

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

***SERBIA ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND  
GROWTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT***

**Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)**

October 2019

Revised in February 2023

## ABBREVIATIONS

CGD	Central Grievance Desk
CfP	Call for Proposals
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
GM	Grievance Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GoS	Government of Serbia
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
IF	Innovation Fund
NITRA	Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoESTD	Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OG	Official Gazette
OIP	Other Interested Parties
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
RS	Republic of Serbia
RDI	Research and Development Institutions
SF	Science Fund
SDF	Serbian Diaspora Facility
SRITTP	Serbia Research Innovation and Technology Transfer Project
SRO	Scientific Research Organisation
SDF	Serbian Diaspora Facility
TA	Technical Assistance
WB	World Bank

## 1. Introduction

The Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship (SAIGE) Project financed through the World Bank loan to the Republic of Serbia in the amount of EUR 43 million aims to enhance Serbia's growth and competitiveness by improving (i) relevance and quality of scientific research, and (ii) innovative entrepreneurship and access to finance for enterprise growth.

The SAIGE Project is part of a comprehensive set of reforms of the Serbian R&D and Innovation sector, which includes reforms to the model of financing scientific research and introduction of various business innovation support measures. The project is being initially implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) in cooperation with the Innovation Fund (IF) and the Science Fund (SF). The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD/Ministry) until October 2022 was responsible for the overall Project coordination and implementation and execution of Component 1.2 RDI Reforms. After the April 2022 elections, a new line ministry – Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation (NITRA/Ministry) has been tasked (in October 2022) as the successor, with the overall Project coordination and implementation. The Project is coordinated by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at NITRA.

The Government of Serbia will also implement an EU IPA 2019 project with a total budget of EUR 41.5 million EUR to be managed by the World Bank. This funding was approved by EU Commissioners in mid-December 2019. The EU IPA project will complement the SAIGE Project loan. This includes EUR 13 million in technical assistance (TA) and EUR 28.5 million in grant funding to be implemented as additional financing for SAIGE. This additional financing will support activities already defined under SAIGE under the same project development objective.

### i. Purpose of the SEP

Under the ESS10 which is relevant for the SAIGE Project as specified in the ESMF, open and transparent engagement is important between all relevant parties involved in project implementation. The purpose of the present Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to outline the target groups and methods of stakeholder engagement and the responsibilities in the implementation of stakeholder engagement activities. The intention of the SEP is to activate the engagement of stakeholders in a timely manner during project preparation and implementation. Specifically, SEP serves the following purposes: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning engagement modalities and effective communication tools for consultations and disclosure; (iii) defining role and responsibilities of different actors in implementing the SEP; (iv) defining the Project's Grievance Mechanism (GM) and (v) providing feedback to stakeholders; (vi) monitoring and reporting of the SEP.

### ii. Project Description

The SAIGE Project consist of the following three components and sub-components: **Component 1: Research sector reforms (EUR 34 million from SAIGE, with additional EUR 31.5 of EU IPA funding)**

- Sub-Component 1.1: Science Fund (EUR 22.5 million, with additional EUR 22 million of EU IPA funding)
- Sub-Component 1.2: RDI Reforms (EUR 8 million, with additional EUR 9.5 million of EU IPA funding)
- Sub-Component 1.3: Serbian Diaspora Facility (EUR 3.5 million)

This component consists of three sub-components which contribute to enhanced excellence and relevance of scientific research and are part of a comprehensive set of reforms of the Serbian R&D system.

Sub-Component 1.1 **Science Fund (SF)** includes support for SF programs/activities that include competitive basic science grants, applied research grants with incentives for promoting linkages between the private sector and R&D community, incentives for enhancing collaboration with EU (e.g., Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe) and other international programs, and Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) and infrastructure support for Scientific Research Organisations (SROs). Activities under this Sub-Component are also to support the operationalization of the Science Fund, including governance, organizational structure, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and other key components. In addition, the project is to support designing the Science Fund programs based on international best practices. The project is to provide co-financing for direct grants for public research financing under programs designed and developed in phases.

Sub-Component 1.2 **RDI Reforms** supports reforms of R&D Institutes (RDIs) by providing appropriate incentives for undertaking institutional reforms by RDIs on a voluntary (opt-in) basis. This will include providing financing to a select group of up to 20 RDIs who are willing and able to reform. RDIs who wish to participate in the program will undergo detailed assessments- first a self-assessment to be done by each RDI management, and second, a detailed independent external assessment, to be conducted by a team of international experts. Based on such due diligence, a detailed transformation plan will be prepared and the project will provide financing for the implementation and monitoring of the transformation plans.

Sub-Component 1.3 **Serbian Diaspora Facility (SDF)**. The goal of this program is to support a Serbian Diaspora Facility (SDF) to leverage the strengths and desire of its diaspora community and benefit from this immense potential in the development of research, innovation and entrepreneurship in Serbia. This program will aim to attract promising scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs from the Serbian diaspora community to transfer knowledge and skills back to Serbia through a variety of activities including participation in policy making, governance, program management, advisory bodies and networking; collaboration in scientific and applied research and technology transfer; and participation in innovative entrepreneurship mentoring and angel investments.

## **Component 2: Enterprise Acceleration (EUR 7 million, with additional EUR 10 million of EU IPA funding)**

The enterprise acceleration program will consist of two streams: one for early (ideation) stage, and the other for growth (scale-up) stage companies. Both streams will serve in total about 20 companies (founding teams of entrepreneurs) per year, selected competitively by participating investors (including angel investors, early stage VC funds, etc.). Each stream will consist of a structured, 3-month program of intensive training and mentoring. The acceleration program will be implemented by the Innovation Fund (IF) building on their capacity and complementing their other enterprise innovation support programs.

## **Component 3: Project Implementation and Monitoring (EUR 2 million)**

This component will finance activities related to project implementation and monitoring including operations of a Project Implementation Unit (PIU). This will include operational and fiduciary (procurement, environmental and social safeguards), M&E, project audits, studies, policy/program design and capacity building support to the Ministry, SF, IF and related agencies.

### iii. Relevant legal and institutional framework

Environmental and social legislation in Serbia has over 100 laws and regulations. The majority of these are harmonized with EU legislation. Below is a list the key laws and regulations of relevance for this SEP For a complete list and summary of each legislation, please consult Chapter 4 - Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework of the project-specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) updated in February 2023.

The commitments and requirements of the Republic of Serbia to citizen engagement are not residing under a single self-standing law or regulation. However, the recognition of the importance of citizen engagement is infused in the legal system and clearly recognized by mandatory procedures provided under individual laws. Serbia having acquired the EU candidate country for membership status is taking a huge effort to reach environmental standards in line with the EU acquis which extends to issues of stakeholder and citizen engagement as well.

From the highest legal act down to an ample normative framework comprising the Serbian legal system, a strong commitment and openness to stakeholder engagement is evident. Key laws governing the stakeholder and citizen engagement activities include, but are not limited to:

**The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia** is passed in 2006 (the constitution was approved in the constitutional referendum of 2006, held from the 28-29th of October). It was officially proclaimed by the National Assembly of Serbia on November 8, 2006), the Constitution of RS proclaims the rule of law and social justice, principles of civil democracy, human and minority rights and freedoms, and commitment to European principles and values. Also, Article 74 states that “Everyone shall have the right to a healthy environment and the right to timely and full information about the state of the environment. Everyone, especially the Republic of Serbia and autonomous provinces, shall be accountable for the protection of the environment. Everyone shall be obliged to preserve and improve the environment.”

**Law on Environmental Protection** (“Official Gazette of RS” Nos. 135/2004, 36/2009, 36/2009, 72/2009-164, 43/2011-88, 14/2016, 76/2018 and 95/2018) is currently the main legislation relating to environmental protection in Serbia. This Law shall regulate the integral system of environmental protection which shall ensure the human right to live and develop in a healthy environment.

Among other things, the main goals are related to:

- Prevention, control, reduction and remediation of all forms of pollution to the environment.
- Environmental monitoring
- Information on disclosure of information and public participation.

**The Law on free access to information of public interest** (“Official Gazette of RS” Nos. 120/2004, 53/2007, 104/2009, 36/2010 and 105/2021) states that governmental agencies, social associations and officials are required to provide each person with the possibility of receiving and becoming acquainted with documents of public interest, except in cases anticipated by law. By virtue of this Law access to information shall be granted to all stakeholders, including every natural person or legal entity upon written request unless otherwise regulated by the Law. Within 15 days of receipt of a request at the latest, the authority shall inform the applicant whether the requested information is held, and grant him/her access to the document containing the requested information or issue or send to the applicant a copy of the document, as the case may be.

**Law on Public Information and Media** ("Official Gazette of RS" Nos. 83/2014, 58/2015, 12/2016) stipulates that public information is free and is not subject to censorship, that the public has the right and the interest to be informed on issues of public interest, that monopoly in the media is not allowed, that information on the media is public.

**The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment** ("Official Gazette of RS" Nos. 135/2004 and 36/2009), regulates the impact assessment procedure for projects that may have a significant impact on the environment, the contents of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study, the participation of authorities and organizations concerned, the public participation, trans-boundary exchange of information for projects that may have a significant impact on the environment of another country, supervision and other issues of relevance to impact assessment. This law has been fully aligned with Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

However, due to entering into the force of the new Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment in the EU, drafting of the new Law on Environmental Impact Assessment in compliance with it is ongoing. Also, provides a categorization of industries and projects and identifies types of environmental assessment required against respective categories of industries or projects and provides procedures for disclosure, presentation and consultation requirements, and sets these as mandatory with a disclosure minimum of 20 days. Other pieces of legislation regulating the EIA process are the following:

- Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment ("Official Gazette of the RS", Nos. 135/2004 and 88/2010);
- Rulebook on the contents of the EIA Study ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 69/2005);
- Law on confirmation of convention on information disclosure, public involvement in process of decision making and legal protection in the environmental area ("Official Gazette of the RS" no. 69/2005);
- Rulebook on the procedure of public inspection, presentation and public consultation about the EIA Study ("Official Gazette of the RS" no. 69/2005);

**The Aarhus Convention** was adopted on 25 June 1998, and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia issued the Law on Ratification of the Aarhus Convention on 12 May 2009. The aim of the Aarhus Convention is to strengthen the role of citizens and civil society organizations in environmental issues. It is based on the principles of transparency and participatory democracy. The progress in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention is visible in the area of access to information of public importance, which is the result of the dedicated work of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and the work of individuals within the ministry and local authorities.

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. Also, the Republic of Serbia was adopted 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 (Official Gazette of RS", No. 103/2011) it links environmental and human rights and is based on the belief that it is a basic right of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to health and wellbeing. The convention is focused on achieving this through the implementation of three pillars: rights of access to information, access to decision-making, and access to justice.

The progress in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention is visible in the area of access to information of public importance, which is the result of the dedicated work of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and the work of individuals within the ministry and local authorities.

Other stakeholder engagement, disclosure and transparency requirements within certain topics and sectors are embedded in the applicable laws regulating each of the treated subject. They are broadly compliant to the requirements of ESS10 but have certain shortcomings when it comes to active outreach and continuous engagement strategies.

#### **iv. Summary of social and environmental risks and impacts of the Project**

The project is classified as **Moderate Risk**, taking in account the nature of the interventions, the experience of the implementing agency in managing similar activities, and the presence of potentially sensitive research areas.

The Project will not directly fund civil works and no adverse impacts such as involuntary land acquisition, impacts on biodiversity, are expected. Also, the Project will not finance any of the activities listed in the World Bank Group - IFC Exclusion List. The environmental risks will be small in magnitude, of temporary nature and directly associated with the listed investments and TA activities under the Project. In few cases, the mitigation activities will need to be designed to deal with disposal of wastewater, communal, industrial or hazardous waste. Any activities that may have significant and/or high environmental and social impacts, including involuntary impacts on land or assets, and unpredictable risks for the environment, community health and safety will be deemed ineligible through the Project's Environmental and Social Screening Procedure to be used for defining grant eligibility. Any minor impacts are identified by the ESMF and addressed in activity specific ESMPs/ESMP Checklist. The ESMF will ensure that the grant selection procedures are fair, transparent and merit based.

*Table 1: Environmental and Social Standards Relevance at the time of Project Appraisal*

	<b>E &amp; S Standards</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
ESS1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	<b>Relevant</b>
ESS2	Labor and Working Conditions	<b>Relevant</b>
ESS3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	<b>Relevant</b>
ESS4	Community Health and Safety	<b>Relevant</b>
ESS5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Relevant
ESS6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Relevant
ESS7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Relevant
ESS8	Cultural Heritage	<b>Relevant</b>
ESS9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Relevant
ESS10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	<b>Relevant</b>

The following table summarizes key gaps between the National Legal Framework and relevant Environmental and Social standards for the project, and how these gaps will be addressed.



