

ANNEX A: THE REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

Belgrade, July 15th 2026

H.E. Mr. Andreas von Beckerath

Ambassador and Head of Delegation of European Union to the Republic of Serbia

I declare that, for the implementation of the EU financial assistance to the Republic of Serbia under the Facility for the relevant period, based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, as well as on the evidence enclosed, the payment conditions set out in the Republic of Serbia Reform Agenda for the following steps have been fulfilled:

Reform	Step	Financial Value
1.2.1 Enhanced investment and development opportunities for entrepreneurs and private sector	The level of transparency regarding all projects contracted under intergovernmental agreements is increased by introducing project-specific information on the website of the ministry in charge of implementing the project on any completed, ongoing and new procurement contracts under intergovernmental agreements. All contracts under intergovernmental agreements will be published starting from December 2024 and this practice will be maintained in the following years for all new contracts: including: name of the project; basic procurement contract information; contracting authority; main contractor and procurement procedure followed	EUR 20,381,435.06
1.2.1 Enhanced investment and development opportunities for entrepreneurs and private sector	Final inventory submitted in line with the European Commission's comments from March 2024.	EUR 3,396,905.84

1.2.1 Enhanced investment and development opportunities for entrepreneurs and private sector	A time-bound action plan for alignment of state aid schemes with the EU acquis, based on a final inventory, is adopted and approved by the European Commission	EUR 13,587,623.37
1.2.1 Enhanced investment and development opportunities for entrepreneurs and private sector	Changes in the Rules of Procedure of the Government so that the decision to conduct a public hearing, the program of the public hearing and the deadline for its implementation are determined by the Government, instead of a competent committee, upon the proposal of the proponent	EUR 13,587,623.37
1.2.2 Further Development of the science and innovation ecosystem for a knowledge-based economy	The number of funded researchers/innovative companies in the National Innovation System (Supported by Science Fund and Innovation Fund programs) is increased to 3400/600	EUR 13,587,623.37
1.2.2 Further Development of the science and innovation ecosystem for a knowledge-based economy	Full alignment with the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) Regulation is reached	EUR 13,587,623.37
1.3.1. Enhance the competitiveness of the agricultural sector	At least 10 projects financed from the national budget, not exceeding EUR 299,999 per project, contracted under public calls aimed to improve rural public infrastructure in the areas of water supply and road infrastructure facilities	EUR 13,587,623.37
2.1.1. Implementation of the 3rd Energy Package for gas, and of the	One certified Serbian TSO operates the whole gas transmission system in Serbia.	EUR 20,381,435.06
2.1.1. Implementation of the 3rd Energy Package for gas, and of the	Third-party access to gas infrastructure is in place	EUR 20,381,435.06

2.1.1. Implementation of the 3rd Energy Package for gas, and of the electricity integration package	Allocation of capacities at Horgos and IBS border points is opened	EUR 20,381,435.06
2.1.3. Implementation of the Just Transition Action Plan	The establishment of the Just Transition governance process in accordance with the adopted Just Transition Action Plan and Just Transition Fund for Serbia is established with the financial support of the European Union [via the Reform and Growth Facility] and potentially other donors	EUR 13,587,623.37
2.1.5. Implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive (permitting, guarantees of origin, prosumers)	Designation of a single contact point in line with the RED II Directive	EUR 13,587,623.37
2.1.6 Implementation of MRVA	Competent authority [for the implementation of the rules of the ETS Directive] approves monitoring plans [in line with national legislation that transposes the Commission Implementing Regulation [EU] 2018/2066 [MMRR]]	EUR 6,793,811.69
2.2.4 Setting-up a comprehensive framework for cyber resilience and artificial intelligence	The Law on Information Security is adopted by the Parliament in full alignment with the NIS2 directive	EUR 13,587,623.37
2.2.4 Setting-up a comprehensive framework for cyber resilience and artificial intelligence	The Office for Information Security [within the Office for IT and e-Government] is operational [sufficiently staffed with at least 20 employees, equipped with	EUR 13,587,623.37

	supervisory powers, performing supervisory checks]	
2.2.5 Deployment of the Intelligent Transport System and e-freight	Road international convention (eCMR) needed to deploy eFTI is ratified	EUR 13,587,623.37
3.2.1 The quality of teaching and learning, equity and accessibility at all levels of education is improved	At least 38% of children aged 6 months to 3 years participate in pre-school education	EUR 20,381,435.06
4.2.2 Enhance freedom of expression by amending the laws on electronic media and on public information and media to align with the EU acquis and European standards and by adopting the law on public service media and ensure implementation	The three following laws are adopted, following consultations with the Commission: The law on electronic media and the law on public information and media are amended to align fully with the EU acquis and Council of Europe's standards; a new law on public service media is adopted in line with the media strategy, the EU acquis and Council of Europe's standards	EUR 20,381,435.06
4.3.1. Tackling of organized and serious crime	New legislative framework is adopted, notably: a new Law on suppression and prevention of THB by Parliament; criminal code is amended in order to criminalise effectively the trafficking of weapons, in line with the provisions of the Convention on transnational organised crime and firearms protocol; adoption of a new Law on weapons and ammunition, in line with EU acquis	EUR 13,587,623.37
4.3.1. Tackling of organized and serious crime	Following consultations with the Commission, new strategic document and accompanying Action Plan (2025-2030) for the control of Small arms and light weapons (SALW) in line with the provisions of the revised Regional	EUR 6,793,811.69

	SALW Roadmap for Western Balkans are adopted	
4.4.1. Tackling of the security and migration challenges	A new strategic document and accompanying action plan that covers counter terrorism and all forms of radicalization and violent extremism (irrespective of political, religious or ethno-nationalist so-called justification) are adopted in line with EU policies, including envisaging concrete steps to prevent recruitment and participation of Serbian citizens as foreign fighters and to prosecute returning foreign fighters returned to Serbia	EUR 13,587,623.37
4.5.1 Improved fight against and Prevention of Corruption	Following consultations with the Commission, the Anti-corruption strategy and action plan for 2025-2028 are adopted	EUR 6,793,811.69
		TOTAL EUR 309,118,431.71

On the basis of the above, I request that the amount of EUR 309,118,431.71 is made available, EUR 143,814,457.53 disbursed directly to the treasury of the Republic of Serbia, and EUR 165,303,974.18 to be made available through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), of which EUR 76,590,841.37 in the form of loans and EUR 88,713,132.81 in the form of non-repayable support¹².

I hereby attach an assessment of each step, the required evidence showing the satisfactory fulfilment of the qualitative and quantitative steps set out in the relevant Annex to the Commission

¹ Subject to rules laid down in Articles 16 and 17, each instalment shall draw from the indicative financial contributions set out in Article 2 paragraph 2, as follows: a) 28.7% from the non-repayable support and 24.8% from the loan support, in sum 53.5%, to be made available through the Western Balkans Investments Framework (WBIF), and b) 46.5% from the loan support to be channelled directly to the treasury.

² A condition precedent to the disbursement of the loan to the Treasury, to be channeled to the WBIF, is the submission of the signed contribution arrangement with the WBIF. This signed arrangement must be provided before any loan disbursements are processed.

implementing decision³ and other information requested as per Article 14 of the Facility Agreement.

I hereby also declare that measures related to the reforms for which satisfactory fulfilment has been declared previously in prior Commission decisions have not been reversed by the Republic of Serbia.

Belgrade, July 15th 2026

Signature by the Coordinator



STAROVIC Nemanja,
Minister of European Integration
Government of the Republic of Serbia

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)7375 of 23 October 2024

Annexes:

Summary of checks performed by relevant authorities on the steps for which funding is requested, including weaknesses identified and any corrective actions taken.

Pursuant to Article 5(3) of the Facility Agreement, the National Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the verification of the implementation of the qualitative and quantitative steps set out in the Reform Agenda, as well as for the preparation and submission of requests for the release of funds under the Facility.

The coordination and verification framework described in the previous payment requests continued to be applied throughout the reporting period. In this context, the Technical Secretariat of the National Coordinator (hereinafter: NC TS) continued to coordinate the verification of payment steps in close cooperation with the Policy Area Coordinators and the competent national institutions, combining desk-based reviews with targeted exchanges to assess implementation progress and the supporting evidence.

In addition to the regular reporting arrangements, the NC TS continued to collect, consolidate, and review implementation information through periodic updates and *ad hoc* reports prepared to support coordination and reporting at different institutional levels. These reporting activities were complemented by regular meetings held at different levels of coordination, providing a structured framework for information exchange, strategic oversight, timely follow-up on implementation progress, and the identification of issues requiring additional clarification or coordination.

