Serbia” project was implemented through cooperation with Coalition 27 members. The Belgrade Open School was the project leader, and the YRS worked on developing a methodology for monitoring the sub-goals within Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Agenda. Beside the research work within the project, training sessions and consultative meetings were also held.

Strengthening Aarhus Convention Implementation

“Strengthening Aarhus Convention Implementation” project was supported by the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The project objectives were raising awareness and capacity-strengthening among the local community members and CSOs in Belgrade, concerning environmental laws, enabling the involvement of the citizens in the decision-making processes. The consultations organized referred to: amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment; Regulation on the procedure of public participation in the decision-making procedure on drafting, the amendment, review and adoption of the air quality plans, regional and local waste management plans, and/or hazardous waste management plans, the national waste management plan, the waste prevention programme, environmental noise protection action plans, as well as the plan for the protection of water against pollution, and the Draft Law on Liability for Environmental Damage. More than 100 participants attended the meetings, and the recommendations and conclusions contributed to the promotion of the aforementioned laws and bylaws.

PARTNERSHIPS/COALITIONS/ MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER NETWORKS

The YRS puts a lot of effort into the networking process, joint work with other citizens’ association and creating more favourable environment for the operation of networks in Serbia and the region.

The most intensive work in 2019 was performed within several networks:

Green Chair

In cooperation with the Centre of Modern Skills and the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, the YRS coordinates the work of the Green Chair – the institutional mechanism of cooperation between CSOs and the Environmental Committee of the Serbian National Assembly.

In addition to monitoring the work of the Committee through regular presence at meetings and reporting to the CSO members of the network on the progress and conclusions of the meetings, attention is also given to the strengthening of the organizational structure of the network and better connection between the members.

Coalition 27

Through cooperation with other organisations within Coalition 27, the YRS has been involved in monitoring Serbia’s EU membership negotiations regarding Chapter 27. Coalition 27 publishes Shadow Reports, presenting an overview of progress in Chapter 27, emphasizing the positions and recommendations of the CSOs.



In 2019, the Shadow Report was named “CHAPTER 27 in SERBIA: Money Talks”.

Apart from the report within Coalition 27, the YRS has also worked on: strategic planning, the preparation of reactions to the “burning” environmental issues, cooperation with media, etc.

The YRS has also participated in the activities of coalition partners, such as seminar “Green Procurement” and workshop “Scan4Chem” (November/December ALHem).

CEEweb for biodiversity

During the last year, we have been in constant communication with CEEweb members through mailing lists, and the YRS took part in activity planning. The joint project proposal for the Višegrad fund was developed as well, but it did not receive donor’s support.

BioNET

Cooperation with the BioNET network was very intensive during 2019. The YRS participated in the network meeting in Podgorica in February, and then participated in communication training sessions in Bonn and Budva; the YRS coordinated the improvements of the BioNET joint document on biodiversity protection; the YRS was part of the team that worked on the coordination of BioNET strategic planning, regulation of the network structure, etc.

Environmental Forum

Although the network of organizations around the Environmental Forum does not exist officially, the organizations that used to cooperate in this network still communicate, advocate and lobby together for the cooperation of environmental organizations and the European Commission. Their joint activities continued in 2019.

SEENET

In 2019, the YRS activities in the network of 35 CSOs from South-East Europe that gathered around for the topics of energy and transport, were only carried out through online communication in sense of monitoring and support for the regional organizations active in these fields.

YEE

Cooperation with the YEE was based on the exchange of information and experience with the secretariat and member organizations. Articles about volunteer workcamps in Serbia for 2019 and the volunteer activity of cleaning the gorge of the river Gradac were published in the YEE monthly newsletters.