**Table 2. Key ESF objectives compared to national requirements and corrective measures**

ESF Objectives	National Laws and Requirements	Gaps	Corrective measures
<b>ESS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</b>			
<p>The Borrower will assess, manage and monitor the environmental and social risks and impacts of the project throughout the project life cycle [...] (ESS1 para 14).</p>	<p>The national Law on EIA requires the preparation of an EIA for projects that may have substantial and high environmental and social impacts.</p> <p>For moderate risk projects EIA may be required. In that case, such projects could be eligible for financing under SAIGE but after obtaining the Decision from relevant institutions confirming that there no need for EIA.</p>	<p>There are no E&amp;S risk screening and assessment requirements for projects with Low and/or Moderate E&amp;S risk.</p> <p>EIA doesn't address necessarily social aspects of the intervention as required by the WB ESIA</p>	<p>EMSF under the Project provides details about steps and procedures for sub-project screening, assessment, management and monitoring of environmental and full range social risks and impacts. Sub-projects assessed as having Substantial or High risks, whether from social or environmental perspective are excluded from financing under the project.</p>
<b>ESS 2: Labor and Working Conditions</b>			
<p>Implementation the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project as set out in the ESMF, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and service providers.</p>	<p>The Labor Law provides for judicial protection of employees in case of unfair or unlawful employment relationship practices. Employees may refer their grievances to trade unions or Labor Inspectorates directly.</p> <p>The Law on Civil Servants stipulates that workplace dispute resolution is provided through the Appeals Commission housed within the institution providing</p>	<p>GMs for direct and contracted workers is not a mandatory practice, except for civil servants.</p>	<p>Any organization employing and engaging contracted workers under the project are expected to design and implement GMs that will be aligned or surpass this standard ensuring an easy access to protective measures and effective remedial actions in work situations that may give rise to grievances and disputes, including on SEA/SH related issues</p> <p>For direct workers employed or engaged by NITRA, MF (PIU, CFU), SF and IF not subjected to the Law on Civil Servants, a</p>

ESF Objectives	National Laws and Requirements	Gaps	Corrective measures
A grievance mechanism (GM) is provided for all direct workers and contracted workers (and, where relevant, their organizations) to raise workplace concerns (ESS2 para 21).	employment. Labor regulations are aligned with international standards, ILO Conventions and EU Directives.		special GM will be conceived and housed by the PIU within NITRA. All GM requirements, including their implementation and monitoring, are detailed in the project Labor Management Procedures (LMP) integrated into the ESMF.
<b>ESS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management</b>			
The Borrower will consider ambient conditions and apply technically and financially feasible resource efficiency and pollution prevention measures in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (ESS3 para 4).	The Borrower will avoid the release of pollutants or, when avoidance is not feasible, minimize and control the concentration and mass flow of their release using the performance levels and measures as specified in national law	There is no mandatory requirement to generally apply the least polluting and resource-efficient technologies. Regular monitoring is not required.	ESMF requires all applicants to consider the least polluting and resource-efficient technologies and measures for their basic and applied research/ commercial activities of small and medium firms. A set of measures will be specified in the relevant ESMPs/ESMP Checklist of applicants. Regular monitoring of project implementation.
<b>ESS 4: Community Health and Safety</b>			
The Borrower will evaluate the risks and impacts of the project on the health and safety of the affected communities during the project life cycle, including those who, because of their particular circumstances, may be vulnerable (ESS4 para 5).	According to the Law and the Rulebook on the content of the EIA, impacts on community health and safety must be included in the EIA.	There are no E&S risk screening and assessment requirements for projects with Low and/or Moderate E&S risks.	Community Health and Safety risks shall be mitigated by adhering to the relevant laws guiding research including but not limited to radiological and nuclear safety, use of chemicals, the animal protection law and The Law on Occupational Safety and Health. Measures and actions developed to assess and manage specific risks and

ESF Objectives	National Laws and Requirements	Gaps	Corrective measures
			impacts outlined in the ESMF and subsequent ESMPs/ESMP Checklist.
Noise prevention and mitigation measures should be applied where predicted or measured noise impacts from a project facility or operations exceed the applicable noise level guideline at the most sensitive point of reception.	Law on environmental Noise protection ("Official Gazette RS" NO.96/2021). A number of rulebooks, decrees to serve the implementation of the Law.	Serbia has a good level of alignment with EU rules on noise but implementation is at an early stage.	The preferred method for controlling noise from stationary sources is to implement noise control measures at source. Noise reduction options considered in addition to the national requirements are those provided in the WB EHSG
ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement – Not Relevant			
ESS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources – Not Relevant			
ESS 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities – Not Relevant			
ESS 8: Cultural Heritage			
To protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of project activities and support its preservation; To address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development; To promote meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage; To promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.	Cultural property law ("Official Gazette of RoS nos. 71/94, 52/11, 92/11, 6/20, 35/21 and 129/21). This Law regulate the system of the protection and use of cultural property and define conditions for the implementation of activities relating to the protection of cultural property.	There are no significant gaps between ESS 8 and national laws	No activities that can impact protected cultural heritage will take place. The chance findings clause will enter all ESAs for sub-projects
ESS 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure			

<b>ESF Objectives</b>	<b>National Laws and Requirements</b>	<b>Gaps</b>	<b>Corrective measures</b>
<p>The Borrower will disclose project information to allow stakeholders to understand the risks and impacts of the project, and potential opportunities (ESS10 para 19).</p>	<p>The draft EIA/planning documents for project design in general is disclosed in hard copy in relevant municipal buildings and offices, as well as on government websites. An announcement on the availability of the EIA for review as well as the planned public hearing has to be made in a local newspaper in official languages in the project area, as well as through electronic media.</p>	<p>The disclosure requirements are only related to EIAs. E&amp;S risks assessment that do not fall under the Law on EIA are not subject to disclosure requirements</p>	<p>All project E&amp;S assessments, including the ESMF and subsequent ESMPs, will follow the information and document disclosure requirements described in ESMF Chapter 10.1 – Stakeholder Engagement. The ESMF, including LMP, was disclosed by the Ministry on October 24, 2019 prior to parent project appraisal, and consulted on November 1, 2019. The ESMF for the parent project has been updated to reflect the AF and redisclosed on September 4, 2020. <a href="https://nitra.gov.rs/extfile/sr/575/SAIGE-ESMF-Revision-July-2-2020.pdf">https://nitra.gov.rs/extfile/sr/575/SAIGE-ESMF-Revision-July-2-2020.pdf</a></p>
<p>The Borrowers will engage with stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design (ESS10 para 6).</p>	<p>An announcement on the availability of the EIA for review as well as the planned public hearing has to be made in a local newspaper in official languages in the project area, as well as through electronic media.</p>	<p>All disclosure and public consultation requirements are related to the EIA preparation process only. E&amp;S risks that fall outside of the EIA (i.e., significant environmental impacts) are not consulted upon. There are no requirements to engage stakeholders in project planning, design and implementation. There are no requirements to develop SEPs.</p>	<p>Objectives and specific methods of engagement with relevant stakeholders have been outlined in the current SEP. This SEP also provides information on all stakeholder engagement activities conducted in preparation of the project. The document was initially disclosed by the Ministry on October 24, 2019, consulted on November 1, 2019, and updated on September 2020 and February 2023. The stakeholder engagement activities are carried out and reported throughout project implementation.</p>

<b>ESF Objectives</b>	<b>National Laws and Requirements</b>	<b>Gaps</b>	<b>Corrective measures</b>
<p>The Borrower will respond to concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner. For this purpose, the Borrower will propose and implement a grievance (ESS10, para 26).</p>		<p>There is no specific requirement in national legislation for establishing a project-level GM as required by ESS10. In the case of specific project impacts (e.g., expropriation), administrative appeals can be submitted as per the Law on Expropriation.</p>	<p>The grievance mechanism for Project has developed and includes all stakeholders affected by the implementation of all components, and for direct workers on the Project. GM allows for intake of inquiries and complaints about the matching grant mechanism, grant procedures &amp; results as well as potential social and environmental impacts of grant-supported activities. The GMs are already established and operational in March 2022. The GM is SEA /SH sensitized and equipped for receiving confidential complaints.</p>

## **2. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities relevant to the Project**

### **a. Consultations on “Research for Innovation” Strategy and related laws**

The Republic of Serbia through the Ministry has taken significant steps towards the comprehensive reform of the science and research system aimed at improving the excellence and relevance of scientific research. The basis for these reforms is defined in the Research for Innovation Strategy (2016-2020) which was adopted by the Government in 2016. The strategy was developed as part of the World Bank supported “Serbia Research Innovation and Technology Transfer Project” (SRITTP) implemented between 2015 and 2019.

During the preparation of the abovementioned “Research for Innovation” Strategy in 2016, the Ministry conducted extensive public consultations involving all stakeholders, interested parties (such as private and public scientific and research institutes, faculties, universities, center of excellence, companies), researchers and citizens. Besides receiving written feedback, the Ministry organized consultation meetings in all major university centers and with the private sector in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce. A number of roundtables were organized during the drafting of the Strategy as well. Lessons from this stakeholder engagement processes show that early involvement of key stakeholders in the policy design process ensures better outcomes, including better identification of stakeholder needs, support during the public consultation and policy adoption process, and easier implementation of new policies.

Following the two new important laws were adopted: the Law on Science and Research (in July 2019) and the Law on the Science Fund (in December 2018). The adoption of these laws is a key step in the reform of the system of organisation and financing of science in Serbia.

The adoption of the Law on Science and Research (“Official Gazette of RS, no. 49/2019) reformed the system of financing scientific research in line with the strategic goal to improve the system, to respond to the challenges and needs of the society and the have an efficient and optimal use of budget funds. A financing model has been developed which combines institutional and competitive project-based financing. The goal on one hand is to ensure stable financing, and on the other to support excellence in science. Introduction of institutional funding for R&D Institutes (RDIs) creates the foundation for further reforms of RDIs envisaged under SAIGE.

Adoption of the Law on the Science Fund (“Official Gazette of RS”, no. 95/2018) provided the basis for the establishment of the Science Fund in 2019, as an independent and expert government entity which will implement project-based funding for scientific research. The Science Fund will use different programs to support the best scientists through a competitive, transparent and merit-based evaluation and selection system. SAIGE will support both the design of Science Fund programs in line with international best practices and provide funding for certain grants programs.

Extensive consultations were conducted during 2018 and up to May 2019 prior to the adoption of these two laws. The draft documents were publicly presented, and all proposals, remarks and suggestions were submitted in written form to the Ministry. In addition to this, the Ministry fully complied with the Government procedure on Regulatory Impact Assessment and for each newly proposed document prepared a report to support the proposed legislation with analytical data, reports and background

analyses which reflect the situation in this area. Finally, a report on the consultation process was also prepared as part of the Regulatory Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup>.

Stakeholder consultations have significantly informed the current Strategy on Scientific and Technological Development ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 10/2021-3) and relevant laws, including Law on Innovation activities ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 129/2021). They represent the basis for reforms which are to be supported from the current project. Ensuring the support of the research community has been a vital element for reforming the model of financing scientific research in the country and without this support the adoption of the new legislation to implement the reforms would not have been possible.

#### **b. Consultations on the "Smart Specialization" Strategy and related bylaws**

In addition to the abovementioned legislations, the Ministry has completed coordination of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) in Q1 and Q2 of 2019, which is an integral part of developing the national Smart Specialization Strategy. The EDP process included a series of roundtables in 2019 held across Serbia which had significant representation of academia, the private sector and civil society, with the objective of defining national priorities for the Smart Specialization Strategy. Supported by the Chamber of Commerce, this process had helped the Ministry deepen its engagement with the private sector and part of the implementation of the Strategy will be in ensuring that this platform for dialogue is a continuous instrument of the Ministry and not a one-off event. The Smart Specialization Strategy was adopted by the Government in February 2020. Upon adaptation, the first two calls for supporting strategy priorities were launched by June 2020.

After the adoption of the Smart specialization strategy for the period 2020-2027, in April 2021, the Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 was adopted.

At the operational level, NITRA has taken over the responsibility for the 4S implementation in October 2022 and heading the National 4S Team under the support of the SAIGE project. Since the previous Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 expired, the 4S team is currently working on the development of the new Action Plan for the 4S implementation for the period 2023-2025. EDP workshops were held in Q4 2022 with participation from quadruple helix sectors in order to define new measures. Cooperation will be intensified with relevant stakeholders in Q1 2023.

NITRA is also in the process of preparing the by-laws for institutional financing of RDIs which will be of high relevance for the implementation of Component 1 of the project which is to be implemented by NITRA.

The rulebook on categorization and ranking of scientific journals ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 159/20) and Rulebook on acquiring research and scientific titles ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 159/20) were adopted in Q4 2020. In Q1 2022 a Program of institutional funding of accredited institutes and institutes of national importance for the Republic of Serbia was adopted. The Rulebook on institutional funding of SROs is still required to make the new financing model fully operational. Stakeholder's consultations are continually held on the design of the new model and it remains one of the priorities for forthcoming period.