During the reporting period, the Operational Team for Accession to the European Union was established with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of Serbia's overall EU accession process. Chaired by the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union and Chief Negotiator for Serbia's Accession to the European Union, the Operational Team meets on a weekly basis to monitor progress in the accession process. The implementation of the Reform Agenda, including progress in the fulfilment of payment steps, constitutes a standing agenda item, ensuring regular high-level oversight and timely coordination.

Regarding the checks performed at the highest political level, on 2 June 2026, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia convened a meeting with representatives of the competent ministries and other institutions responsible for the implementation of the Reform Agenda to review the progress achieved and the remaining activities related to the fulfilment of payment steps. The meeting examined the implementation dynamics across the relevant policy areas, with particular attention devoted to identifying areas requiring intensified efforts to ensure the timely fulfilment of the remaining obligations. The competent institutions presented the status of implementation within their respective areas of responsibility and outlined the planned activities leading up to the submission of the fourth payment request.

A dedicated high-level coordination meeting focusing specifically on the implementation of the Reform Agenda was held on 27 March 2026. Co-chaired by the Minister for European Integration and the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, the meeting brought together senior representatives of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the relevant payment steps. It focused on a detailed review of all payment steps with implementation deadlines up to June 2026. Particular attention was devoted to payment steps for which the grace period expires in June 2026, with the aim of identifying areas requiring additional institutional support

and ensuring that the necessary administrative capacities were directed towards their timely fulfilment.

At the coordination level, NC TS continued to hold regular meetings covering all policy areas throughout the reporting period. The first meeting, held on 28 January 2026 immediately following the submission of the third payment request, brought together representatives of all four policy areas to establish the work plan for the forthcoming reporting period leading to the fourth payment request. The meeting served to establish the coordination framework for the following six months, assess potential implementation risks and gaps, and agree on priorities for monitoring the payment steps expected to be included in the fourth payment request.

In addition to the regular coordination meetings, targeted meetings were convened for individual payment steps requiring closer follow-up. On 19 March 2026, a meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and Transportgas d.o.o. to review the implementation status of payment steps under Policy Area 2.1 Green and Digital Transition (Energy), with particular attention devoted to payment steps for which the applicable grace period was due to expire in June 2026. Following the meeting, the NC TS requested additional documentation and more detailed information to support the verification of the implementation status presented by the competent institutions.

Given that the payment steps under Policy Area 3 Human Capital were subject to assessment for the first time under the fourth payment request, the NC TS devoted particular attention to coordination with the competent institutions throughout the reporting period. In addition to the regular monthly coordination meetings, a series of targeted meetings was organized with representatives of the Ministry of Education in different formats. On 9 March 2026, representatives of the NC TS held a working meeting at the Ministry of Education to gain a more detailed understanding of the functioning of the Unified Information System in Education (JISP) and the methodology applied for measuring the indicators relevant to the payment steps due in June 2026. This was followed by a meeting on 8 April 2026 involving the Ministry of Education, the Delegation of the European Union, and the NC TS, focusing on clarifications related to the payment steps included in the fourth payment request. A further coordination meeting was held on 14 May 2026, during which the implementation of the relevant reforms was reviewed in detail, with particular attention devoted to identifying areas requiring additional follow-up ahead of the submission of the fourth payment request.

In addition to inter-institutional coordination with the competent national authorities, the NC TS maintained regular exchanges with representatives of the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union, and civil society organizations gathered within the National Convention on the European Union. These exchanges complemented the national verification process by facilitating continuous dialogue on implementation progress, clarifying fulfilment requirements, and incorporating external perspectives throughout the reporting period.

The second meeting of the Reform and Growth Facility Monitoring Committee was held on 3 June 2026, bringing together representatives of the competent institutions of the Republic of Serbia, the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union, civil society organizations, representatives of EU Member States, international financial institutions, the private sector, and international organizations. The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the Reform Agenda across all policy areas, including issues related to monitoring mechanisms, audit and control, horizontal matters, WBIF investments, and communication and visibility.

A bilateral coordination meeting with the Delegation of the European Union was held on 2 April 2026 to review the implementation status of payment steps under the Reform Agenda. Particular attention was devoted to payment steps for which the applicable grace period was due to expire in June 2026, as well as to payment steps with implementation deadlines in June 2026 and a grace period extending until June 2027. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss implementation progress, address issues requiring clarification, and ensure a common understanding of the evidence required for future verification.

On 13 May 2026, a trilateral meeting was held within the framework of the Reform and Growth Facility Monitoring Committee, bringing together representatives of the competent institutions, the European Commission, the Delegation of the European Union, and civil society organizations represented through the National Convention on the European Union. The meeting focused on the implementation status of payment steps relevant for the forthcoming reporting period and provided a forum for an open exchange of views between public authorities and civil society representatives.

Engagement with civil society continued through the participation of the NC TS and representatives of the competent institutions in the second plenary meeting of the National Convention on the European Union's Intergovernmental Working Group for Reform Agenda Monitoring on 27 May 2026. The meeting was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the first independent report on the implementation of the Reform Agenda, covering payment steps with implementation deadlines up to December 2025, the fulfilment of preconditions and general conditions for the release of funds, implementation progress, financial implementation, and recommendations addressed to the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission.

Beyond the formal coordination meetings described above, the NC TS maintained continuous communication with representatives of the European Commission and the Delegation of the European Union throughout the reporting period. This communication served to discuss implementation progress, seek clarification on the fulfilment requirements for individual payment steps where necessary, and exchange information relevant to the preparation of the fourth payment request. Both written correspondence and regular online meetings formed part of this ongoing cooperation.

The established mode of cooperation ensures that the NC TS is systematically included in correspondence with the European Commission concerning payment steps under the Reform Agenda. This enables the NC TS to closely follow the consultative process, particularly with regard to the alignment of relevant measures with the EU acquis, while ensuring that guidance received from the European Commission is communicated in a timely manner to the competent national authorities and reflected in the verification process.

As of the preparation of the present payment request, the European Commission had adopted an Implementing Decision only in respect of the first payment request, while the second and third payment requests remained under assessment. Consequently, the verification activities carried out during the present reporting period covered not only the payment steps included in the fourth payment request, but also those submitted under the second and third payment requests. The NC TS therefore continued to monitor their implementation, maintain regular coordination with the competent institutions, and collect supplementary information and evidence, where appropriate, in support of the ongoing assessment process.

Throughout the reporting period, the NC TS also took into account the informal observations and preliminary assessments received from the European Commission in relation to individual payment steps submitted under the second and third payment requests, communicated both through written correspondence and during the abovementioned meetings. In response, the NC TS coordinated follow-up activities with the competent institutions, organized targeted meetings where necessary, requested additional documentation and clarifications, and monitored the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. These activities aimed to further strengthen the supporting evidence, ensure continued alignment with the fulfilment requirements, and facilitate the Commission's ongoing assessment.

This approach was applied, *inter alia*, to payment steps concerning the final inventory and the Action Plan for the alignment of State aid schemes with the EU acquis, the transparency of projects implemented under intergovernmental agreements, the increase in the number of researchers and innovative companies supported through the national innovation system, and projects aimed at improving rural public infrastructure. Furthermore, following the Commission's formal assessment that the payment step relating to the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2028 had not been fulfilled, the competent institutions completed the necessary activities and adopted the required documents in accordance with the identified requirements.

Building on the coordination activities described above, verification activities continued throughout the reporting period through desk-based reviews and requests for additional information and clarification where necessary. The verification activities were adapted to the nature of individual payment steps and focused on ensuring that the evidence collected provided a sufficient basis for the assessment of fulfilment.

Desk-based reviews were conducted continuously throughout the reporting period. Where meetings with the competent institutions identified the need for additional evidence or clarification, supplementary documentation was requested and subsequently examined by the NC TS. This included, *inter alia*, the review of additional documentation submitted following the coordination meeting with the Ministry of Mining and Energy.

A comprehensive desk-based review was undertaken between 6 and 15 July following the submission of documentation packages by the Policy Area Coordinators, including annexes, sources of verification, and supporting documentation. During this process, the NC TS systematically examined the submitted evidence against the mandatory sources of verification listed in Annex 1 of the Reform Agenda. Where additional substantiation or clarification was considered necessary, the competent institutions were requested to provide supplementary documentation. The results of these reviews formed the basis for the NC TS assessment of the implementation status of the payment steps and the preparation of the fourth payment request.