Volunteer programme

The YRS volunteer programmes are developed and implemented through the Voluntary Service of Serbia (VSS). The aim of the VSS is to promote volunteering, which is achieved through several long-term programmes, in a comprehensive connection with other YRS programmes, and it includes areas in which VSS achieved the following results:

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF VOLUNTEERS

Sending volunteers from Serbia to international voluntary workcamps abroad (outgoing): the VSS sent **385 volunteers from Serbia to the international volunteer workcamps in 32 countries worldwide**, including outside of Europe: Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan. The VSS also held 4 preparatory meetings with more than 200 participants, for volunteers going abroad to international workcamps for the first time.

Hosting national and international volunteers in international voluntary workcamps in Serbia (incoming): 642 volunteers participated, out of which **350 international volunteers** (60 teenagers), 59 volunteers from our country from 26 different Serbian towns and places, **60 workcamp leaders (20 international)** and **155 local volunteers**.

Organization of international voluntary workcamps in Serbia: together with **23 hosts of the national workcamps and dozens of their local partners**, as well as 11 volunteering services from all over Serbia, VSS organized 30 two-week international volunteer workcamps (the total duration of 390 working days and 27,565 volunteer hours). Volunteer workcamps were held in: Donja Toponica, Zlakusa, Hajdukovo, Užice, Titel, Ruski Krstur, Drača (Kragujevac), Zemun polje (Belgrade), Sremski Karlovci, Kruševac, Bor, Kupinovo (Pećinci), Tršić, Požarevac, Tijanjanje (Lučani), Brzeće (Brus), Obrenovac, Golubinci (Stara Pazova), Totovo selo (Kanjiža), and Deliblato.

Programmes of the Voluntary Service of Serbia address and cooperate with the following actors:

- Volunteers of all ages, especially youth between 15 and 30, from all over Serbia and the world wide, regardless of their background, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation or social status. In 2019, the VSS held: 17 public presentations of volunteer and youth programmes in Belgrade and 6 in other towns all over Serbia, VSS had more than 10 presentations in the media with a national frequency, and participated in two youth fairs in Belgrade and Novi Sad.
- Associations, in particular: our contact points for volunteer exchange: in 2019, the VSS cooperated with 9 youth associations and offices in Serbia;



- international voluntary services: almost 150 partners from 76 countries all over the world with whom VSS have signed cooperation agreements for the international exchange of volunteers;
- institutions: VSS cooperated with 10 faculties in Belgrade, Niš, Kragujevac and Novi Sad, high schools and secondary schools (High School of Mathematics, High School of Philology, Design School), the Students' Cultural Centre of Belgrade, the Cultural Centre "Studentski grad", the Italian Institute for Culture and the French Cultural Centre;
- Networks relevant for our activity sector, at the national and international level.

PARTNERSHIPS/COALITIONS/ MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER NETWORKS IN 2019:

- Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations – the European-based network of 53 voluntary services from 35 countries. VSS has the most active relationship with the members of the Alliance in terms of the exchange of volunteers
- CCIVS – Coordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service, global network of voluntary services, founded and operating under UNESCO
- SCI – Service Civil International – the volunteer exchange network, with the YRS as the partner of thirty years
- KOMS – Krovna organizacija mladih Srbije (Serbian Youth Umbrella Organization) – participation in the Assembly
- NAPOR – Nacionalna asocijacija praktičara i praktičarki omladinskog rada (National Association of Youth Workers)
- SEEYN – South-East European Youth Network

The following groups of volunteers were also active in the VSS in 2019:

- **Camp leaders: 69 camp leaders** were involved, of which 20 were international;
- **Mentors and volunteers in the office: 23 mentors** were engaged and **12 people volunteered in the office**;
- **Pradnici– YRS Promo group:** included **12 volunteers** who attended and organised more than 20 public presentations of voluntary programmes and 6 gatherings of the volunteer community.