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<sup>1</sup><http://vs3836.cloudhosting.rs/misljenja/1511/ana/Analiza%20efekata%20Zakona%20o%20Fondu%20za%20nauku.pdf> (document in Serbian only)

### **c. Consultations held on proposed SAIGE Project activities**

During October 2018, the World Bank together with the Innovation Fund organized a pilot acceleration program in Belgrade called SPARK week, so as to provide input for preparation of the future full-fledged acceleration program. The emphasis was on mentoring by experienced mentors matched to the participating companies by sector, and on evaluation of the program in order to gauge learning and financing needs. The key objective of the activity was to support participating entrepreneurs by providing them an opportunity to assess and strengthen their business modeling and pitching skills, fundraising know-how, and their ability to work effectively with mentors. Preparation for SPARK week enabled the IF to assess potential local and global pool of mentors, investors, startups and other community stakeholders such as Hubs and STP Belgrade, NGOs, sponsors, media and others. Workshops on themes such as fundraising and investment readiness were held during SPARK week in addition to interaction with potential investors. It was identified that most startups need assistance with growth phase or early stage funding. Workshop sessions received high marks across the board, with particular satisfaction expressed with the module on sales strategies, pitch feedback, and informal peer-to-peer mentoring.

Since its establishment in 2019, the Science Fund (SF) has been carrying out consultations with all major stakeholders pertinent to its programs and objectives, including, but not limited to, the Ministry the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, representatives of SROs, members of the scientific community in Serbia, research organizations, individual researchers, former and current participants in Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe calls for proposals, representatives of the European Research Council (ERC), Serbian research diaspora, as well as representatives of other funding agencies from European countries. Stakeholder engagement has been conducted through meetings, interviews, and online correspondence.

The SF has completed its first Call for Proposals. During this process, consultations were held with the SF Program Council and Managing Board, carried out as part of the SF's internal procedures. The Call for Proposals under the Science Fund's Program for excellent projects of young researchers (PROMIS) was the first call that was launched by the SF. Lessons learned through PROMIS will be applied to further program planning of the SF supported by the SAIGE Project. Applicants of PROMIS, as well as others who have participated in any of the SF's preparatory activities for PROMIS (presentations across Serbia, open doors, budget workshops, webinars, email enquiries), have been requested to provide feedback on the program and the application and evaluation process. The results thereof will be used to improve SF's communication strategy, future programs and the application process under the SAIGE Project.

### **d. Ministry ongoing consultations with stakeholders**

The Ministry holds regular meetings both with individual research institutions and researchers, but also with organizations that represent the interests of the research community such as the Association of Institutes, the Union of Scientific Research Employees, the Conference of Universities, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and other. Representatives of the research and business community take active part in the work of Ministry advisory bodies such as the National Council for Science and Technological Development and the Scientific Boards established for all fields of research. Besides regular communication with associations that represent research interests, the Ministry expanded its engagement with civil society through the EDP process which has been described in greater detail above.



**e. Other documented forms of engagement (interviews, workshops, etc. where feedback from relevant stakeholders has been collected)**

The project is a continuation of long-term engagement with the governmental and private sector, but also civil society organizations and individuals. These have included interviews, focus groups, and roundtable consultations in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, with individual researchers, representatives of R&D institutes and faculties, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Chamber of Commerce, Serbian Association of Managers, Serbian Business Angels Network, Serbian Venture Network, Digital Serbian Initiative, representatives of the early stage investor community (South Central Ventures, ICT Hub Ventures, Serbian Business Angels Network) entrepreneurship support organizations such as incubators and hubs (StartIT, ICT Hub, Potkrovlje, Impact Hub, University of Belgrade Faculty of Engineering ICT Inkubator, Vojvodina ICT Cluster) and individual entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders. Further, extensive analysis of the R&D sector, which included a series of policy notes, involved structured engagement with stakeholders of the R&D system in Serbia, while an entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment gathered stakeholders on a series of general and specific topics.

**3. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis**

ESS 10 recognizes the following categories of stakeholders:

**1) Project Affected Parties.** These includes those likely to be affected by the project because of actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, security, cultural practices, wellbeing, or livelihoods. These stakeholders may include individuals or groups, including direct project beneficiaries and local communities. They are the individuals or households most likely to observe/feel changes from environmental and social impacts of the project.

**2) Other Interested parties (OIPs)** refers to: individuals, groups, or organizations with an interest in the project, which may be because of the project location, its characteristics, its impacts, or matters related to public interest. For example, these parties may include regulators, government officials, the private sector, the scientific community, academics, unions, women’s organizations, other civil society organizations, and cultural groups. The stakeholder identification has been expanding to a wider area than the project will affect, since the locations have not all been identified, and important details of project activities are still under development.

**3) Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individual or Groups.** Includes those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/ or assistance to do so. This will consider considerations relating to age, including the elderly and minors, and including in circumstances where they may be separated from their family, the community or other individuals upon whom they depend.

The Project has multiple stakeholders from government, private sector, research sector and donor organizations involved in the innovation and entrepreneurship eco-system in Serbia and relevant to the Project. The stakeholder risk is moderate due to the need to coordinate with multiple stakeholders throughout the Project period.

Project affected parties include:

- 1) Public and private R&D Institutions – in the new model of financing research activities, RDIs will receive performance-based institutional financing and will not entirely depend on project-based financing. Further, under SAIGE Project, RDIs will also benefit from support for their external assessments and transformation plans. This will allow them to develop more long-term strategic planning and enhance their excellence and relevance of their R&D outputs.
- 2) Researchers – competitive grants offered by the SF will support the best researchers by providing them with grants that match their project needs. Preparing project proposals for the SF will improve their capacity to bid for EU and other international research grants.
- 3) Private sector enterprises and investors – through Component 1, new opportunities for business-academia collaboration will open and will complement the existing programs of the Innovation Fund. Through Component 2, enterprise acceleration component, entrepreneurs, early stage companies, individual investors, and investment funds, will have increased access to investment, knowledge, and deal flow, respectively.

**a. Direct Beneficiaries:**

- MoESTD/NITRA, SF and IF management and staff
- Interested Applicants for SF and IF calls
- Beneficiaries RDI/company of SF and IF grants
- RDIs participation in the transformation process
- Participating RDIs and companies staff
- Management and staff of companies who receive training under the project
- Management and staff of organizations and individual consultants who provide training and/or consulting services to project beneficiaries
- Potential investors and entrepreneurship support organizations
- Members of the Serbian diaspora benefitting from activities of the Serbian Diaspora Facility.
- Ministry of Finance/CFU, Borrower to the Loan Agreement
- PIU at SAIGE

**b. Other Interested Parties:**

- Chamber of Commerce,
- Serbian Venture Network,
- Serbian Entrepreneurs,
- Digital Serbian Initiative,
- Center for Promotion of Science,
- Ministry of Environmental Protection, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Ministry of Culture,
- Business associations
- The Scientific community in Serbia
- Media and General Public
- Non-Governmental Organizations,

Also, 'Other Interested Parties' constitute individuals, consultants, groups and entities that may not experience direct impacts from the project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation in some way. They include project partners, service providers, civil society organizations and project beneficiaries (food

manufacturers and processors, the construction industry, various laboratories for the production of drugs, etc.).

A number of local (Serbian and regional) partners have already been identified in two categories (investors and entrepreneurship support organizations), including SC Ventures, ICT Hub Ventures, and Digital Serbia Initiative, (as a source of financing and mentoring), Start IT, , ICT Hub, Serbian Association of Managers, and Science Technology Park (as a source of entrepreneurship support services and mentors).

The timing and methods of engagement with identified stakeholders is outlined below.

### **c. Disadvantaged/ Vulnerable Individuals or Groups:**

Project beneficiaries are new and established researchers and owners of innovation companies. These individuals typically have a high level of education and social capital and tend not to belong to disadvantaged/vulnerable groups in society. Non-discrimination principles will be reflected in the TA provided to selected RDIs, embedded in the design of grant support programs and the proposed stakeholder engagement activities.

Serbia has achieved high level of gender equality in science and research participation. As of 2016, women represent at 48.4 percent of researchers 2016 (UNESCO, Women in Science, 2018). There are positive indicators in terms of gender balance based on preliminary data on the first Call for Proposals of the SF. However, the percentage of women applicants from companies (owners and employees) is expected to be low due to the underrepresentation of women in early-stage innovative entrepreneurship. The portion of innovation companies with at least one woman founder is estimated to be 17 percent (Digital Serbia Initiative, 2018). The share of women working in technology startups in the area of software development is approaching 15 percent, which, while above international standards, is still significantly below 50 percent. To ensure that Project benefits are accessible to women entrepreneurs, the Project will:

1. Consider women-specific programming during design stages to encourage participation of female scientists and entrepreneurs in the Science Fund programs and diaspora activities.
2. Collaborate with local partner organizations, such as the Impact Hub, ICT Hub, Digital Srbija Initiative, StartIT, Serbian Association of Managers, Association of Business Women in Serbia, and others, to leverage their networks of women entrepreneurs and deliver programming specific to them that has been identified as missing from the ecosystem. This will include:
  - Mentoring by experienced women founders
  - Workshops on topics of specific interest to women founders and managers
  - Peer networking
  - Introductions to female angel investors

In addition, the project will seek to increase visibility of support programs for women entrepreneurs through customized communications campaigns executed through the press, television and radio, as well as social media. Visibility of initiatives targeting women entrepreneurs in Serbia was identified to be virtually non-existent in popular media, and recognition of existing programs was very low, according to a study by UN Women. Increasing visibility is anticipated to create higher interest and participation in such initiatives by female entrepreneurs. The project will track the number of female-led business that benefit

from the enterprise acceleration programs and that upgrade/develop innovative products/services/practices because of business support provided by the project.

On the other hand, there are positive indicators in terms of gender balance based on preliminary data on the first Call for Proposals of the SF.

**d. Overview of stakeholders Interest and Influence**

Identified stakeholder groups and their level of influence cross-referenced with the interest they may have in the project will determine the type and frequency of engagement activities necessary for each group. Using the colour coding of interest and influence matrix below will help determine where to concentrate stakeholder engagement efforts and why.

The table below identifies the key stakeholder groups and categories, the nature of their interest in the project and their level of interest in and influence over the project and is based on the colour code in the matrix below.

*Table 3. Influence and Interest matrix - provides an overview of the proposed stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and level of influence.*

<b>Level of Influence</b>	<b>High</b>	Involve/engage	Involve/Engage	Partner	<b>Level of Interest</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	Inform	Consult	Consult	
	<b>Low</b>	Inform	Inform	Consult	
		<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	

<b>Color-coding</b>	<b>Engage closely and influence actively:</b> require regular and frequent engagement, typically face-to-face and several times per year, including written and verbal information
	<b>Keep informed and satisfied:</b> require regular engagement (eg. every half-a-year), typically through written information
	<b>Monitor:</b> require infrequent engagement (eg. once a year), typically through indirect written information (e.g. mass media).

**Table 4:** Level of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and level of influence

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Nature of interest	Level of interest	Level of influence	Level of engagement
<b>Project affected parties</b>	NITRA, SF and IF staff	Main counterpart of the WB for Project implementation	High	High	Inform and consult
	Interested Applicants for SF and IF calls	Interest in new projects and understanding the procedure competition. The knowledge-sharing platform.	High	Low	Inform and consult
	Beneficiaries RDI/companies of SF and IF grants	Interest in rules for project implementation and understanding the monitoring and reporting procedure. The knowledge-sharing platform.	High	Low	Inform and consult
	RDIs participation in transformation process	Interest in rules for project implementation and understanding the monitoring and reporting procedure. Capacity building, knowledge-sharing, technology transfer.	High	High	inform and consult
	Participating RDIs and companies staff	Interest in the project and understanding rules and procedures, gaining new knowledge.	High	Medium	Consult
	Management and staff of companies who receive training under the project	Interest in the project and understanding rules and procedures, gaining new knowledge.	High	Medium	Consult
	Management and staff of organizations and individual consultants who provide training and/or consulting services to project beneficiaries	Interest in the project implementation, understanding rules and procedures, providing knowledge and expert support.	High	Medium	Consult
	Potential investors and entrepreneurship support organizations	Interest in timely implementation of the project and its impact to improved service delivery.	High	Medium	Inform and Consult
	Members of the Serbian diaspora benefitting from activities of the Serbian Diaspora Facility	Participation in SF & IF programs, as beneficiaries, mentors and investors, interest in new projects and understanding the procedure competition. The knowledge-sharing platform.	Medium	Low	Inform

	Ministry of Finance/CFU, Borrower to the Loan Agreement	Loan Agreement oversight, procurement procedures, financial management procedures	High	High	Inform and consult
	PIU at SAIGE	Project management and implementation, oversight, reporting, financial, environmental, and social risk management, grievance management, SEP implementation and coordination	High	High	Inform and consult
<b>Other interested parties</b>	Chamber of Commerce	Interest in IF programs, collaboration between scientific and business sector, technology transfer, involvement in entrepreneurship discovery process under the Smart Specialization Strategy	Medium	Medium	Consult
	Serbian Venture Network	Dissemination of Project results and investors networking with IF beneficiaries	Medium	Low	Inform
	Serbian Entrepreneurs	Dissemination of Project results and investors networking with IF	High	Medium	Consult
	Digital Serbian Initiative, Serbia Innovates	Interested in overall Project impact, dissemination of Project results	Medium	Low	Inform
	Center for Promotion of Science	Dissemination of Project results	Medium	Medium	Consult
	Ministry of Environmental Protection, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Ministry of Culture	Competent authority for issuing research permits for SF grantees, if relevant. Interested in the enforcement of legal requirements in all aspects of research	High	Medium	Consult
	Business associations	Dissemination of Project results and networking	Medium	Low	Inform
	The Scientific community in Serbia	Interest in overall Project results and impact, programming of SF and IF calls, participation in programs and RDI transformation	High	Medium	Consult
	Media and General Public	Enables wide and regular dissemination of information related to the Project, ensures its visibility and facilitates stakeholder engagement	Medium	Low	Inform
	Non-Governmental Organizations	Interested in project benefits, results of SF and IF programs, and potential environmental and social as well as community health and safety impacts/risks	Medium	Low	Inform and consult on selected topics

Throughout the Project, the list of stakeholders will need to be reviewed and verified if there is a need to expand the list and engage with other stakeholders at critical points during Project implementation. A potential update will be part of the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) segment of the Project.