To further strengthen the institutional capacities supporting the implementation and verification of the Reform Agenda, a two-day training on internal audit was held on 8 and 9 June 2026 in cooperation with the Centre of Excellence in Finance (CEF), the Ministry of Finance - Central Harmonization Unit (CHU), the Anti-Fraud Coordination Service Unit in the Handling of EU Financial Resources (AFCOS), and the Governmental Audit Office for EU Funds. The training brought together internal auditors and representatives of the institutions responsible for the implementation of payment steps, with the objective of promoting a common understanding of the management and control framework applicable to the Reform and Growth Facility and reinforcing cooperation among the institutions involved.

The verification and control framework was further complemented by the audit activities carried out by the Governmental Audit Office of European Union Funds, acting in its capacity as the independent Audit Authority under the national management and control system for the Reform and Growth Facility. In accordance with the applicable national framework, the Audit Authority conducted an audit of selected reform steps relevant to the fourth request for the release of funds and prepared the Audit Engagement Report for the Fourth Request for Release of Funds, issued on June 7 2026, as well as Summary of Audits issued on 14 July 2026. The audit of selected reform steps was intended to provide reasonable assurance that the reported achievement of the audited steps was reliable, accurate, and supported by appropriate and sufficient evidence, and that the applicable European Union and national rules had been respected, including the principles of sound financial management and requirements concerning conflicts of interest, fraud, corruption, and double funding. The audit procedures included the examination and analysis of relevant documentation, interviews with representatives of the audited institutions, and verification of the absence of the four serious irregularities.

The verification, coordination, and audit activities carried out throughout the reporting period provided the basis for the preparation of the fourth request for the release of funds and ensured that the assessment of the relevant payment steps was based on a coordinated verification process and appropriate supporting evidence, in accordance with the requirements of the Facility Agreement.

Fiche to be used for each step:**DECEMBER 2024****Fiche No. 1**

The step under review	Final inventory submitted in line with the European Commission's comments from March 2024
Baseline	State aid inventory adopted by the CSAC on February 9, 2024
Deadline of the step	December 2024
Actual results	On the 29th November 2024 the Republic of Serbia sent to the EC 2nd draft State Aid Schemes Inventory (further: SA Inventory) updated with EC comments and requests on 1st draft SA Inventory; On the 17th December 2024 the EC sent preliminary comments on the 2nd draft of the SA Inventory to the Republic of Serbia. The new EC requirements were to ensure that: (1) all schemes, as per the EU definition of a State-Aid scheme, are include in inventory (including individual aid measures, especially those that are more significant in terms of volume); (2) important economic sectors have been included in the SA Inventory; (3) description for most of the schemes in SA Inventory should be detailed with information if the Commission for State Aid Control (CSAC) assessed their compliance or not; Following the EC's initial comments, representatives of the EC and the Republic of Serbia, on 10th January 2025 held an online meeting to discuss the feedback and agree on next steps; Based on online meeting discussions, on 15th January 2025 the EC sent to the Republic of Serbia the two agreed operational conclusions: 1) the EC to share with Serbia its final technical comments (in addition to the preliminary comments) on the draft inventory and 2) in the meantime, Serbia to work towards finalizing the inventory by including missing or insufficient information on beneficiaries, objective of the aid, sectors, amounts etc. and by including all state-aid that could qualify as SA schemes under the EU definition; On the 23rd January 2025 the Republic of Serbia sent to the EC an updated 3rd draft SA Inventory in accordance with EC comments, in which were added the scheme "Law on public media services" (scheme for granting aid to the public service broadcasters), the Republic of Serbia specified sectors for which state aid is granted for all schemes, listed an inventory of 59 individual aids which are ongoing and provides answers to all other EC technical comments; On the 13th February 2025 the EC provided the Republic of Serbia with additional comments and questions regarding the 3rd draft SA Inventory: The EC noted that the total amount of aid covered in the inventory is relatively small compared to the public data for state aid provided in Serbia in recent years. The

	Republic of Serbia should add more information to the SA Inventory about aid for transport, SGEIs/public services, mining and traditional energy production, R&D, and direct grants (tax measures, tax credits for R&D, start-ups, young workers). The EC requested more detailed information on certain state aid schemes (in the food sector) and specific individual state aid measures (in the mining industry). Finally, the EC pointed out the need to limit the duration of state aid schemes; Following the EC's comments, representatives of the EC and the Republic of Serbia held a meeting in Belgrade on 25th February 2025 to discuss and agree on next steps; On the 10th March 2025 the Republic of Serbia sent to the EC an updated 4th draft SA Inventory in accordance with EC comments from 13th February 2025, which now covers a wider period, more schemes and individual measures. On the 19th March 2025 the EC sent to the Republic of Serbia additional comments on 4th draft SA Inventory. The EC noted that SA Inventory has been extended and provides more details and more schemes and measures, but certain sectors still lack included aid measures (schemes or individual aid). Examples include banking, energy storage, health, postal services, agriculture and fisheries sectors. The EC provided some answers about legal status of the JP PEU Resavica and about missed EIB measures in SA Inventory; On 15th April 2025 the Republic of Serbia sent to the EC improved 5th draft SA Inventory with accompanying answers to EC questions from 19th March 2025; On 27th May 2025 the EC completed analysis of the 5th draft SA Inventory and confirmed that this version provides more details than the earlier versions and addresses most of the ECs technical comments. On the 30th June 2025, the Republic of Serbia sent to the EC the final version of the SA Inventory (2017-2025), which has been updated in close coordination with all relevant institutions. This version will serve as the basis for the preparation of the future Action plan. On 10th July 2025 the EC, via email, confirmed its acceptance of the SA Inventory as final On 10th July 2025 the Government of RS adopted the SA Inventory On 1st June 2026 the Republic of Serbia sent to the EC the draft revised version of the SA Inventory (2017-2026), which has been updated with the new state aid schemes, individual state aids and measures which do not constitute state aid in the period from 10 July 2025 to 31 May 2026 On 25 June 2026 the Government of RS adopted the SA Inventory 2017-2026 which has been updated with new state aid schemes, individual state aids, and measures that do not constitute state aid, up to 22 June 2026.
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	The SA Inventory is published on the website of the Commission for state aid control – https://www.kkdp.gov.rs/vest/3943/vlada-republike-srbije-usvojila-inventar-drzavnih-pomoci-20172026-i-akcioni-plan-za-uskladjivanje-sema-drzavne-pomoci.php
Evidence provided	Documentation submitted with the Second Payment Request, including documentation provided following requests for supplementary information: - The evidence is record of email correspondence between representatives of the European Commission and the Republic of Serbia - The Republic of Serbia sent the final version of the SA Inventory (2017–2025) (Excel table) to the European Commission. Evidence of this submission is provided through email correspondence between the Serbian Authorities (SA) and the European Commission. - The Republic of Serbia sent the final version of the SA Inventory (2017–2026) (Excel table) to the European Commission. Evidence of this submission is provided through email correspondence between the Serbian Authorities (SA) and the European Commission. • The revised SA inventory adopted in June 2026 and accompanying Conclusion of the Government (included as an attachment of this fiche)
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. The preparation and finalization of the inventory were carried out within the established consultative process with the European Commission. Communication with the European Commission was maintained throughout the process, and the final inventory was submitted in line with the comments provided by the European Commission.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).

Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 2

The step under review	First composite step due by December 2024 (subject to ODIHR assessment as the verification mechanism): • WG composed in accordance with the ODIHR recommendation. The would mean inter-agency Working Group on Co-ordination and Follow-up of the Implementation of Recommendations for the Improvement of the Electoral Process should act in full transparency, with the inclusion of relevant stakeholders, such as civil society organizations. • A meaningful audit of voter register completed in accordance with ODIHR recommendations. This step means establishment of the Commission which will oversee and control voters register. The Commission should include representatives of opposition, as well as relevant civil society organizations. The implementation of this recommendation should be recognized/verified by ODIHR. • REM Council is re-elected (in line with the Law on electronic media) in a transparent and inclusive process. Clear explanation of this step is given in the relevant law.
Baseline	ODIHR February 2024 Report recommending to address as a matter of priority recommendations pertaining to REM, Voter Register and Working group
Deadline of the step	December 2024
Actual results	• Establish WG in line with ODIHR recommendations The Working Group was established on 29 April 2024. Eight sittings of the Working Group have been held so far (seven in 2024 and one in 2025). In the latest attempt to convene a sitting of the Working Group, representatives of the opposition and civil society organisations declined to participate. In addition, all members of the Working Group were regularly informed of its activities and provided with relevant documents (draft laws and ODIHR opinions), as well as invitations to participate in public hearings; however, representatives of the

opposition and civil society organisations did not take part in the work of the Working Group.

