

# **Contribution to the Focus chapter of the Fundamental Rights Report 2022: Social rights and equality in light of the recovery from the COVID- 19 pandemic.**

**Serbia**

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## 1 Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

<p><b>Name of the measure in English</b></p>	<p>Decree on the establishment of a temporary registry and the method of payment of one-time financial assistance to all adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia to reduce the negative effects caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic COVID-19</p>
<p><b>Name of the measure in the national language(s)</b></p>	<p>Uredba o formiranju privremenog registra i načinu uplate jednokratne novčane pomoći svim punoletnim državljanima Republike Srbije u cilju smanjivanja negativnih efekata prouzrokovanih pandemijom bolesti COVID-19 izazvane virusom SARS-CoV-2</p>
<p><b>Reference document for the measure</b></p> <p><i>Include an url, where available</i></p>	<p>Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia (<i>Službeni glasnik Republike Srbije</i>) nos. 60/20, 65/2020.</p>
<p><b>Social rights covered by the measure</b></p> <p><i>Delete as appropriate</i></p> <p><i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i></p>	<p>Right to social security and social assistance (Article 34).</p>
<p><b>Population group(s) covered by the measure</b></p> <p><i>Delete as appropriate</i></p>	<p>Unspecified: adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia with valid ID cards. Under the provisions of the Decree, specific measures were introduced for pension recipients and beneficiaries of the financial social assistance. Individuals coming from these two population groups were not obliged to apply for this one-time financial assistance.</p>

<p><b><i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)</b></p>	<p>The measure targeted all adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia, and in that regard, did not have specific treatment of particularly vulnerable population groups. The status of employment or income did not condition the right to one-time financial assistance, and the only applicable criteria was the possession of the valid ID card of the Republic of Serbia. After the application procedure, which was not prescribed for pensioners and beneficiaries of financial social assistance, who were automatically enlisted for the payment, the Treasury Administration delivered the payment of 100 EUR in dinar counter value.<sup>1</sup> When applying, the citizen had to deliver their name, surname, citizens unique personal number (<i>'jedinostveni matični broj građana'</i>), the registration number of their valid ID card, name of the bank with which the account of that citizen is opened or will be opened and the telephone number and/or e-mail address. In cases when citizens were not clients of the bank, the bank was responsible for opening the special purpose account for the payment.</p>
<p><b>Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery</b></p>	<p>Decree on the establishment of a temporary registry and the payment method of one-time financial assistance to all adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia positively impacted some population groups since it increased their income for the time of the implementation of the measure. However, the Decree failed to address already existing inequalities. For example, the Decree failed to recognize families with children as a specific group needing more than one-time financial assistance. Also, the possession of the valid ID card as criteria for the payment excluded the Roma population without personal documents (so-called legally</p>

<sup>1</sup> Latest reported data on average monthly salary in Serbia is 560 EUR, according to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, [Average salaries and wages per employee](#), October 2021.

	invisible persons), <sup>2</sup> homeless people, <sup>3</sup> and other vulnerable groups which were not aware of the measure. Keeping in mind the total budget for implementing the measure and the fact that the assistance was not selective, there is a concern that the State failed to implement its obligation to use maximum available resources for the progressive realization of social rights.
<b>Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services</b>	This measure does not foresee the provision of enabling social services.
<b>Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure</b>	Ministry of Finance, Treasury Administration
<b>Duration of the measure</b>	24 April 2020 – ongoing
<b>Budget allocated to implement the measure</b>	The total budget is not transparent. However, the Fiscal Council ( <i>Fiskalni savet</i> ) reported that the budget allocated for implementing the abovementioned measure was 610 million EUR. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out</b>	The impact assessment of the measure was not prescribed. Other than the Fiscal Council ( <i>Fiskalni savet</i> ), which assessed the implementation of the Decree from an economic and fiscal perspective, <sup>5</sup> other impact assessment exercises were not conducted.

<sup>2</sup> UN Human Rights Unit, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Republic of Serbia, [Posledice Kovid-19 na položaj osetljivih grupa i grupa u riziku, Uzroci, ishodi i preporuke](#), 2020. There is no official data on number of persons without personal documents, but according to [UNHCR, Persons at Risk of Statelessness in Serbia: Overview of Current Situation and the Way Forward Survey](#) (2020), 0.45% of Roma in informal settlements are not registered in birth registry books, 0.49% of them are without registered nationality, and 1.8% of them do not possess valid ID card, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Podcast.rs, [Podkast Inicijative A 11, Šećera i vode – život u Prihvatilištu za odrasla i stara lica](#), May 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Fiscal Council (Fiskalni savet), [Fiscal and Economic Analysis of Nonselective Money Payment to Citizens](#) (Fiskalna i ekonomska analiza neselektivnih novčanihi isplata građanima), 5 May 2021, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Fiscal Council (Fiskalni savet), [Fiscal and Economic Analysis of Nonselective Money Payment to Citizens](#) (Fiskalna i ekonomska analiza neselektivnih novčanihi isplata građanima), 5 May 2021.

## 2 Tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

<b>Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in English</b>	Serbia did not establish the monitoring tool or mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic.
<b>Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in the national language(s)</b>	Not available.
<b>Reference document for the monitoring tool or mechanism</b> <i>Include an url, where available</i>	Not available.

<p><b>Organisation(s) involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism</b></p> <p><i>Delete as appropriate</i></p> <p><i>Multiple answers possible</i></p>	<p>Different organizations and institutions monitor specific aspects of the Government’s policies to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic. For example, civil society organizations monitor the implementation of the adopted measures from the perspective of specific population groups.<sup>6</sup> Also, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (<i>Poverenik za zaštitu ravnopravnosti</i>) prepared the report on the discrimination of elderly.<sup>7</sup> At the same time, the Protector of Citizens (<i>Zaštitnik građana</i>) published the report on the effects of the pandemic on Roma population.<sup>8</sup> However, none of these reports or institutions prepared or conducted the overall monitoring exercise to assess the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic.</p>
<p><b>Summary description of how these organisation(s) are involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism</b></p>	<p>Not available.</p>
<p><b>Summary description of the functioning of the tool or mechanism used to monitor the effectiveness of schemes adopted to foster social rights</b></p>	<p>Not available.</p>

<sup>6</sup> A 11 – Initiative for Economic and Social Rights, [The position of tradeswomen during the pandemic of Covid-19](#), 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Republic of Serbia, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (*Poverenik za zaštitu ravnopravnosti*), [Poseban izveštaj Poverenika za zaštitu ravnopravnosti o diskriminaciji starijih građana](#), 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Republic of Serbia, Protector of Citizens (*Zaštitnik građana*), [Special Report of the Protector of Citizens with Recommendations: Conditions in Roma Settlements in the Situation of Emergency Status and Implementation of Protection Measures Due to Corona Virus Epidemics \(COVID - 19\)](#), 2020.

<b>and equal treatment in the recovery</b>	
<b>Summary description of the obligations, standards and benchmarks against which the effectiveness will be evaluated</b>	Not available.
<b>Summary description of what the tool or mechanism foresees when non-compliance with obligations and standards is identified, with a particular emphasis on enforcement and remedial action</b>	Not available.