#### **4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

September 2020 Update: Due to circumstances caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, which could not have been foreseen during project design and negotiations, all activities described below, which are an integral part of the SEP, will be modified according to the latest developments and Government recommendations. Primarily public events will be affected, such as launches for calls for proposals. Alternative engagement activities will be designed to ensure effective project communication with stakeholders, while at the same time maintaining the safety and wellbeing of all participants. Training sessions and open-door days will be, where possible, replaced with webinars and social media and other online content will be scaled up. Public meetings and events related to the project will take place in accordance with the current ban on gatherings and will be defined by the currently prescribed measures. All post-ban public gatherings will follow the latest national guidance on containment of the COVID-19 pandemic and WHO Interim Guidance Note on planning of mass gatherings.<sup>2</sup> Project field visits and personal interactions will require the use of face coverings, physical distancing, appropriate sanitary conditions and other relevant measures at the time of the activity.

##### **i. Planned stakeholder engagement activities by the Science Fund (Component 1)**

The SF will continue to consult with and engage all relevant stakeholders and interested parties in different stages of planning and implementing its programs:

###### **a. The SF will organize engagement events for identified stakeholders/ target audiences:**

- Launch of call and promotional events
- Training workshops (weekly “open doors” for potential applicants, webinars on targeted topics and for targeted audiences outside of Belgrade)
- Responses to frequently asked questions published on SF website
- Award ceremony
- On-site visits to sub-projects team in implementation phase
- Consultative meetings
- Other promotional events

###### **b. Recurrent communication activities:**

- Press conferences
- Press releases
- Interviews for the media
- Photographs, photo news
- Features/success stories
- Participation in events (conferences, panels, presentations, fairs)
- Quarterly newsletters with information about progress on the project and upcoming activities.

###### **c. Beneficiary feedback activities**

- Annual surveys on research programs
- Periodical and thematic surveys on research programs
- Interviews with external evaluators

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<sup>2</sup> WHO, 2020. Interim Guidance Note: Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19. 29 May 2020

The SF will organize promotional activities throughout Serbia upon launching future Calls for proposals. During the open calls, SF organizing weekly “open doors” online live sessions for interesting applicants during which information about the application and project implementation processes are provided, and their questions answered. The transcript of Q & A part of each “open doors” sessions is published on the SF website.

Earlier the SF organized a targeted budget workshop – live event and webinar, as well as webinar responses to frequently asked questions from applicants. The above events have raised a high level of public interest in SF’s activities and call for proposals. The SF will tailor the activities in line with future calls for proposals and the needs of the target audiences thereof.

Lessons learned through PROMIS and other programs in the final stage of implementation will be applied to further program planning of the SF supported by the SAIGE Project. Applicants of PROMIS, as well as others who have participated in any of the SF’s preparatory activities for PROMIS (presentations across Serbia, open doors, budget workshops, webinars, email enquiries), will be requested to provide feedback on preferred research grant programs, the application process and the support provided by the SF during the application process, including trainings. The results thereof will be used to improve SF’s communication and stakeholders’ engagement strategy, as well as future programs under the SAIGE Project. This will inform the scope of future research grant programs (funding windows and themes), application procedures and requirements, and the design of on-demand support activities (e.g., webinars on the application process). A survey will be sent to applicants following the completion of the evaluation process and announcement of grantees. Additionally, a survey will be sent to recipients of SF grants following the completion of their projects. Survey results and the effect of feedback received on research program scope and design will be published on SF website on an annual basis.

SF continues to be active in mainstream, traditional and digital media, promoting activities and sharing information about sub-projects teams and achievements in all programs, stakeholders, and SF as an institution.

#### **d. Lessons Learned on Stakeholder Engagement from PROMIS Program**

PROMIS program, as a pilot program of the Science Fund is the main source of lessons learned for further development of the Science Fund procedures and advancement of new calls for programs.

Main lessons learned from the consultations held with respective entities are listed below:

1. Principal investigators require more support concerning the administrative part of the project implementation. Continuous support from the SF project admins was highly valued by all PIs and consequently led to building the project management skillset for all PIs individually. On a larger scale this resulted in continuous capacity building of the SROs included in the project implementation.
2. Based on the experience of the SF PROMIS program admin team and feedback provided by project teams during the program implementation, procedures of modifying project documentation (Budget, Payment Schedule, Gantt Chart and Applicant Info) or replacing a team member were optimized. These procedures were additionally improved by introducing digitalized monitoring tools (Platform for project monitoring and reporting).
3. In the PROMIS program Act there were strictly defined proportions of different budget categories. Based on the results of continuous monitoring activities, survey analysis and feedback provided by the principal investigators, this proved to be limiting for certain scientific fields. Therefore, the SF revised this policy in new Grant Manuals, enabling better flexibility among budget categories, which is also aligned with new Horizon Europe principles.
4. Quarterly progress reporting system in PROMIS program proved to be highly valuable in terms of administrative and financial monitoring of the projects’ results, avoidance of the misspending and irregularities. With this system, the scientific research organizations in Serbia had a chance to build their capacities in project management. This resulted in significant improvements tracked in newer programs, such as IDEAS program. Considering the overall well-built capacities of the SROs, the SF is heading towards reducing reporting frequency to 6 months, while providing more continuous training support for project teams and SRO administrative departments.



5. All principal investigators in the PROMIS program had rich international experience in their academic and professional careers, which was important asset for their project teams and led to significant international exposure of their scientific results. Therefore, the SF will continue fostering international cooperation and cooperation with Serbian scientific diaspora. Additionally, the SF will stimulate Serbian scientists and build their capacities to apply for international funds, mainly Horizon Europe and ERC.

**Planned stakeholder engagement activities by the NITRA (Subcomponent 1.2).**

The NITRA will continue to inform and engage stakeholders through various activities. For the RDI Reform Sub-component of the project, for which the NITRA is the project implementing entity, the NITRA will ensure that all RDIs (management and staff) are consulted and informed in a timely manner on the design and implementation of relevant activities. In addition, RDI management will organize regular consultations with their staff and key stakeholders on their external assessments to be conducted by international experts, and design and implementation of their transformation plans. The NITRA will work closely with the Association of Research Institutes, which is established by law to represent the views of RDIs, as well as with other key stakeholders (such as the Union of employees in the science sector) to ensure that all views are taken into account during the implementation of this component.

- a. **The NITRA organized actions to identify stakeholders/ all accredited RDIs:**
  - RDI Reform program – RDI self-assessment conducted (with Expression of interest from RDIs to participate in this component)
  - Other promotional events
- b. **Recurrent information sharing activities:**
  - Press conferences
  - Press releases
  - Interviews for the media
  - Photographs, photo news
  - Features/success stories
  - Participation in events (conferences, panels, presentations, fairs)
- c. **Beneficiary feedback activities**
  - questionnaires for beneficiaries

**ii. Planned stakeholder engagement activities by the Innovation Fund (Component 2)**

The IF plans to continue its previously established practice of informing, consulting and encouraging stakeholders, including Applicants and Investors, to engage in IF activities (training, mentoring and matching grants) and provide their feedback. All the support will be implemented in line with principles of transparency and equal opportunities for all Applicants. Project events and technical assistance provided will be accessible under equal terms to all interested Applicants.

- a. **The IF will organize various events for identified stakeholders/ target audiences:**
  - Launch event
  - Information sharing sessions
  - Networking sessions
  - Matchmaking sessions
  - Awardee ceremonies
  - Other promotional events
- b. **Recurrent communication activities:**
  - Digital marketing campaign on social media
  - Press releases
  - Interviews for the media

- Video and photo news
- Features/success stories
- Participation in events (conferences, panels, presentations, fairs)
- Q&A on IFs website

**c. Beneficiary feedback activities**

- Annual applicant surveys
- Annual stakeholder workshop on the progress of acceleration program
- Regular surveys with mentors and program awardees

The IF will continue to organize the information sessions which will be held, giving a series of presentations to promote the acceleration program and inform potential Applicants, including targeted communication and information sessions for women entrepreneurs. Consequently, information sessions will be organized to provide detailed instructions and guidance on the application preparation process, highlighting principles and potential issues behind the implementation of the acceleration program, identification of specific elements, and relation to formal rules of the acceleration program. Entrepreneurship support organizations will also facilitate the acceleration program promotion. Information sessions will be conducted in the first months upon publishing the Call for Proposals (CfP). The IF will publish on its website and its social network information on when and where the information sessions will be organized. Specific outreach to women-owned enterprises will be organized to further promote the program among female entrepreneurs.

Specific information sessions for mentors will be organized to inform mentors about the program, processes and expectations regarding mentoring. These sessions will be held occasionally, before the selection process starts, after the companies are selected to accelerate and at the end of the mentoring program.

The networking and matchmaking sessions will be conducted at the beginning of the mentoring process to effectively connect mentors with selected companies in the accelerator.

The IF will organize an alumni network of companies who have gone through the acceleration program to leverage peer-to-peer learning. The network will have regular meetings and informal gatherings during the course of SAIGE project.

Other promotional events include IF participation and presentation of the acceleration program and the achieved results thus far at the various events organized by IF (attended by high officials both local and international) and by IF partners, stakeholders, presentation at fairs (e.g. International fair of technics and technical achievements in Belgrade), etc.

The IF will conduct applicant/grantee satisfaction surveys to collect feedback on i) Acceleration program application process and the quality and effectiveness of IF sessions, ii) project application and grant reporting requirements, iii) level of gender-equity in the selection process; iv) quality and effectiveness of the tailored acceleration technical assistance (TA). The survey results will be soliciting feedback on the effectiveness of the project activities (both financial and technical) aimed at business acceleration. This will allow the IF to identify potential design issues related to access and implementation of acceleration program and the effectiveness of trainings and TA and make the necessary adjustments to improve access and relevance of the program for different applicant groups, including female-entrepreneurs.

The survey data will be disaggregated by age, gender and location. Survey results and follow-up actions will be sent to relevant stakeholders and discussed at steering committee meetings. CE indicators will include:

- Satisfaction survey results of acceleration program
- Annual satisfaction survey results of acceleration program discussed with stakeholders

**iii. Methods of communication with identified Stakeholders by the Science Fund and NITRA (component 1) and Innovation Fund (component 2)**

Methods of communication with identified target audiences through the SAIGE Project presence on the internet (not just via the NITRA, IF and SF websites); through printed, on-line and audio-visual and social media. It also indicates what kind of information should be disseminated through which communication platform.

Visibility/Informational materials – in order to build awareness of the SAIGE Project: visual identity, roll-up, back drop, name tags, leaflets, notebooks, posters, brochures, agendas, e-invitation and cover pages for social networks, video clips and etc. Visibility materials are intended for potential applicants and wider audience attending NITRA's, IF's and SF's events.

Mass media Communication - In its communication with the relevant audiences, the NITRA, IF and the SF will use a variety of mass media - electronic, print and social, national and local - with which it will generate opportunities for meaningful and regular coverage.

Press release - IF communicates about major project achievements on IF's website and Facebook/ Twitter/LinkedIn/YouTube/Instagram page and tries to get stories in relevant media, such as national media, local media. Specific media will be identified depending on decisions like where the face-to-face workshops are organized. The IF will produce small video stories about successful initiatives supported via the project. These will be published on the IF website and social media. Similarly, the SF will use their website and social media to report on major project achievements.

Websites – the IF-will design a separate website for the Enterprise acceleration program where information about the project as well as press releases and other relevant project material are stored. Target group networks are urged to distribute relevant information about the project on their website. The SF website contains information about the current call for proposals and expressions of interest, as well as information from promotional events, workshops and other public events. The NITRA will also include information about the project and all major milestones on its website.