The last meeting with representatives of civil society organisations who participated in the work of the Working Group was held with representatives of the CRTA association during the drafting of the final version of the Draft Law on the Unified Voter Register, on 13 and 14 October 2025. The majority of provisions included in the final text of the Draft Law were incorporated at the direct proposal of this association and following consultations with its representatives. The harmonised text of the Law was subsequently adopted by the National Assembly on 7 November 2025. In the meantime, additional efforts were made to restore the functioning of the Working Group.

- Conduct a thorough revision of the voter register according to ODIHR recommendations.

The National Assembly adopted the Law Amending the Law on the Unified Voter Register on 7 November 2025.

After the entry into force of this Law (on 15 November 2025), the Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, Public Administration and Local Self-Government initiated the procedure for nominating candidates for members and substitute members of the Commission for Auditing, Verifying, and Controlling the Accuracy and Updating of the Voter Register (on 17 November 2025).

At its sitting held on 29 December 2025, the Committee on the Judiciary, Public Administration and Local Self-Government established a List of Candidates for Members and Substitute Members of the Commission for Auditing, Verifying, and Controlling the Accuracy and Updating of the Voter Register. The Committee decided to submit the List of Candidates, under urgent procedure, to the National Assembly for decision.

The members of the Commission were elected at the National Assembly sitting held on 28 January 2026, while the first session of the Commission was held on 4 February 2026. Since then, the Commission has been actively working to control the voter register.

- Elect a new REM Council (in line with the Law on Electronic Media) through a transparent and inclusive procedure

At the Second Sitting of the Second Regular Session in 2025, held on 12 November 2025, the National Assembly elected eight of the nine members of the Council of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media (REM).

The Culture and Information Committee immediately initiated the procedure for electing the ninth member of the REM Council, nominated by national councils of national minorities as authorised nominators. At its sitting on 23 December 2025, the Culture and Information Committee adopted the Report and the List of Candidates for membership of the REM Council, submitted by the authorised nominators, the national councils of national minorities, and forwarded them to the National Assembly on an urgent basis to ensure the smooth functioning of the Council.

On 19 December 2025 four members of the REM Council resigned, prompting the Culture and Information Committee to adopt, at its sitting held on 29 December 2025, a Decision on initiating a new procedure for nominating candidates for the members of the Council of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media upon the proposal of the authorised nominator associations of journalists in the Republic of Serbia, associations of film, stage and drama artists and associations of composers in the Republic of Serbia, associations aimed at the exercise of freedom of expression and associations aimed at protecting children.

At its sitting on 19 January 2026, the Culture and Information Committee suspended the ongoing nomination procedure and agreed to conduct a new procedure in the upcoming period, designed to provide optimal conditions for all interested nominators and candidates. Accordingly, the Decision of 29 December 2025 to initiate the nomination procedure was repealed.

On 16 February 2026, the National Assembly addressed a letter to Jan Braathu, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, requesting assistance in the further procedure for electing members of the REM Council and mediation with non-governmental organisations nominating candidates, to enable their participation in the next nomination process and make the procedure more inclusive.

On 25 June 2026, the Culture and Information Committee adopted a Decision on suspending the procedure for electing the ninth member of the REM Council and, therefore, on withdrawing from parliamentary procedure the Report with the List of two candidates for membership of the REM Council upon the proposal of the authorised nominator national councils of national minorities.

At the same sitting, the Committee also adopted a Conclusion stating the following:

- that it considers that there are no legal obstacles for the four members of the REM Council to submit statements confirming that they accept membership in

	the REM Council and will continue to perform their duties, given that their resignations have not been formally noted and confirmed at a sitting of the National Assembly. - that the four members of the REM Council who submitted resignations were legitimately elected to their positions and should remain members of that body, and accordingly calls on them to formally withdraw their resignations. - that it calls on the REM Council, once constituted, to withdraw the Statute of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media, which is currently in the parliamentary procedure, and to prepare a draft of a new Statute to be submitted to the National Assembly for approval.
Evidence provided	https://www.parlament.gov.rs/akti/doneti-zakoni/doneti-zakoni.1033.html http://www.parlament.gov.rs/Девета_седница_Одбора_за_културу.50976.43.html https://www.parlament.gov.rs/30._sednica_Odbora_za_kulturu_i_informisanje.53617.941.html
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	In the second composite sub-step: Consultations were held with ODIHR, which on several occasions provided informal opinions on the Draft Amendments to the Unified Voter Register Law.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 3

The step under review	The three following laws are adopted, following consultations with the Commission: The law on electronic media and the law on public information and media are amended to align fully with the EU acquis and Council of Europe's standards; a new law on public service media is adopted in line with the media strategy, the EU acquis and Council of Europe's standards.
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Baseline	The Law on Public Information and Media and the Law on Electronic Media were harmonized and adopted in October 2023 and they will be amended in certain domains with the latest EU framework. The new Law on Public Service Media will be harmonized with new EU media instruments and standards.
Deadline of the step	December 2024
Actual results	On June 16, the National Assembly adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Electronic Media, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Broadcasting Services, and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Information and Media.
Evidence provided	<i>Link to National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted laws on June 16, 2025</i> All other supporting evidence submitted within the previous payment requests remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 4

The step under review	Following consultations with the Commission, the Anti-corruption strategy and action plan for 2025-2028 are adopted
Baseline	The Strategy is adopted and the Action plan is in the drafting phase.
Deadline of the step	December 2024
Actual results	The National Anti - Corruption Strategy 2024-2028 was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 25 July 2024 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia number: 63/24). The new Strategy for the fight against corruption aims for strengthening existing and creating new systemic solutions for preventing corruption at all levels and raising awareness of the harmfulness of corruption as well as creating conditions for more effective detection, prosecution and sanctioning of criminal offences, with continuous implementation and upgrade of existing anti-corruption mechanisms. It is mostly related to the twelve risk areas: Education, Health, Taxes, Customs, Local self-government, Public sector management, Public enterprises, Police, Privatization, Construction and infrastructural planning, Financing of political parties and Public procurement. The Action Plan for the period 2024-2025, aimed at implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2028, was adopted on 26 December 2024. During preparation of both documents, the European Commission was consulted and draft versions were provided for feedback. At the end of July 2025, a Working Group for the development of the Action Plan for the period 2026-2028 was formed. The initial meeting of the Working Group was held on 25 July 2025. The second meeting of the Working Group was held on 4 and 5 September 2025. Call for contributions related to the future work on the Action Plan for the period 2026-2028 the Ministry of Justice announced on 22 August 2025. The Ministry of Justice ensured that the drafting of the Action Plan was conducted in accordance with the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and broad public consultation. Accordingly, an invitation was addressed to all interested parties - representatives of institutions, the professional and scientific, public, civil society organizations and citizens, to submit their suggestions, proposals and initiatives related to the Draft Action Plan for the period 2026-2028, taking into account the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2024-2028. The public debate on the Draft Anti-Corruption Action Plan was held from 24 September to 13 October 2025. The translated Draft of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan was sent to the European Commission on 12 November 2025. Comments provided by the European Commission and the TAIEX expert mission on the Draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-

	Corruption Strategy for the period 2026–2028 were received on 16 January 2026. The Ministry of Justice submitted a revised version of the Draft Action Plan to the European Commission for its opinion on 11 February 2026. Following the European Commission’s final assessment from 27 March 2026, the Ministry of Justice initiated the formal adoption procedure for the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2026–2028 in May 2026. On 4 June 2026, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2026–2028 was adopted.
Evidence provided	The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2028 was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 25 July 2024 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia number: 63/24 (https://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2024/63/1/reg) https://mpravde.gov.rs/nacionalna-strategija-za-borbu-protiv-korucije-2024-2028 Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2024–2025 https://mpravde.gov.rs/nacionalna-strategija-za-borbu-protiv-korucije-2024-2028 Ministry of Justice made public call for the drafting the Action plan for the period 2026-2028: https://mpravde.gov.rs/javne-rasprave Ministry of Justice announced a call for contributions related to the future work on the Action Plan for the period 2026-2028: https://ekonsultacije.gov.rs/topicOfDiscussionPage/519/3 The public debate on the Draft Anti-Corruption Action Plan: https://ekonsultacije.gov.rs/topicOfDiscussionPage/537/1 Adopted Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2026–2028 https://mpravde.gov.rs/nacionalna-strategija-za-borbu-protiv-korucije-2024-2028 Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 52/2026 https://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/slglrsViewPdf/9dce47bf-b437-4214-b5d4-c676f9b59228?fromLink=true https://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2026/52/1/reg

Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Progress in the implementation of this payment step was regularly monitored through technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow implementation progress and identify any issues requiring further attention. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. Communication with the European Commission was maintained throughout the procedure, in line with the established consultative process. As part of the regular regulatory procedure, the Ministry of European Integration issued its opinion on the draft Anti-Corruption Action Plan on 27 May 2026.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