PROJECTS AND DONORS IN 2019

YOUTH RULES 2019

“National youth volunteering programme YOUTH RULES 2019”, donor: Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia The YRS implemented this project together with the Vojvodina Environmental Movement (*srb. Pokret gorana Vojvodine*), civil association from Leskovac “Narodni Parlament” and CEGRAD. During the project, **30 international volunteer workcamps were organized, 135 local youth volunteer actions and non-formal youth groups were supported, two large 2-day volunteer activities with more than 200 young people were held, along with the celebration of International Volunteer Day on 5 December.** The implementation of the project activities directly included 1413 volunteers who donated more than 46,335 volunteer working hours to the local communities in our country through their joint activities. In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, International Volunteer Day on 5 December, was celebrated at the Palace of Serbia.

XCHANGE 2.0

KA2 Capacity Building: “XCHANGE 2.0” exchange of international leaders of workcamps, donor: European Commission The project included **14 partners from 9 countries and one European network**, whose partners are mostly members of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations. The project helped with discovering new forms of international cooperation between the partners cooperating in volunteer exchange for several decades. **40 youth leaders were trained (20 from our country and 20 from other European countries)**, the content of the web documentary <http://www.youthleaders.online> was improved, the practice of exchange of workcamp leaders was established among the members of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, and the training was standardized.

Within volunteer and youth programmes, VSS represented the organization in:

- Working Groups of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations (for the development of the working procedures of volunteer exchange and camp implementation, External Relations and Communication Committee);
- Pool of trainers of the Tempus Foundation;
- Pool of accreditors of SALTO SEE for the European Solidarity Corps;
- Committee for youth and clubs of UNESCO of the Republic of Serbia’s Commission for cooperation with UNESCO.



Education programme

E-TRAINING

The YRS online training programme (www.obuke.mis.org.rs) was launched in 2013. By the end of 2019, the platform had 1104 registered users and a total of 16 courses in 6 thematic areas.

ERASMUS PLUS PROGRAMME

In 2019, we were partners in the following programmes in which we **included 27 young persons, of which 5 were teenagers**, in international exchange programmes, seminars, conferences and training sessions abroad, through the Erasmus+ programme:

- Training, Volunteers as agents for peace, 27 May – 31 May, organized by: Grenzelos, Austria
- Youth exchange for teenagers, Green media, 07 July – 27 July, organized by: Solidarites Jeunesse, France
- Youth exchange, Media and migration, 18 August – 26 August, organized by: Javva, Belgium
- Youth exchange, Grow but green, 31 August – 08 September, organized by: Legambiente, Italy
- Youth exchange, Run if you can, 22 August – 02 September, organized by: De Amicitia, Spain
- Seminar, Prepare for impact, August, organized by: Voluntariat, Slovenia
- Seminar, The 100th Preparation-Exchange of Good Practice in International Volunteering, 01 November – 04 November, Belgium, organized by: Inex-SDA, Czech Republic
- Seminar, Future dimensions of volunteering, 03 November – 08 November, organized by: Compagnons Batisseurs, Belgium



IN 2019, YRS COORDINATED OR TOOK PART IN SEVERAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

ROUTE WB6

ROUTE WB6 is a three-year project about volunteering and peace building, which started in January 2019. The project is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, coordinated by the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), and implemented by 6 partner organizations from the Western Balkans – national voluntary centres or services. The idea of the project is to make cross-border youth voluntarism one of the mechanisms for the reduction of social and ethnic distance among the youth in the region, as well as for the increased pro-social and European values to contribute to reconciliation, stability and prosperity in the Western Balkans. The first project year was marked by activities on the development of the document with an overview of the volunteering policy status in the region, and a smaller-scale advocacy activity for the promotion of volunteering conditions, followed by the draft of the first regional Code of Ethics for volunteers and volunteer organizations.