Social media - IF uses major social media to provide short updates about projects and also use it as a platform for both regular and special communication activities. IF also uses Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube to communicate the same stories as on website and Twitter, to reach a wider audience. The SF uses social media to promote its program activities, as well as to promote Calls for Expression of interest for Peer Reviewers and Program Board Members, respectively. The media for communication shall be seen as fit for each stakeholder taking into consideration the type and sensitivity of stakeholders.

Communication Materials - written information will be disclosed to the public via a variety of communication materials including brochures, flyers, posters, etc. SF and IF will also update their website regularly (at least every quarter) with key Project updates and reports on the Projects. The website will also provide information about the grievance mechanism for the project (Chapter 5).

Awareness-raising events –to increase target group knowledge about the project's opportunities and impact.

#### **iv. Timelines**

Timeline of the proposed outreach, information and stakeholder engagement activities:<sup>3</sup>

#### **v. Future Phases of Project**

Stakeholders will be kept informed as the Project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance and implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and grievance mechanism.

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<sup>3</sup> As noted above, all the proposed activities will be modified in line with current Government guidelines and recommendations pertaining to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

SF and IF should report at least annually to stakeholders, but more often if necessary, depending on the phase of the Special Program, when the public may experience more impact.

**a. Science Fund (Subcomponents 1.1. and 1.3.)**

For each Program launched under the Science Fund, the following stakeholder engagement activities will be implemented:

*Table 5. Stakeholder engagement activities in Science Fund*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Target Group</b>
Launch event of program	Formal ceremony and conference	1 <sup>st</sup> month	Stakeholders
Information sessions	Workshops, open-doors, field-visits to individual PROs, presentations	While the CFP is open to applicants (typically between 1 to 3 months depending on program)	Potential applicants
Awardee ceremony	Formal ceremony	After closing of CFP	Stakeholders
Other engagement events	Various	Throughout	Various stakeholders

**b. NITRA (Subcomponent 1.2)**

*Table 6. Stakeholder engagement activities for RDI Reforms*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Target Group</b>
Launch event of RDI reform program	Formal ceremony and conference	1 <sup>st</sup> month	Stakeholders
Information sessions	Workshop	While the Call for expression of interest is open	Potential applicants (RDIs)
Other engagement events	Various	Throughout	Various stakeholders

**c. Innovation Fund (Component 2)**

*Table 7. Stakeholder engagement activities in Innovation Fund*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Timing (after announcement of CFP)</b>	<b>Target Group</b>
Launch event of program	Formal ceremony and conference	1 <sup>st</sup> month	Stakeholders
Information sessions	Workshop	In the first months of CFP	Potential applicants
Networking sessions	Meetings, conferences, sessions	2 <sup>nd</sup> month	Potential investors, mentors
Residency week	Conference-style event	For each cohort of companies at the beginning of mentoring program	Awardees, mentors, project staff
Matchmaking sessions	Meetings, conferences, field visits	After closing of CFP	Applicants, investors, mentors

Demo days	Conference-style event	For each cohort of companies before the end of mentoring program	Applicants, investors, mentors
Awardee ceremonies	Informal ceremony	After closing of CfP	Stakeholders
Other engagement events	Various	Throughout	Various stakeholders

**vi. Preliminary budget of NITRA, Science Fund (Component 1) and Innovation Fund (Component 2) for SEP implementation**

NITRA/PIU will be responsible for planning and implementation of stakeholder engagement activities, as well as other relevant outreach, disclosure and consultation activities. Based on the needs of the SEP, the stakeholder engagement budget will cover the following activities: (i) development of communication strategy, (ii) applicant/beneficiary survey (after each grant round), (iii) media coverage expenditures; (iv) printed outreach materials; (v) video (clips) production; (vi) workshops/sessions/events. The tentative budget for these activities is US\$ 200,000.

To ensure successful SEP implementation, the Project PIU will consider part-time engagement of a Communication Specialist under the Component 3: Project Implementation and Monitoring.

**5. Grievance Mechanism**

Project level Grievance Mechanism (GM) has been established by the NITRA/PIU, consisting of a Central Feedback Desk (CFD) administered by the PIU and sub-project specific Grievance Admission Desks SF and IF (collectively referred to as Grievance Mechanism (GM)). GM established and approved by the WB March 2022 <https://nitra.gov.rs/tekst/195/projekat-saige.php>.

SF and IF shall be responsible for overall grievance administration for their components, as local admission points for the uptake of grievances and acknowledgement of grievance receipt through local channels. In addition to the GM, legal remedies available under the national legislation are also available (courts, inspections, administrative authorities etc.)

**a. IF Grievance Mechanism:**

The IF has an operating GM in place. All complaints are recorded and processed by the IF staff using the established procedures during the piloting phase of IPA 2011. Formal complaints about the outcome of the evaluation process (or other grievances) is recorded and summarized in the IF's "Complaint Monitoring Tool". The Tool contains info regarding the complaint(s) such as Project ID, Nature of Complaint, Receipt Date, Complain Date, Detailed Description of the Complaint, Action Taken, Outcome, and Status: Pending / Closed. Complaints are submitted by way of a formal letter (via email), written in English, up to 500 words. All complaints are responded to within 8 days of receipt. All complaints are processed regularly, and where applicable, an independent Investment Committee is contacted for assistance. The Applicants' right to file a fact-based objection to the outcome of the Application status is described in

Program manuals (under 5.5. Applicant Grievance Mechanism): [http://www.inovacionifond.rs/cms/files//program-katapult/Program\\_manual\\_v2.3\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.inovacionifond.rs/cms/files//program-katapult/Program_manual_v2.3_ENG.pdf)

IF Program Managers are responsible for ensuring that each Application receives an objective and fair initial peer review, that the process is transparent, that all applications are treated with equal opportunity and that all applicable laws, regulations, and policies are followed.

**b. SF Grievance Mechanism:**

Resulting from the outcomes of the evaluation process of PROMIS, lessons learned and further consultative processes, a grievance mechanism was introduced under the first Call for the IDEAS Program in January 2020 and will be utilized in all future Programs and calls of the SF. When needed, the grievance mechanism will be adapted based on the feedback of key stakeholders and experiences from implemented calls.

**c. World Bank Grievance Redress Services**

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the Bank's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of World Bank non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service, please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service>. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit [www.inspectionpanel.org](http://www.inspectionpanel.org).

**6. Implementation Arrangements for Stakeholder Engagement**

*Table 8. Overview of planned communication and stakeholder engagement activities for the SAIGE Project*

Target stakeholders	Topic(s) of engagement	Method	Location/frequency	Responsibilities
<b>Project wide</b>				
Direct Beneficiaries and other interested parties	Project progress, grant disbursement figures and beneficiary/applicant survey results	Annual workshop, in-person feedback	Annual	NITRA /PIU, facilitated by SF, IF and external TA
<b>Component 1</b>				
Potential applicants	Applicant satisfaction surveys	Online survey	After each CfP	SF staff
Owners and employees of companies, applicants	Information and training sessions	Meetings, conferences, sessions	During CfP	SF staff, TA
SF project beneficiaries	Grantee satisfaction surveys	Online survey	After project completion.	SF staff
RDI reform beneficiaries	Satisfaction surveys	Online survey	During and after the transformation plan implementation	NITRA staff
<b>Component 2</b>				
Owners and employees of companies, applicants	Applicant/awardee satisfaction surveys	Online survey	After each grant round	IF staff
Owners and employees of companies, applicants	Matchmaking sessions	Meetings, conferences, sessions	During program implementation	IF staff, TA

Potential investors and entrepreneurship support organizations	Networking and matchmaking sessions	Meetings, conferences, field visits	During program implementation	IF staff, TA
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## 7. Monitoring and Reporting of the SEP

Component 3 of the Project will support monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities to track, document, and communicate the progress and results of the SAIGE Project, including monitoring of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The PIU will be responsible for the overall compilation of progress and results. Feedback and grievances received through the project grievance mechanism will be aggregated and included in annual reports.

A comprehensive set of indicators related to stakeholder engagement performance is presented in Table 9. below. The achievement of indicators shall rely on information from the NITRA, SF and IF and the Grievance Log.

*Table 9. Monitoring indicators*

<b>Grievance Resolution Mechanism</b>			
Number of grievances received, in total, on the website, disaggregated by complainant's gender and means of receipt (telephone, email, discussion)	Grievance Log	PIU through data collected from SF and IF	Semi-annually
Number of grievances which have been (i) opened, (ii) opened for more than 30 days, (iii) those which have been resolved, (iv) closed, and (v) the number of responses that satisfied the complainants, during the reporting period disaggregated by category of grievance, gender, age and location of complainant.	Grievance Log	PIU through data collected from SF and IF	Semi-annually
Average time of complaint's resolution process, disaggregated by gender of complainants and categories of complaints	Grievance Log	PIU through data collected from SF and IF	Semi-annually
Number of meetings, and outputs of these meetings	Minutes of meetings signed by the attendees	PIU through data collected from SF and IF	Semi-annually
Trends in time and comparison of number, categories, and location of complaints with previous reporting periods	Grievance Log	PIU through data collected from SF and IF	Semi-annually

Periodic summaries and internal reports on public grievances, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions will be collated by responsible staff in SF and IF and referred to

the NITRA/PIU. The summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders.

In conclusion, as the SEP is a "living document", it will be upgraded and further adapted during the project to meet the specific needs of the Stakeholders.



## **ANNEX 1: REPORT ON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

As no significant changes in the nature and scope of activities are expected under additional financing the AF SEP and report from the initial consultation will be redisclosed on the relevant websites.

### **REPORT ON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION held for the Parent project**

As required by WB Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10) – Stakeholder Engagement and Information disclosure, during the preparation of the draft ESMF SEP and ESCP documents The Borrower carried out several rounds of consultations with all relevant stakeholders.

On September 23, 2019, the first round of consultation with key stakeholders was held at the World Bank premises in Belgrade, Boulevard Kralja Aleksandra 86. Representatives of key institutions that will implement the Project attended the meeting. Particular emphasis is placed on the potential environmental and social impacts of the Project and the experiences of individual institutions that have previously used loan funds in similar projects.

On 04 October 2019, as a continuation of the preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), at the premises of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development - Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12 Belgrade, a second round of consultation was held with key Project stakeholders. The meeting was attended by representatives of key stakeholders. Special focus was given to monitoring and evaluation of projects, screening forms, development of environmental and social management plans during Project implementation, opportunities for involvement of diaspora experts and ways of public involvement during Project implementation.

On 22 October 2019, WB “No Objection” on draft ESMF including the SEP document was delivered to the MoESTD.

Starting on 22 October 2019, MoESTD disclosed the draft ESM, and SEP document on its website and announced an invitation for Public Consultations for the public, bodies and organizations interested in ESMF document for Project. The same announcement is published in the daily newspaper “Blic” on 25 October 2019. The public and other interested parties and organizations were invited to participate in process of public consultation on the draft ESMF document.

Draft ESMF document and Call for Public Consultations were also placed on:

- o on the website of the Science Fund: <http://fondzanauku.gov.rs/>
- o on the website of the Innovation Fund: <http://www.inovacionifond.rs/>

On 01 November 2019, at 11:00 AM (local time), public consultations and presentation of the Draft ESMF document were organized at the premises of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development - Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12, 11000 Belgrade, conference hall at the second floor. During the public consultations, there were comments and remarks related to issues presented in the ESMF, but no new environmentally or socially related issues were raised.

### **PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS, 23 SEP 2019**

On September 23, 2019, with the aim of preparing the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the first round of consultation with key stakeholders was held at the World Bank premises in Belgrade, Boulevard Kralja Aleksandra 86.

The meeting was attended by representatives of key institutions that will implement the Project. A list of participants is attached.

Engaged Environmental and Social Consultant informed the representatives of key institutions about the necessity of drafting an ESMF document following World Bank procedures related to Project approval. Particular emphasis is placed on the potential environmental and social impacts of the Project and the experiences of individual institutions that have previously used loan funds in similar projects

The meeting started at 1 pm and ended at 2:30 pm, with the announcement of the next round of consultations with a broader list of stakeholders.

#### **PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS, 04 OCT 2019**

On 04 October 2019, as a continuation of the preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), at the premises of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development - Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12 Belgrade, a second round of consultation was held with key Project stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by representatives of key institutions that will implement the Project in question. A list of participants is attached.

During the consultation, attendees informed Environmental Consultant of the implementation of previous World Bank-funded projects. Special focus was given to monitoring and evaluation of projects, screening forms, development of environmental and social management plans during Project implementation, opportunities for involvement of diaspora experts and ways of public involvement during Project implementation.

The meeting began at 10 a.m. and ended at 12 p.m., with the announcement of a public presentation on Draft ESMF document, expected in the second half of October 2019.

#### **FINAL ROUND OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, 04 OCT 2019**

On 01 November 2019, at the premises of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development - Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12 Belgrade, a final round of stakeholder consultations were held.

There were 14 attendees at the public consultation meeting in Belgrade. Most of them were key Project stakeholders – Ministry of Education, Science and Development, Innovation Fund, Science Fund and representatives of Research and Development Institutions.