JUNE 2025

Fiche No. 5

The step under review	The level of transparency regarding all projects contracted under intergovernmental agreements is increased by introducing project-specific information on the website of the ministry in charge of implementing the project on any completed, ongoing and new procurement contracts under intergovernmental agreements. All contracts under intergovernmental agreements will be published starting from December 2024 and this practice will be maintained in the following years for all new contracts: including: name of the project; basic procurement contract information; contracting authority; main contractor and procurement procedure followed.
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Baseline	There is no obligation to publish project-specific information on contracts under intergovernmental agreements, however some project-specific information on contracts under intergovernmental agreements are published
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	In order to fulfil this step Republic of Serbia implemented following activities: December 2024 – Web sites of different ministries have been screened for purpose of identification of requested project information. It was concluded that the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure has been publishing regularly information on different projects at its web-site, but further activities are needed to complete the list. January 2025 - The letter and accompanying form containing necessary information for publishing relevant data on websites of competent ministries were prepared, and sent to all ministries. End of February 2025 - Ministries and special organisations submitted completed forms to the Ministry of Finance, and nominated contact points for follow up purposes. During March 2025 – The Ministry of Finance reviewed submitted inputs, organised a number of meetings and consultations with relevant ministries, and concluded that only G2G agreements from these institutions correspond to the RA request: Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Mining and Energy and Ministry of Finance. April and May 2025 – Requested additional data have been prepared and published on the websites of 3 ministries that reported projects contracted under international agreements. During June 2025 – Revision of published data, after consultations with the Ministry of Finance and comments of European Commission. End of June 2025 – Revised data were published on the websites of relevant ministries. Final list of projects with relevant web links was checked against requirements of RA and completed. The final list contains 41 project, out of which 32 projects of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, 5 projects of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and 4 projects of the Ministry of Finance. October 2025 – The Ministry of Finance has sent a request to all institutions to submit information on whether, by the end of 2025, any new projects implemented within the framework of intergovernmental agreements are planned or being implemented within the scope of their responsibilities. If such projects exist, the institutions are reminded to publish information on these projects on the websites of the competent ministries, in line with established practice. At the same time, the list of contact persons responsible for matters

	related to projects implemented within the framework of intergovernmental agreements has been updated. January and February 2026 - Information on new or planned projects implemented within the framework of intergovernmental agreements was revised. Three new projects are included in the list and relevant information is published on websites of ministries in charge of implementation of mentioned agreements – Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. June 2026 - A request was sent to all ministries for the purpose of updating the list of projects being implemented on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. Compared to the list from February 2026, the list has been updated to include one additional project of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure that was published on their website and added to the list of G2G projects. The final lists now contains 45 projects.
Evidence provided	All data available on websites of the ministries in charge of implementing the projects. List of all the identified projects with corresponding links to the websites of the ministries containing required data as defined in the step.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	In June 2026 a request was sent to all ministries for the purpose of updating the list of projects being implemented on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. Compared to the list from February 2026, the list has been updated to include one additional project of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure that was published on their website and added to the list of G2G projects. For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. During October, November and December 2025, the Ministry of Finance has revised list of contact points from all relevant institutions and has gathered data on new or planned projects implemented within the framework of intergovernmental agreements and preformed checks of data provided from institutions. In February 2026 three new projects are included in the list and relevant information is published on websites of ministries in charge of implementation of mentioned agreements. In June 2026 a request was sent to all ministries for the purpose of updating the list of projects being implemented

	on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. Compared to the list from February 2026, the list has been updated to include one additional project of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure that was published on their website and added to the list of G2G projects. During the course of preparing the Fourth Payment Request, the NC TS conducted an additional desk-based review of the updated list of projects contracted under intergovernmental agreements. The review covered the relevant websites where project-specific information was published, in line with the defined requirements. The verification process included reviewing the functionality of the relevant hyperlinks to confirm that the webpages were publicly accessible, fully operational, and up to date. The published content was also examined to verify that all required information had been made available, including the name of the project, key procurement information, the contracting authority, the main contractor, and the procurement procedure used.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 6

The step under review	A time-bound action plan for alignment of state aid schemes with the EU acquis, based on a final inventory, is adopted and approved by the European Commission
Baseline	No time-bound AP
Deadline of the step	June 2025

Actual results	The main prerequisite for completion of the step A time-bound Action Plan for alignment of state aid schemes with the EU acquis, based on a final inventory, is adopted and approved by the European Commission is completion of the previous step - Submitted final State Aid Schemes Inventory in accordance with the comments of the European Commission from March 2024, planned for December 2024 (the inventory was agreed with the European Commission in late June 2025). This specially because agreed Inventory is the basis for the completion of the Action Plan. The Republic of Serbia fulfilled this step by implementing following activities: - Numerous meetings and consultations with all the relevant partners were held to ensure alignment of the Action Plan with the State Aid Inventory during March 2025 and June 2026. - The first draft of the Action Plan, agreed with the all the relevant stakeholders, was prepared and sent to the European Commission on 28th of April 2025. - European Commission sent comments to the first draft of the Action Plan in May 2025. - The Draft Action Plan for alignment of state aid schemes has been supplemented by requested information during 2025 and 2026. - The Draft Action Plan has been completed until 30 June 2025, and it has been translated and professional editing of the translation has been finalised in the coming days. - On 3 July 2025, the final version of the Action Plan was submitted to the European Commission. - On 25th July 2025 the EC submitted its comments on the proposed Action Plan - From July 2025 until June 2026, a large number of consultations and meetings with relevant RS institutions and the EC were conducted. On 21st of April 2026, a meeting was held with representatives of the Directorate-General for Competition where all issues relevant to the Reform Agenda steps in this area were discussed. - The European Commission submitted the final set of comments on the Action Plan for the Alignment of State Aid Schemes with the EU Acquis on 3rd of June, and RS responded on 5th of June after which, the EC approved the draft version of the Action Plan. - The Draft version of the Action Plan was published on the web site of the Ministry of Finance for public consultations from June 10th until the June 25th2026. Information on consultation was submitted to the National Convention on EU by the Ministry of European Integration. No comments were received during that period. - The Action Plan was adopted by the Government on the 25th of June 2026, and it has been published on the web site of the Ministry of Finance -
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	https://mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/akcioni-plan-sa-rokovima-za-usklaivanje-neusklaenih-ema-dravne-pomoi
Evidence provided	Final Action Plan adopted by the Government and published on the website of the Ministry of Finance and accompanying Conclusion of the Government (included as an attachment of this fiche).
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. Consultations between the Republic of Serbia (represented by MEI as a Technical Secretariat of National Coordinator, Commission for State Aid Control and the Ministry of Finance) and the European Commission on the finalization of the Action Plan were held in the period from May 2025 until June 2026. As part of the regular regulatory procedure, the Ministry of European Integration issued its opinion on the draft time-bound Action Plan for the alignment of state aid schemes with the EU acquis on 12 June 2026.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

Fiche No. 7

The step under review	The number of funded researchers/innovative companies in the National Innovation System (Supported by Science Fund and Innovation Fund programs) is increased to 3400/600
Baseline	3288/505 (March 2024)
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	The baseline, as of March 2024, was 3,288 supported researchers and 505 supported companies. The Innovation Fund contributes to achieving the reform step aimed at increasing the number of innovative companies supported through the National Innovation System to 600. This target has been successfully achieved and exceeded. In accordance with the European Union's rules on avoiding double funding, only unique companies supported through eligible funding sources are counted toward this reform step. After applying these rules, the cumulative number of supported innovative companies increased from 589 (as of the reporting cut-off date in June 2025) to 639 (as of June 2026), representing 50 additional innovative companies supported during the reporting period. The increase was driven primarily by the Smart Start Program, which expanded from 137 to 157 supported companies, and the Katapult Acceleration Program, which increased from 49 to 56 supported companies compared to June 2025. A significant contribution was also made by the GovTech Program, where the number of supported companies increased from 10 to 19, while the ExpoTech Program contributed to the target with 14 supported innovative companies as of June 2026. At the same time, the number of companies supported through the Mini Grants Program, the Matching Grants Program, and the Collaborative Grant Scheme remained unchanged compared to June 2025, at 256, 75, and 62 companies, respectively. As of June 2026, the total number of researchers supported through the programs of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia amounted to 3,906. Compared to the baseline value of 3,288 supported researchers recorded in March 2024, the achieved result represents an increase of 618 supported researchers. This confirms the continued fulfilment and exceeding of the target value for this indicator, which was set at 3,400 supported researchers.