Togetherness

Togetherness is the project originating from the set of small grants awarded through the EU Project "Divided past – Common future" (OKC Banja Luka), completed in mid-June. Over five months, YRS has implemented numerous activities with the partners: 17 promotions at faculties and points at which students gather; the *Film Club* was founded at the Faculty of Media and Communications and, in cooperation with the *International Documentary Film Festival*, YRS has made it possible for students to participate in numerous film projections, panels and discussions; a series of preparatory meetings was held in the *Cultural Centre "Studentski grad"* for volunteers who participated in the international volunteer workcamps for the first time this year (more than 200 individuals); the first "volunteer library" was performed at Klub *Magistrala* DKSG on 22 May, and trained book-volunteers supported us during the "Summer Opportunities Fair" at "Gnezdo" on 24 May.

BUILDPEACE

BUILDPEACE project was completed at the end of the summer of 2019, after three years of implementation. The last year of this "strategic partnership" of formal and non-formal education (through KA2 Erasmus+, supported by the UK National Agency), was marked by activities on the finalization of 7 products and 2 meetings held in Kilmarnock in Scotland and Coventry in England. The YRS completed the work on the *MANUAL* that represents material for those wishing to start learning about peace-building, through the presentation of 14 competencies (what can be done on their acquiring and promoting, and how). YRS representatives took active participation in the drafting, finalization and translation of other project products. The digital documents are available on the YRS web page under Publications, and they are also available together with four free online courses at the links available in article <https://www.mis.org.rs/nove-publikacije-rezultati-projekta-buildpeace/>.



The Danube Art Master

The Danube Art Master is the environmental competition that the *International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River* and the *Global Water Partnership for Central and Eastern Europe* have been organizing since 2004, targeting young people aged 6-18 years. 64 artworks and 10 videos from 13 schools in 12 municipalities in Serbia competed during the 9th year of YRS coordination of this competition. **Pupils from the “Stefan Nemanja” Primary School from Niš, and their artwork “The Danube Weaving” were the most successful. This artwork shared the first place with winners from Austria and Croatia at the international level of the competition.** Thus, authors together with their teachers attended the Budapest Water Summit. Another winner on the Danube river basin was also from our country. The artwork “Od čoveka do zombija” of pupils from the “Dr Djordje Jovanović” Primary School from Novo Miloševo with the largest number of likes during presentation of the artworks on Facebook.

Danube Day

The YRS has been participating in the Danube Day for years, but in 2019, it gained support through open call for the “Allocation and use of the Budget water fund of the Republic of Serbia”. The capacity of the national level of the “Danube Art Master” has thus significantly increased. 3 groups of winners in both official categories gathered at the central celebration of Danube Day for Serbia, at Zemun quay in June. Apart from presenting the most successful literary papers, the winning artworks were also presented. The prizes were awarded to the winners, an educational workshop was held, and the most active classes received special awards. Through cooperation with the Republic Water Directorate and the support of the School administration of Ministry of Education, at the end of 2019, we managed to include the Danube Art Master in the Calendar of school competitions and events in the Republic of Serbia.

Sava River Day – Youth Parliament

Sava River Day – Youth Parliament is the activity coordinated by the International Sava River Basin Commission. Through the support of the Republic Water Directorate in 2019, **the YRS managed to take over the coordination of this programme in Serbia for the first time.** The coordination included the implementation of an informative campaign among high school students located near the Sava River basin in Serbia, and supporting teams from Serbia to participate in the 8th Youth Parliament held in Tuhelj and Kumrovec to mark Sava River Day. The teams from the “Crnjanski” High School and “Patrijarh Pavle” High School were among the 8 school teams from four countries of the river basin. YRS representatives facilitated one working group during the Youth Parliament session on “Water quality in waste management and plastic/micro plastic management”.





Young Researchers of Serbia

Voluntary Service of Serbia

Annual activity report of YRS for 2019

Issued: July 2020

YOUNG RESEARCHERS OF SERBIA

Bulevar umetnosti 27, Belgrade

+ 381 11 311 66 63; office@mis.org.rs

www.mis.org.rs

obuke.mis.org.rs

arhusnbq.mis.org.rs

kampovi.mis.org.rs