The meeting was attended by:

- |     |                                |  |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| 1.  | Mr. Sasa Lazovic               | Ministry of Education, Science and Development           |
| 2.  | Ms. Tijana Knezevic            | Ministry of Education, Science and Development           |
| 3.  | Ms. Jasmina Grubor             | Ministry of Education, Science and Development           |
| 4.  | Ms. Marina Sokovic             | Ministry of Education, Science and Development           |
| 5.  | Ms. Katarina Urosevic          | The World Bank   |
| 6.  | Ms. Milena Kostadinovic        | Innovation Fund  |
| 7.  | Mr. Stefan Popovic             | Innovation Fund  |
| 8.  | Ms. Mara Zivkov                | Science Fund   |
| 9.  | Ms. Milana Mitrovic            | Institute of Plant Protection and the Environment        |
| 10. | Mr. Zeljko Dzeletovic          | Institute for Application of Nuclear Energy INEP         |
| 11. | Mr. Branko Brkljac             | Faculty of Technical Sciences - University of Novi Sad   |
| 12. | Mr. Boris Antic <sup>4</sup>   | Faculty of Technical Sciences - University of Novi Sad   |
| 13. | Mr. Zoran Mitovic <sup>5</sup> | Faculty of Technical Sciences - University of Novi Sad   |
| 14. | Mr. Igor Radovic               | Environmental Specialist, engaged by Ministry of Science |

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Antic delivered comments to Draft ESMF document via E-mail

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Mitrovic delivered comments to Draft ESMF document via E-mail



Picture 1: Public consultation in Belgrade, 01 November 2019



Picture 1: Public consultation in Belgrade, 01 November 2019



Picture 1: Public consultation in Belgrade, 01 November 2019

The meeting started according to schedule at 11:00 AM. The Environmental Specialist Mr Igor Radovic presented ESMF and SEP documents in detail to the interested attendees.

Participants are informed that the purpose of ESMF and SEP documents is to specify the procedures that the Project will have in place during implementation. In addition, it was emphasized that all activities supported under the Project shall be environmentally and socially sound, sustainable, and consistent with WB ESS and Serbian national legislation.

Project screening procedure and risk classification are explained, as well as the legal and administrative framework for Project.

Special attention during public consultations was given to Ethical Issues. Screening procedures for possible subprojects that include research activities on animals or human tissues are carefully explained to all participants, having in mind the sensitivity of such activities, legal framework and a huge number of comments received from WB representatives during the preparation of the draft ESMF document. It is confirmed that subject research activities can be performed strictly following Animal Welfare Law (for subprojects that include research activities on human tissues), Healthcare Law and the role of the Ethical Board (for subprojects that include research activities on human tissues). Finally, participants are informed that ethical issues stated within the Horizon 2020 “Ethic Issue Table” will not be eligible for financing under this Project unless they comply with EC regulations.

The importance of Labor management and the most important provisions of WB Environmental and Social Standard ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions) are also explained to the public during the presentation of the ESMF document.

Before starting with questions of participants, institutional responsibilities and monitoring and reporting procedure on the Project are presented and explained.

The consultation started at 11:00 AM and ended at 1:00 PM, local time.

## Questions and Answers:

Q1 Sasa Lazovic, MoESTD: Why has the Environmental Risk of the Project increased from starting category “Low Risk” to the current category “Moderate Risk”?

A1 Katarina Urosevic, WB: Because a major part of the Project is allocated to Science Fund which is new institution and there is a question about their capacity to oversee with Project and its Environmental and Social Requirements.

Q2 Sasa Lazovic, MoESTD: Can the current category “Moderate Risk” be decreased to “Low Risk” during negotiations with the WB?

A2 Igor Radovic, ES: Bank keeps its right to reassess

the Project Category during the whole Project cycle.

Q3 Milena Kostadinovic, IF: If no ethical issues are related to a proposed subproject, and the applicant has only “No” as an answer within the Ethic Issue Table, is there any need for the Applicant to obtain the opinion of the Ethical Commission or Ethical Council (for animal testing) or Ethical Board (for human tissue testing)?

A3 Igor Radovic, ES: No. In such cases there is no need for obtaining the opinions of the subject ethical bodies and no further ethical screening will be conducted.

Q4 Milena Kostadinovic, IF: There will be no need for Externally Engaged Consultants engaged for the Screening of Subprojects with Ethic Issues since a valid regulative exists and all applicants who plan to conduct subprojects connected with ethical issues must obtain a Ministry Permit and Opinion of the relevant Ethic body (Ethical Council, Ethical Commission or Ethical Board).

A4 Igor Radovic, ES: OK. Suggestion accepted. ESMF will be updated accordingly.

Q5 Igor Radovic, ES: WB specialist suggested excluding Table 6 from the Screening list - HORIZON 2020 Ethic Issue Table. What is your opinion regarding this issue?

A5 Katarina Urosevic, WB: Instead of deletion, Table 6 can be modified and harmonized to local circumstances.

Q6 Igor Radovic, ES: Which type of regulation and when will be adopted by the Science Fund to prescribe detailed procedures for human tissue testing?

A6 Mara Zivkov, SF: It will be a Rulebook with detailed instructions for such activities. It will be an Internal Act of the Science Fund, harmonized with the Serbian legislative. It should be adopted in January 2020.

Q7 Igor Radovic, ES: What type of regulation and when will be adopted by Science Fund to prescribe detailed procedures for human tissue testing?

A7 Mara Zivkov, SF: It will be a Rulebook with detailed instructions for such activities. It will be an Internal Act of the Science Fund, harmonized with Serbian legislation. It should be adopted in January 2020.

Q8 Igor Radovic: Will Innovation Fund adopt any Internal Act in regard to Project, similar to Science Fund?

A8 Milena Kostadinovic, IF: Yes. Innovative Fund will adopt the same type of Internal Act which will be adopted before the first Public call for Component 2.

Q9 Stefan Popovic, IF: Can we agree that no ESMP document (regardless of “regular” or “simplified” type) will be required for subprojects which fall in Category 1 (low Risk)? If so, it should be confirmed within the ESMF text.

A9 Igor Radovic: Comment accepted. No further environmental documents or processes are required for Category 1 (low-risk) subprojects. Screening list records will be kept by PIU and visually inspect for issues occasionally.

Q10 Branko Brkljac, FTN: We prepared two suggestions for PIU. The first is related to the collection of feedback information from applicants to conclude how successful the request for proposal was. The suggestion is to divide the total number of applications by a number of approved subprojects.

The second suggestion was about Project priority determination. Instead of the currently present “bottom-up” approach, we suggest another – “top-down” approach where Project Carrier collects information from different state institutions and define real needs for the project. Once the priorities are determined – The request for proposal should take into account subject priorities.

A10 Katarina Urosevic, WB: Great. WB has recognized this approach as extremely important and supports every effort that enables science and technology to have a positive impact on the principles of sustainable development.

### **Public Consultation Summary**

During the 10 days aimed for insight into the ESMF document WB representatives submitted additional comments, questions and remarks on the ESMF document, mostly related to investigations on animal and human tissues. Representatives of MoSTD responded with adequate explanations, answers and comments so all questions are addressed and ESMF document is updated accordingly.

During the Public Consultation process suggestions regarding the ESMF document and preparation of Project activities are received from a group of researchers employed in the Faculty of Technical Sciences - University of Novi Sad.

Finally, the Institute for molecular genetics and genetic engineering, University of Belgrade, submitted their Comments on ESMF document. All questions were addressed and suggestions were taken into consideration and incorporated into the final version of the ESMF document. Terms used in ESMF for different bodies (Ethical Council, Ethical Committee and Ethics Board) are uniformed. Procedures related to animal research are now separated from procedures that are related to research on human tissues. List of applicable laws is updated and Law on protection of personal data is included.



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS, 23 SEP 2019**

**СПИСАК ПРИСУТНИХ НА ЈАВНИМ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈАМА**

<p><i>Предмет ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА:</i>  <b>ОКВИРНИ ПЛАН ЗА УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗАШТИТОМ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ И СОЦИЈАЛНИМ УТИЦАЈИМА</b>                  Консултације са кључним заинтересованим странама  <b>Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF</b>                  Consultations with key stakeholders</p>		<p><i>Место одржавања ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА:</i>                  Канцеларија Светске Банке у Београду, Булевар краља Александра                  WB premises in Belgrade, Kralja Aleksandra Str.</p>	
<p>Убрзавање иновација и раст предузетништва у Србији - SAIGE                  Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship – SAIGE</p>		<p><i>Датум јавних консултација:</i>                  23. септембар 2019.                  September 23, 2019</p>	
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6	IGOR RADOVIĆ	SAIGE ENV & Soc SPECIALIST	062/491345
7	SAŠA LAZOVIĆ, via Webex		



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS, 04 OCT 2019

## СПИСАК ПРИСУТНИХ НА ЈАВНИМ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈАМА

## Consultations with key stakeholders - List of participants

Предмет ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА: <b>ОКВИРНИ ПЛАН ЗА УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗАШТИТОМ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ И СОЦИЈАЛНИМ УТИЦАЈИМА</b> Консултације са кључним заинтересованим странама <b>Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF</b> Consultations with key stakeholders		Место одржавања ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА: Institut za hemiju, tehnologiju i metalurgiju ИТМ, а Njegoševa 12, Beograd Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12, Belgrade	
Убрзавање иновација и раст предузетништва у Србији - SAIGE Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship – SAIGE		Датум јавних консултација: 04. октобар 2019.	Датум: October 04, 2019
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<p><i>Предмет ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА:</i>  <b>ОКВИРНИ ПЛАН ЗА УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗАШТИТОМ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ И СОЦИЈАЛНИМ УТИЦАЈИМА</b>                  Консултације са кључним заинтересованим странама  <b>Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF</b>                  Consultations with key stakeholders</p>		<p><i>Место одржавања ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА:</i>                  Institut za hemiju, tehnologiju i metalurgiju IHTM, a Njegoševa 12, Beograd                  Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12, Belgrade</p>	
<p>Убрзавање иновација и раст предузетништва у Србији - SAIGE                  Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship – SAIGE</p>		<p><i>Датум јавних консултација:</i>                  04. октобар 2019.</p>	<p><i>Date:</i>                  October 04, 2019</p>
<i>Р.б.</i>	<i>Име и презиме</i>	<i>Организација /адреса</i>	<i>Телефон.; Факс; Е-маил</i>
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15			
16			

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – FINAL ROUND OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, 01 NOV 2019


## СПИСАК ПРИСУТНИХ НА ЈАВНИМ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈАМА

*Public Consultations with key stakeholders - List of participants*

Предмет ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА: <b>ОКВИРНИ ПЛАН ЗА УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗАШТИТОМ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ И СОЦИЈАЛНИМ УТИЦАЈИМА</b> Консултације са кључним заинтересованим странама <b>Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF</b> Public Consultations with key stakeholders		Место одржавања ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА: Institut za hemiju, tehnologiju i metalurgiju ИНТМ, а Njegoševa 12, Beograd Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12, Belgrade	
Убрзавање иновација и раст предузетништва у Србији - SAIGE Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship – SAIGE		Датум јавних консултација: 01. новембар 2019.	Date: November 01, 2019
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6	Stefan Popović	Fond za Inov. DELTAUS	STEFAN.POPVIC@inovacionifond.rs
7	Мара Бишковић	Fond za nauku	marabivkovic@fondzanauku.gov.rs

<p><i>Предмет ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА:</i>  <b>ОКВИРНИ ПЛАН ЗА УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗАШТИТОМ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ И СОЦИЈАЛНИМ УТИЦАЈИМА</b>                  Консултације са кључним заинтересованим странама  <b>Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF</b>                  Public Consultations with key stakeholders</p>		<p><i>Место одржавања ЈАВНИХ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈА:</i>                  Institut za hemiju, tehnologiju i metalurgiju IHTM, a Njegoševa 12, Beograd                  Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12, Belgrade</p>	
<p>Убрзавање иновација и раст предузетништва у Србији - SAIGE                  Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship – SAIGE</p>		<p><i>Датум јавних консултација:</i>                  01. новембар 2019.</p>	<p><i>Date:</i>                  November 01, 2019</p>
P.б.	Име и презиме	Организација / адреса	Телефон.; Факс; Е-маил
8	Milana Mitrović	Institut za zaštitu vazduha i životnu sredinu, T. Dragičina 9	0628808924; 011-2660-049 milana.mitrovic@izbis.bg.ac.rs
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11	САША ЛАЗОВИЋ	МПНТР	SASA.LAZOVIC@MPN.GOV.RS
12	MARINA SOKOVIĆ	МПНТР	MARINA.SOKOVIC@MPN.GOV.RS
13	JASMINA GREGIĆ	МПНТР	JASMINA.GREGIC@MPN.GOV.RS
14			
15			
16			

**DOCUMENTATION**



In accordance with the provisions of Art. 76 and 77 of the Law on State Administration (“Official Gazette of RS”, Nos. 79/05, 101/07, 95/10, 99/14, 47/18 and 30/18 - other law) and Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Law on Ministries (Official Gazette of the RS, Nos. 44/14, 14/25, 54/15, 96/15 - other law and 62/17), in accordance with the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards: Environmental and Social Standard on the Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure - ESS10,

**Republic of Serbia**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

informs the public and calls  
relevant entities, persons and legal entities, including other government bodies, relevant associations, the professional public, and other interested parties,  
to participate

**PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

related to  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK (ESF)**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**  
**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)**

for  
**Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship Project**  
**(SAIGE Project)**

Interested parties can get an insight into the subject documents on following addresses:

- on the web site of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development: <http://www.mpn.gov.rs>
- on the web site of the Science Fund: <http://fondzanauku.gov.rs>
- on the web site of the Innovation Fund: <http://www.inovacionifond.rs>

Comments and suggestions on to the subject documents shall be submitted in written form to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade or via following E-mail: [nauka@mpn.gov.rs](mailto:nauka@mpn.gov.rs) with note / subject: “For public consultation of SAIGE”, as of 1 November 2019.