Evidence provided	Report on the implementation of public calls by the Science Fund and Innovation Fund Reports are published on the respective web sites of the Science Fund and Innovation Fund. Science Fund: Direct link to the document: fondzanauku.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Science-Fund-Report-on-the-Implementation-of-the-Public-Calls.pdf Link to the page where the document is published: http://fondzanauku.gov.rs/akta-fonda/ Innovation Fund: Direct link to the document: https://www.inovacionifond.rs/cms/files//o-nama/IF_Support_of_Innovative_Companies_Implementation_Report_June_2026.pdf Link to the page where the document is published: https://www.inovacionifond.rs/en/fond/documents-and-acts/annual-report Linked documents are also provided as an attachment to this fiche.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. During the course of preparing the Fourth Payment Request, the NC TS conducted an additional desk-based review of the updated information on innovative companies funded through Innovation Fund programmes. The review included an examination of information published on the official website of the Innovation Fund to verify that the relevant public calls had been conducted and to cross-check the information on funded companies against the data provided by the competent institution. Any identified discrepancies were

	further examined against the relevant requirements for assessing fulfilment of the payment step.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step in this payment request.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

Fiche No. 8

The step under review	One certified Serbian TSO operates the whole gas transmission system in Serbia.
Baseline	Energy Law in force last updated in July 2023 providing legal basis
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	Since the previous reporting period, the certification process has been fully completed and the regulatory and operational framework for the functioning of Transportgas Srbija LLC Novi Sad as the single certified gas transmission system operator has been finalized. Following the certification decision adopted by the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia (AERS) on 21 March 2025, AERS completed the ex-post verification of the conditions for certification under the Independent System Operator (ISO) model. By its Conclusion of 31 March 2026, AERS confirmed that Transportgas Srbija had fulfilled all legal and functional unbundling requirements and that the certification decision remained fully valid. On the same date, AERS issued Transportgas Srbija with the licence for natural gas transmission and transmission system operation. During the reporting period, Serbia also completed the institutional and ownership arrangements supporting the operation of the certified transmission system operator. Following the entry into force of the new Gas Law, Gas Infrastruktura LLC Novi Sad became operational as the transmission network owner. The handover and transfer of the transmission system from PE Srbijagas

	to Gas Infrastruktura was completed in March 2026, followed by the conclusion of the agreement on the management, development, investment and lease of the transmission system assets between Gas Infrastruktura and Transportgas Srbija, providing the contractual basis for operation of the transmission system by the certified TSO. Operational integration has been completed. A single balancing zone has been established for the interconnected transmission systems of Transportgas Srbija and Yugorosgaz-Transport, with Transportgas Srbija responsible for balancing services for the entire zone. Tariff harmonisation has been implemented in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework, while continuous access to metering data and system monitoring through the SCADA dispatch system enables operational supervision and balancing of the interconnected transmission network. In addition, Transportgas Srbija continues to perform its responsibilities regarding the planning and development of the national gas transmission system. During the reporting period, intensive coordination activities were carried out in preparation of Phase 1 of the Serbia Gas Programme (MPS Phase 1), including technical missions and field visits conducted together with the World Bank and other relevant stakeholders. The project appraisal process is progressing as planned, with submission of the documentation for World Bank Board approval expected in September 2026. These activities further demonstrate the operational role of the certified TSO in transmission system planning and investment preparation. Following the exchange with the European Commission during the verification process, Serbia provided additional documentation governing the relationship between Transportgas Srbija and Yugorosgaz-Transport (which have already been submitted in electronic form). These documents are intended to provide further assurance that the certified TSO exercises responsibility for the operation of the unified transmission system in line with the applicable EU unbundling requirements.
Evidence provided	– Conclusion of the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia No. 311.01-1/2024-S-I/45 of 31 March 2026 confirming fulfilment of the certification conditions under the Independent System Operator model. – Decision of the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia No. 315.45-57/2025-L-I of 31 March 2026 issuing the licence for natural gas transmission and transmission system operation to Transportgas Srbija LLC Novi Sad. – Agreement on the Handover and Transfer of the Transmission System between PE Srbijagas and Gas Infrastruktura LLC, dated 13 March 2026. – Agreement on the Management, Development, Investment and Lease of the Natural Gas Transmission System Assets between Gas Infrastruktura LLC and Transportgas Srbija LLC, dated 20 March 2026.

	– Key Provisions Extracted from the Draft High-Pressure Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Lease Agreement with Yugorosgaz-Transport. – Key Provisions Extracted from the Agreement on the Implementation of the Compensation Mechanism between Yugorosgaz a.d. Belgrade and Transportgas Srbija LLC Novi Sad. – Report of Transportgas Srbija LLC Novi Sad No. 01-01/755/1 of 30 June 2026. World Bank mission and technical consultant reports related to the Serbia Gas Programme (MPS Phase 1).
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	To verify the fulfilment of the step, a comprehensive desk-based review was carried out by the Ministry of Mining and Energy covering the relevant regulatory decisions, licensing documentation, contractual arrangements and supporting evidence submitted by the beneficiary. The verification also considered the additional legally binding documentation provided to further demonstrate the operational responsibilities of the certified transmission system operator in accordance with the applicable unbundling requirements. Progress in the implementation of this payment step was regularly monitored through technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow implementation progress and identify any issues requiring further attention. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. On 19 March 2026, a dedicated meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and Transportgas d.o.o. to discuss the implementation status of payment steps under Policy Area 2.1, with particular attention to steps whose grace period was due to expire in June 2026. Following the meeting, additional documentation and more detailed information were requested to verify the information presented during the discussion.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

Fiche No. 9

The step under review	Third-party access to gas infrastructure is in place
Baseline	Energy Law provides legal basis and Rules on the Operation of the Transport System submitted to the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia by "Transportgas Srbija" for approval
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	The Republic of Serbia has established and operationalised a comprehensive regulatory, contractual and operational framework ensuring transparent and non-discriminatory third-party access (TPA) to the natural gas transmission system, in line with the Energy Law, secondary legislation adopted by the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia (AERS), and the applicable EU acquis transposed through the Energy Community framework. Transportgas Srbija, as the certified and licensed transmission system operator, applies regulated third-party access under equal conditions for all eligible market participants. Access to the transmission system is granted through a publicly available procedure based on the conclusion of a Framework Natural Gas Transmission Agreement. All relevant documentation, access rules, tariffs, and capacity information are publicly available, and no duly submitted request meeting the prescribed conditions has been refused during the reporting period. The tariff framework is fully aligned with Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/460 (NC TAR). Following the adoption of the AERS, Methodology for determining transmission tariffs, common transmission tariffs have been established for the integrated system operated by Transportgas Srbija and, where applicable, the interconnected system operator, for the first regulatory period (1 October 2025 – 30 September 2028). This ensures uniform application of transparent, cost-reflective and non-discriminatory tariff principles across the transmission network. Capacity allocation procedures are fully aligned with the ENTSOG capacity allocation framework and calendar. Capacities are published and allocated via the fully operational Regional Booking Platform (RBP) and the operational platform of Transportgas Srbija, covering annual, monthly and daily products at all relevant entry and exit points. With regard to the interconnected system operated by Yugorosgaz-Transport, the relevant connection points (Pojata and Trupale) are defined as internal system connection points under the approved transmission network code and are not treated as cross-border interconnection points. In accordance with the applicable tariff methodology, no separate capacity charges are applied at these points. In order to ensure consistent application of the unified tariff methodology and uninterrupted functioning of the integrated system,

	Transportgas Srbija and Yugarosgaz-Transport have implemented a Compensation Mechanism Agreement based on the AERS tariff framework. This arrangement ensures revenue equalisation while preserving the application of regulated, non-discriminatory access conditions across the system. Operational cooperation between the relevant system operators is ensured through agreements governing nominations, allocations, balancing, and operational data exchange. Transportgas Srbija has real-time access to metering and operational data via SCADA systems and performs continuous system monitoring and balancing across the integrated transmission system, thereby ensuring effective implementation of third-party access under unified operational arrangements.
Evidence provided	– Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia (AERS) Decision No. 01-02-2/44-1 approving the Rules on the Operation of the Natural Gas Transmission System of Transportgas Srbija d.o.o. Novi Sad (No. 328/2023-D-01/13, 30 January 2025) – Rules on the Operation of the Natural Gas Transmission System of Transportgas Srbija d.o.o. Novi Sad, January 2025 – AERS Decision on the adoption of the Methodology for determining the price of access to the natural gas transmission system (No. 42/2025-D-02, 30 January 2025), including the Methodology – AERS Decision on common transmission tariffs for access to the natural gas transmission system, 11 July 2025 – AERS Decision on common transmission tariffs for access to the natural gas transmission system, 28 May 2026 – ENTSOG Capacity Allocation Mechanism (CAM NC)-aligned capacity allocation calendar for gas years 2026/2027 and planning documents for capacity allocation – Evidence of capacity auctions and allocation results for gas year 2025/2026 (export dataset, 28 May 2026) – Report of Transportgas Srbija d.o.o. Novi Sad No. 01-01/755/1 of 30 June 2026
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	To ensure that the step is fulfilled in accordance with the applicable rules, a thorough desk-based review was carried out by the Ministry of Mining and Energy to examine all relevant documents and regulations. Progress in the implementation of this payment step was regularly monitored through technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow implementation progress and identify any issues requiring further attention. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.