Registration for participation in direct public consultations and presentation of subject documents to be held on Friday, November 1, 2019, beginning at 11:00 at the premises of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development - Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, Njegoseva 12, 11000 Belgrade, conference hall at the second floor, should be sent to following address [tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs](mailto:tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs).

If you need any additional information, please contact: +381 (0)11 36 16 526 or E-mail address [tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs](mailto:tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs).

Picture 4: Announcement of public consultation in daily newspaper, English, (“Blic”, 25 Nov 2019)



У складу са одредбама чл. 76. и 77. Закона о државној управи („Сл. гласник РС”, бр. 79/05, 101/07, 95/10, 99/14, 47/18 и 30/18 - др. закон) и члана 14. став 2. Закона о министарствима („Сл. гласник РС”, бр. 44/14, 14/25, 54/15, 96/15 – др. закон и 62/17), а сагласно Еколошком и социјалном стандарду Светске банке: Environmental and Social Standard on The Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure - ESS10,

Република Србија

## МИНИСТАРСТВО ПРОСВЕТЕ, НАУКЕ И ТЕХНОЛОШКОГ РАЗВОЈА

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### ЈАВНЕ КОНСУЛТАЦИЈЕ

које се односе на

- ОКВИР ЗА УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗАШТИТОМ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ И СОЦИЈАЛНИМ УТИЦАЈИМА ПРОЈЕКТА (ESF)
- ПЛАН ЕКОЛОШКИХ И СОЦИЈАЛНИХ ОБАВЕЗА (ESCP)
- ПЛАН УКЉУЧИВАЊА ЗАИНТЕРЕСОВАНИХ СТРАНА (SEP)

и учешће у припреми активности које се односе на

### Пројекат акцелерације иновација и подстицања раста предузетништва у Србији (SAIGE пројекат)

Увид у предметна документа може се извршити:

о На веб страници Министарства просвете, науке и технолошког развоја:

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs>

о На веб страници Фонда за науку: <http://fondzanauku.gov.rs>

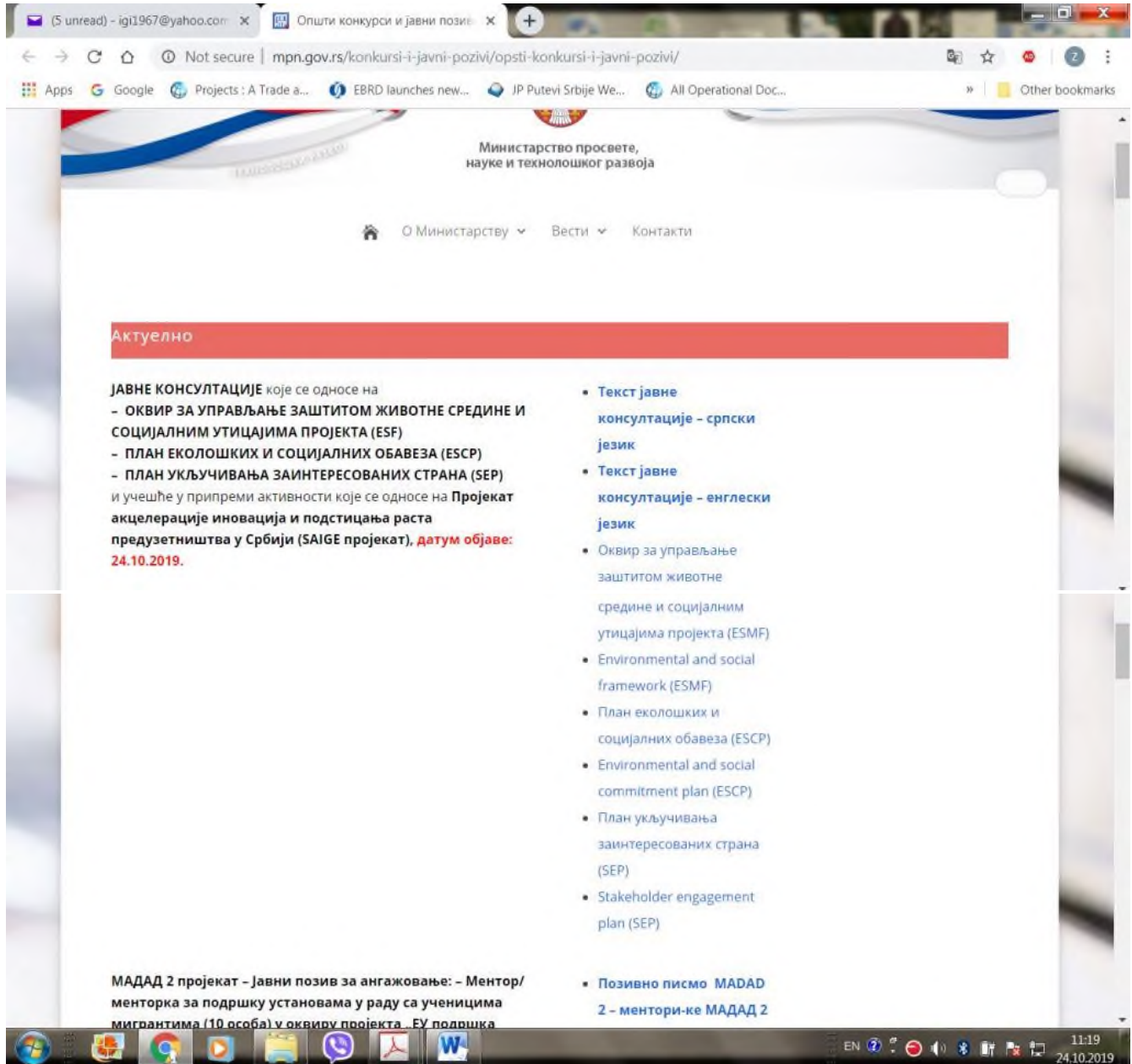
о На веб страници Фонда за иновациону делатност: <http://www.inovacionifond.rs>

Примедбе, мишљења и сугестије у вези са предметном документацијом се подносе Министарству просвете, науке и технолошког развоја у писаном облику на адресу Немањина 22-26, 11000 Београд или електронском поштом на адресу: [nauka@mpn.gov.rs](mailto:nauka@mpn.gov.rs) са напоменом/предметом: „За јавне консултације SAIGE”, закључно са 01. новембром 2019. године.

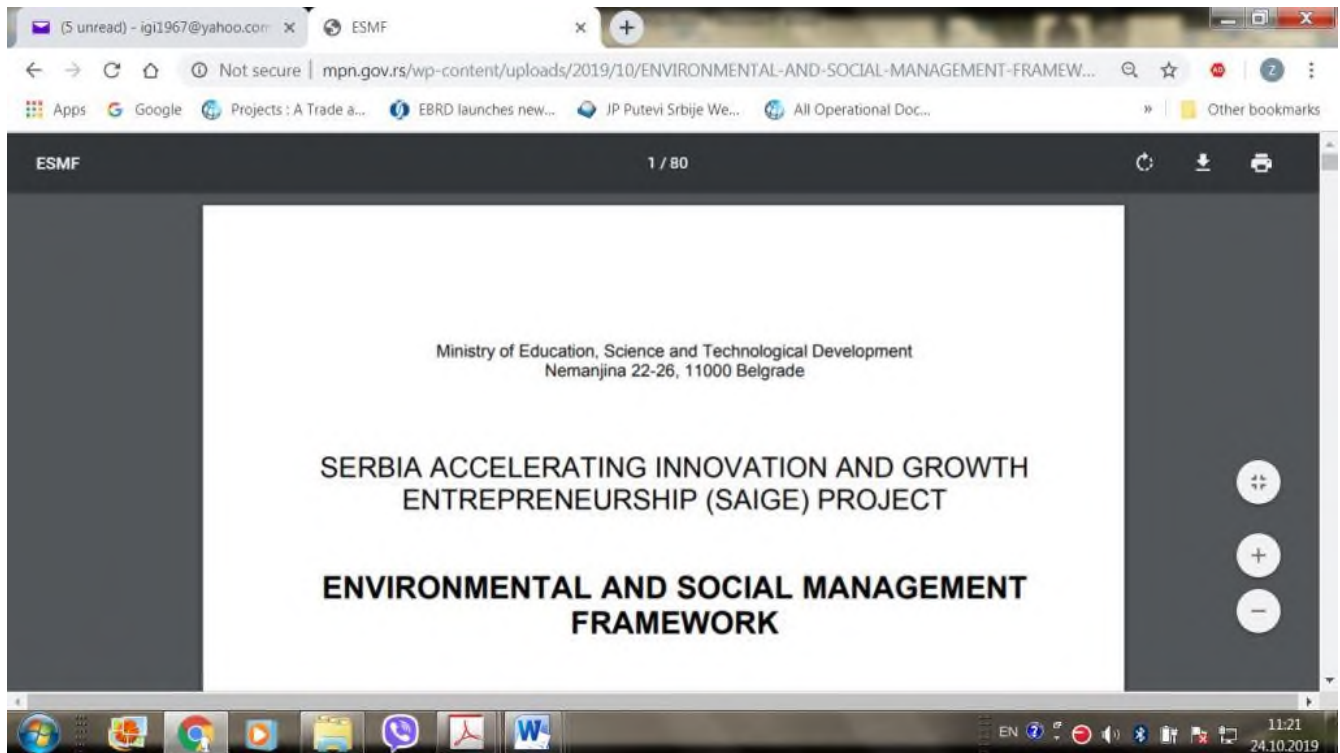
Пријава учешћа у непосредним јавним консултацијама и презентацији предметних докумената која ће се одржати у петак 1. новембра 2019. године, са почетком у 11:00 часова у просторијама Министарства просвете, науке и технолошког развоја – у Институту за хемију, технологију и металургију, Београд, улица Његошева број 12/ поткровље, врши се на адресу [tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs](mailto:tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs).

Додатне информације о овом обавештењу са позивом јавности могу се добити на тел: +381 (0)11 36 16 526 или електронској адреси [tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs](mailto:tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs).

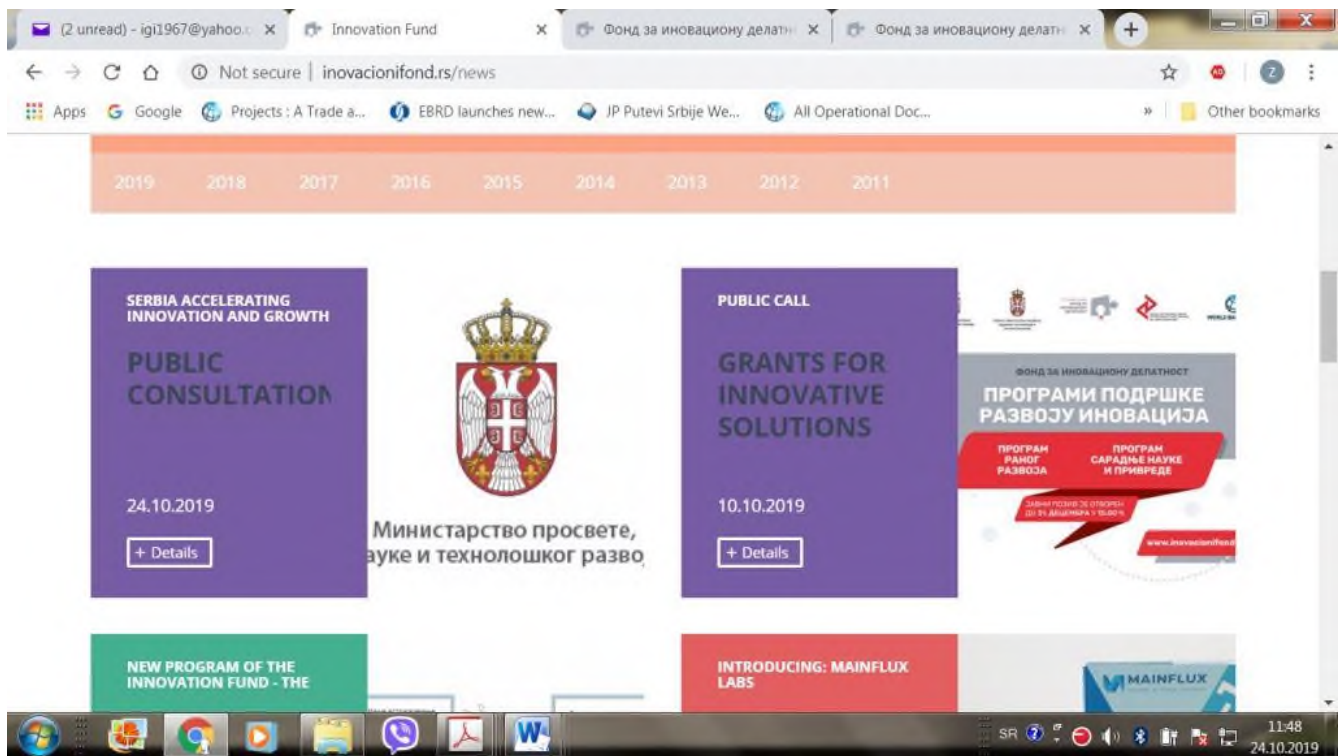
Picture 4: Announcement of public consultation in daily newspaper, Serbian, (“Blic”, 25 Nov 2019)



Picture 5: Announcement of public consultation on DRAFT ESMF document on Ministry web site

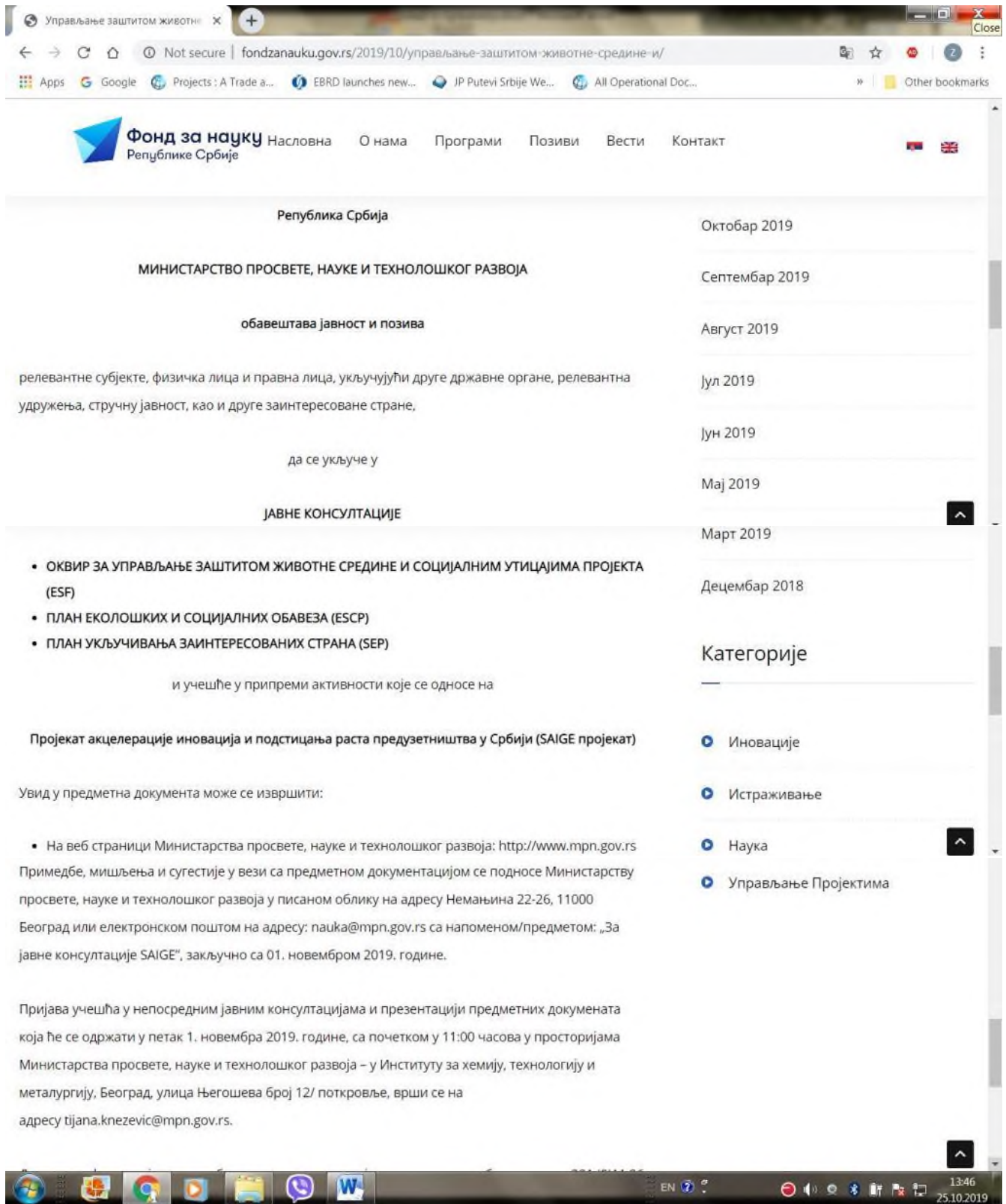


Picture 6: Public disclosure of DRAFT ESMF document, English language, Ministry web site

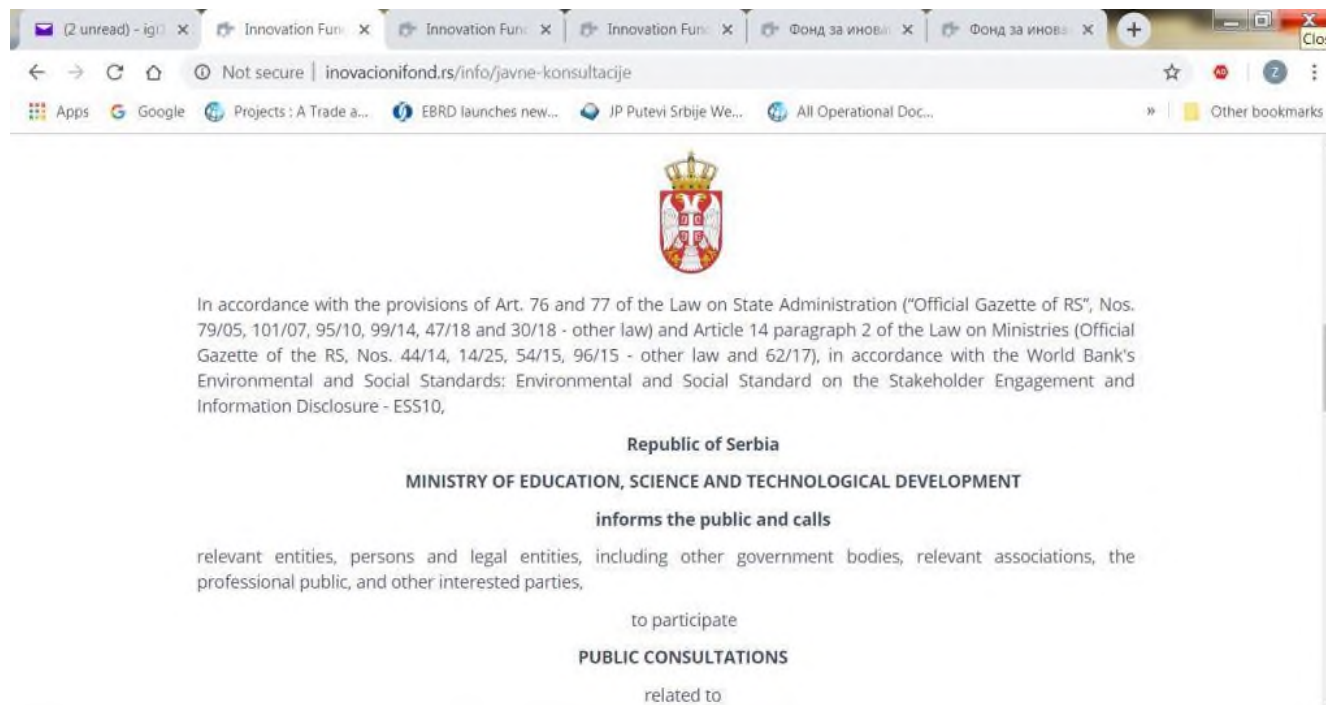


Picture 7: Announcement of public consultation on DRAFT ESMF document, English language, IF web site





Picture 8: Announcement of public consultation on DRAFT ESMF document, Serbian language, SF web site



SERBIA ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND GROWTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP – SAIGE  
Environmental and Social Management Framework - ESMF

If you need any additional information, please contact: +381 (0)11 36 16 526 or E-mail address  
tjana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs.

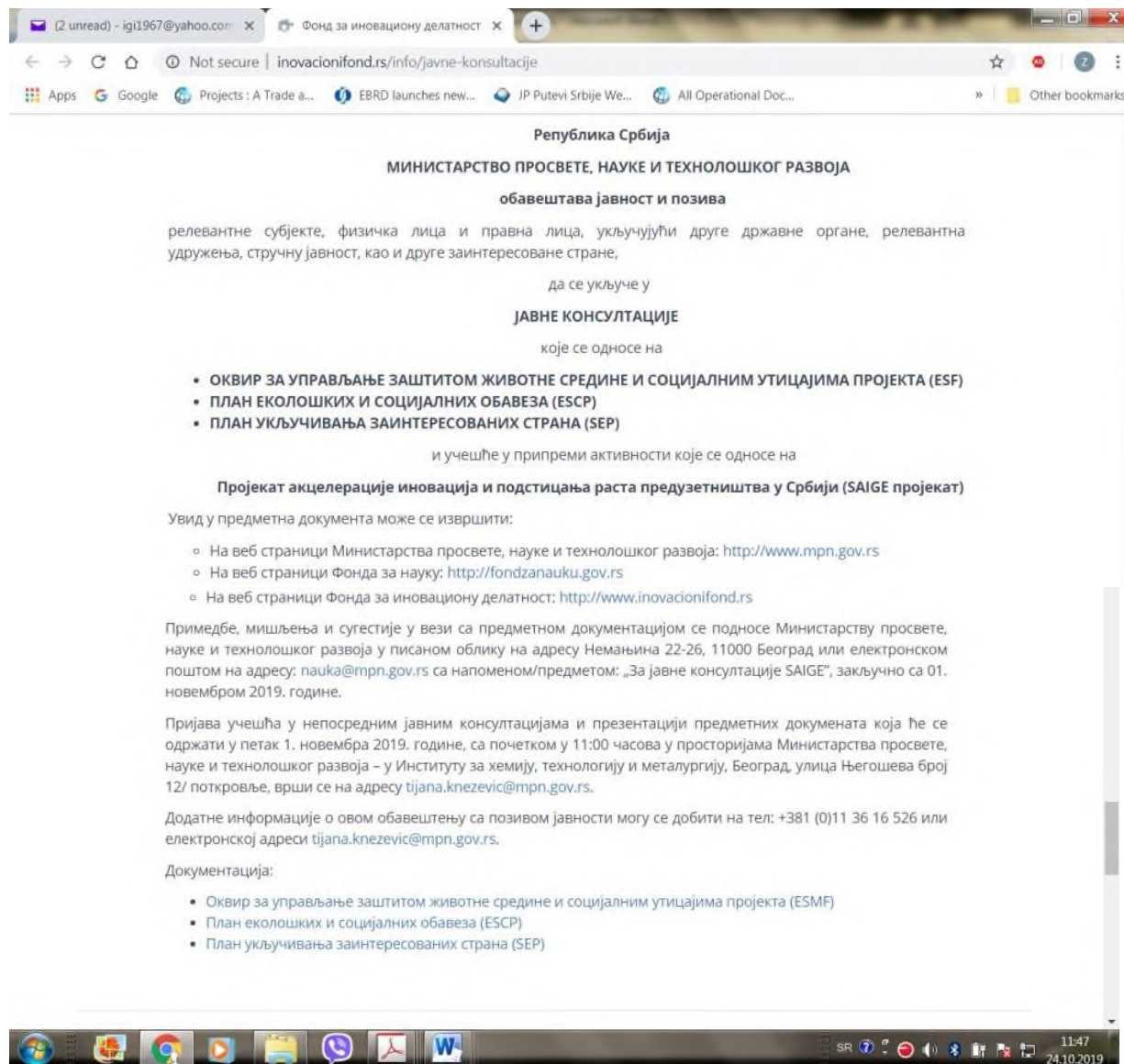
Documentation:

- Environmental and social framework (ESMF)
- Environmental and social commitment plan (ESCP)
- Stakeholder engagement plan (SEP)

LATEST NEWS



Picture 9: Announcement of public consultation on DRAFT ESMF document, English language, IF web site



Picture 10: Call for Public Consultations on DRAFT ESMF document, Serbian language, IF web site