	On 19 March 2026, a dedicated meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and Transportgas d.o.o. to discuss the implementation status of payment steps under Policy Area 2.1, with particular attention to steps whose grace period was due to expire in June 2026. Following the meeting, additional documentation and more detailed information were requested to verify the information presented during the discussion.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

Fiche No. 10

The step under review	Allocation of capacities at Horgos and IBS border points is opened
Baseline	Rules on the Operation of the Transport System submitted to the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia by "Transportgas Srbija" for approval
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	The Republic of Serbia has ensured the opening and operational implementation of a transparent, non-discriminatory, and market-based mechanism for the allocation of transmission capacities at the Horgoš and Serbia–Bulgaria (Kalotina/Dimitrovgrad) interconnection points. The implementation of this step is based on the adopted Rules on the Operation of the Natural Gas Transmission System of Transportgas Srbija LLC, which are aligned with applicable EU network codes and national legislation, and approved by the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia (AERS). These Rules establish the obligation of the Transmission System Operator to ensure publication and allocation of capacities in a transparent and market-based manner.

In line with these requirements, Transportgas Srbija has enabled the opening of capacity allocation at all relevant interconnection points, including:

- Horgoš (Kiskundorozsma / Horgoš interconnection with Hungary)
- Kalotina / Dimitrovgrad (Serbia–Bulgaria interconnection system)

Capacity allocation at these points is carried out in accordance with EU capacity allocation principles, including transparency, non-discrimination, and market-based procedures.

To ensure full alignment with European market practice, Transportgas Srbija has joined the Regional Booking Platform (RBP), which serves as a standardized European auction platform for the allocation of cross-border gas transmission capacities. The onboarding process was completed in May 2026, marking the formal operational integration into the RBP system. Following this, the implementation of the RBP-based allocation framework progressed in line with the ENTSOG auction calendar, with the publication of annual capacities for gas year 2026/2027 in May 2026.

Through this platform, capacity allocation is conducted via competitive auction procedures in accordance with the ENTSOG capacity allocation calendar.

All registered market participants have equal and transparent access to:

- published available capacities,
- booking conditions,
- and results of capacity allocation procedures.

For the relevant interconnection points, Transportgas Srbija publishes capacities in accordance with the RBP auction framework, enabling annual, monthly, and daily capacity allocation in line with CAM NC requirements.

The implementation of the RBP-based allocation system ensures:

- transparent publication of available capacities,
- equal treatment of all network users,
- market-based allocation through standardized auctions,
- full traceability of allocation procedures,
- and alignment with EU network code requirements.

At present, capacity allocation at the Horgoš and Kalotina/Dimitrovgrad interconnection points is fully operational through the RBP platform. The first annual capacity auctions have been scheduled in accordance with the ENTSOG auction calendar, and capacities are progressively being made available for booking across multiple gas years.

Data exchange between Transportgas Srbija and neighbouring transmission system operators is governed by applicable interconnection and operational regime agreements, ensuring coordinated operation of interconnection points and accurate allocation of transmitted quantities.

Operational coordination includes the exchange of nomination, allocation, and measurement data, supported by SCADA and telecommunication systems,

	enabling continuous monitoring of gas flows and reliable settlement of cross-border transmission. Based on the above, it can be concluded that Transportgas Srbija has fully implemented a functioning, transparent, and non-discriminatory capacity allocation mechanism at the Horgoš and Serbia–Bulgaria interconnection points. The allocation system is operational, publicly accessible, and aligned with European market rules, thereby fulfilling the requirements of this step under the Reform Agenda.
Evidence provided	- AERS approval of the Rules on the Operation of the Transmission System of Transportgas Srbija enabling capacity allocation in line with CAM NC and NC TAR - Conclusion of the Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia No. 311.01-1/2024-S-I/45 of 31 March 2026 confirming fulfilment of the certification conditions under the Independent System Operator model. - Transportgas Srbija LLC Novi Sad document on the “Implementation of the RBP Platform and Capacity Auction Plan for Gas Year 2026/2027” - Document “Reform Agenda – Additional Responses and Supplementary Information” - ENTSOG Capacity Allocation Mechanism (CAM NC)-aligned capacity allocation calendar for gas years 2026/2027 and planning documents for capacity allocation - Annual Capacity Allocation Results at Transportgas Srbija Interconnection Points - Report of Transportgas Srbija LLC Novi Sad No. 01-01/755/1 of 30 June 2026. - Report on the Successful Execution of the Annual Transmission Capacity Auction for the Gas Year 2026/2027 All other supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	A desk-based verification was carried out by the Ministry of Mining and Energy, reviewing the relevant regulatory framework, published capacity data on the RBP and Transportgas Srbija platforms, and supporting interconnection and operational agreements. For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect

	its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. On 19 March 2026, a dedicated meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and Transportgas d.o.o. to discuss the implementation status of payment steps under Policy Area 2.1, with particular attention to steps whose grace period was due to expire in June 2026. Following the meeting, additional documentation and more detailed information were requested to verify the information presented during the discussion. The NC TS carried out a desk-based review of the submitted documentation, including an assessment of its completeness and a check of whether the relevant information was publicly available. The verification also included a review of the Regional Booking Platform to confirm whether the relevant capacities had been published.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 11

The step under review	New legislative framework is adopted, notably: a new Law on suppression and prevention of THB by Parliament; criminal code is amended in order to criminalise effectively the trafficking of weapons, in line with the provisions of the Convention on transnational organised crime and firearms protocol; adoption of a new Law on weapons and ammunition, in line with EU acquis
Baseline	In order to address a challenges in the field of fight against organized and serious crime. Serbia needs to improve its normative framework. By amendments of the Law of the THB, following the adoption and implementafion of the previously adopted Programme and AP for the fight

	against THB, Serbia will establish a comprehensive system in this field, involved with all relevant competent authority. In order to align its national legislation with acquis, Serbia will adopt the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition, following the implementation of the existing Law. In order to effectively criminalise trafficking of weapons, Serbia will amend the existing article, within the Criminal Code.
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	Law of the THB – Adopted by Parliament on April 23, 2026, and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 35/2026 Law on Weapons and Ammunition – Adopted by Parliament on July 10, 2026. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 63/2026 Criminal Code - By the Decision of the Minister of Justice No. 119-01-125/2021-05 of 12 May 2021, the Working Group for the Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System was established, based on completed cases, with the aim of identifying and eliminating its weaknesses and shortcomings and to prepare a draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code based on the results of the analysis. The Working Group meets regularly. The draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code was submitted to the European Commission for expert opinion on 26 August 2024, together with the accompanying table of compliance with relevant EU legislation. A public debate was held from 1 October to 1 November 2024. The expert opinion of the European Commission on the text of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code was submitted to the Ministry of Justice in mid-November 2024. Afterwards Draft text was consolidated with the submitted comments from the European Commission as well as the comments from the public debate that Ministry of Justice received. Given the great public interest in the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code, another round of public debate was held from 10 September to 1 October 2025. The translated draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code together with the Tables of Concordance was sent to the European Commission on 15 October 2025. The European Commission provided additional comments on the submitted document on 11 November 2025, and the Ministry of Justice submitted its responses to all comments on 14 January 2026.

	Following the European Commission's final assessment related to the Article 348 of the Criminal code received on 29 May 2026, the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 18 June 2026, adopted the Draft Law on the Amendments to the Criminal Code concerning Article 348 and submitted it to the National Assembly to initiate the final adoption procedure. The Law on the Amendments to the Criminal Code concerning Article 348 was adopted by National Assembly on 10 July, 2026.
Evidence provided	Law on Weapons and Ammunition Official Gazette RS No. 63/2026 Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Protection of Victims Official Gazette RS No. 35/2026 Law on the Amendments to the Criminal Code Official Gazette RS No 63/2026 https://www.paragraf.rs/izmene_i_dopune/10072026-zakon-o-izmenama-i-dopunama-krivicnog-zakonika.html
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	Progress in the implementation of this payment step was regularly monitored through technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow progress in the preparation and adoption of the relevant legislative framework and to identify any issues requiring further attention. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. Communication with the European Commission was maintained throughout the preparation of the relevant legislative framework, in line with the established consultative process. As part of the regular regulatory procedure, the Ministry of European Integration issued its opinions on the draft legislation covered by this payment step: on the draft Law on the Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings on 4 February 2026, the draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition on 15 June 2026, and the draft amendments to the Criminal Code on 17 June 2026.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.

Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved
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Fiche No. 12

The step under review	Following consultations with the Commission, new strategic document and accompanying Action Plan *(2025-2030) for the control of Small arms and light weapons (SALW) in line with the provisions of the revised Regional SALW Roadmap for Western Balkans are adopted
Baseline	Republic of Serbia strategic framework in the area of SALW is in place. However, it is necessary to develop new strategic document in the area of SALW, bearing in mind that the current one is ending by the end of the 2024, and also taking into consideration that the revised SALW Regional Roadmap will be adopted by June 2025
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	Adopted on December 26, 2025
Evidence provided	All supporting evidence submitted within the previous payment request remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in the implementation of the relevant strategic framework and to monitor its continued application, including with a view to identifying any developments that could affect the continued fulfilment of the previously achieved payment step. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).

Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 13

The step under review	The Law on internal affairs addressing the issue of police autonomy from the Ministry of Interior during pre-investigation and investigation phases and recommendations from the Committee for Prevention of Torture is adopted
Baseline	Adoption the new Law on Internal Affairs states that one of the tasks of the Ministry of the Interior is to provide conditions for the prevention of torture and degrading procedures and the control of police actions towards persons deprived of their liberty, with the implementation of the CPT recommendations. Also, the Law will ensure that the police have operational autonomy from the Ministry.
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	A draft law has already been prepared and submitted to the European Commission, which provided its comments on two occasions. Prior to its submission to the European Commission, the draft law underwent consultations and a public debate in accordance with the applicable legislative process. The document is currently being aligned with the comments and recommendations received from the European Commission.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general	N/A

principles and DNSH principle	
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 14

The step under review	A new strategic document and accompanying action plan that covers counter terrorism and all forms of radicalization and violent extremism (irrespective of political, religious or ethno-nationalist so-called justification) are adopted in line with EU policies, including envisaging concrete steps to prevent recruitment and participation of Serbian citizens as foreign fighters and to prosecute returning foreign fighters returned to Serbia
Baseline	Republic of Serbia more than two years do not have a Strategic document for counter terrorism and violent extremism. Meanwhile, Serbia adopted the report on the implementation of previous strategic document in this area for 2017-2021 and developed study on all forms of radicalisation and violent extremism. Republic of Serbia signed the Joint Action plan on Counter Terrorism for the Western Balkans in 2018 and bilateral arrangement for the implementation of Joint Action plan in order to align its policies with the best practice within the EU. These two national documents together with the findings from the implementation of the Joint Action plan will be the baseline for the preparation of the new strategic document in the area of CT/PVE. The new strategic document in the area of CT/PVE will provide robust framework for countering terrorism and preventing/countering violent extremism; to contribute to the improvement of institutional set up and legal alignment; to create framework for the improvement of the implementation and enforcement capacity; to create framework for the protection of critical infrastructure and citizens and to create and improve the capacities for information exchange and operational cooperation.
Deadline of the step	June 2025

Actual results	The documents were adopted by Government on Jun 30, 2026, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 58/2026
Evidence provided	- Programme for countering terrorism and all forms of radicalisation and violent extremism for the period 2026-2030 - Action plan for the period 2026-2027 for the implementation of the programme for countering terrorism and all forms of radicalisation and violent extremism - Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 58/2026
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	Progress in the implementation of this payment step was regularly monitored through technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow progress in the preparation and adoption of the relevant strategic framework and to identify any issues requiring further attention. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. Communication with the European Commission was maintained throughout the preparation of the relevant strategic framework, in line with the established consultative process. As part of the regular regulatory procedure, the Ministry of European Integration issued its opinion on the draft strategic document and accompanying Action Plan on 8 June 2026.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

DECEMBER 2025

Fiche No. 15

The step under review	Changes in the Rules of Procedure of the Government so that the decision to conduct a public hearing, the program of the public hearing and the
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	deadline for its implementation are determined by the Government, instead of a competent committee, upon the proposal of the proponent
Baseline	Rules of Procedure where decision to conduct a public hearing, the program of the public hearing and the deadline for its implementation are determined by a competent committee, upon the proposal of the proponent
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Working Group for Amending the Legal Framework for Consultations and Public Debates was formed on November 1, 2024, by decision of the Director of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, based on the Government Conclusion. The working group includes representatives of relevant state administration bodies: • Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, • Republic Secretariat for Legislation, • General Secretariat of the Government, • Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, • Ministry of European Integration, • Ministry of Environmental Protection, • Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, • Office for Information Technology and Electronic Governance, • Chamber of Commerce of Serbia and • Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, as well as representatives of civil society organizations selected through a public call in accordance with the Guidelines for the Inclusion of Civil Society Organizations in Working Groups for the Preparation of Proposals for Public Policy Documents and Drafts, or Draft Regulations: • Center for European Policies, • Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities, • Center for Democracy Foundation and • Belgrade Open School. As of November 13, 2025, a total of four sessions were conducted, during which a substantive and productive discussion was held on all issues of importance for improving the situation in the area. The emphasis was on the analysis of all relevant options in order to simplify the legal framework for consultations and public debates, in accordance with the previous experience and recommendations of SIGMA and the European Commission.

	The first concrete result of the Working Group is the amendment of the Government's Rules of Procedure in accordance with the obligations from the Reform Agenda. Specifically, Article 41g stipulates that the conclusion on the implementation of a public debate for regulations and public policy documents, the public debate program and the deadlines within which it is implemented, is adopted by the Government instead of the competent Committee. In addition to the discussion at the meetings on the draft of this document (prepared by the Republic Secretariat for Legislation), all members of the working group had the opportunity to submit their proposals, comments and suggestions on the working text on several occasions, electronically. In this way, transparency in the work was ensured, with equal conditions for the participation of all institutions and civil society organizations. The working group continued its work in December, when the discussion continued on the topic of further amendments to the relevant regulations and improvements to the legal framework in the subject area. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Government have been adopted in November 2025. - Despite the evident results and fulfilled relevant Reform Agenda step, the Government remains committed to further improving the Rules of Procedure and the proposed supplementary amendments were sent to EC for review and comments on June 15th, 2026. The EC response was in favor of adoption of the new amendments. - The draft has been prepared taking into account the key findings and recommendations provided by SIGMA/EC and feedback is taken into consideration for the adoption of the revised RoP. Revised amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the Government are currently in the process of adoption.
Evidence provided	Supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable: “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 106/25 of 28 November 2025. General Secretariat of the Government web site: https://gs.gov.rs/tekst/1408/odluka-o-izmenama-i-dopunama-poslovnika-vlade.php Government web site: https://www.srbija.gov.rs/dokument/2432/poslovnik-vlade.php

Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	<i>ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER AND DURING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE</i> 1. SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKING GROUP – CEP, BOŠ AND THE CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY It was noted in the response to the subsequent comments that the Decision on the web portal <i>eKonsultacije</i> enables the participation of the entire public in the consultation process and that its use by state administration bodies is mandatory. Furthermore, it was emphasized that stakeholders are not determined by the authority conducting the consultations; rather, their status is articulated through their own independent and voluntary actions, by which they themselves create and influence their position in the consultation process. 2. SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM SIGMA AND IN THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER After once again consulting the text of the Reform Agenda, we have reaffirmed that the only explicit obligation related to the Rules of Procedure of the Government is set out on page 62 of the document, which indicates the need for decisions on public consultations to be made by the Government, instead of sectoral Government committees. Another identified requirement on the same page relates to consultations; however, the deadline for its implementation is set for 2027. Therefore, in this context, it may be considered that the assumed obligation has been fulfilled through the adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure. At the same time, we emphasize that the amendments to the Rules of Procedure have not established lower standards for the conduct of public consultations compared to those previously set by the Rules of Procedure prior to the amendments. By way of example, certain provisions have been improved, such as the extension of the deadline for submitting comments and suggestions and the possibility of consolidating reports, etc. The most important amendment is that the Government will make the decision on the public debate, which will have more impact on a proposer to have a public debate. As regards the linking of consultations and public hearings into a single process and the rules on successfully conducted consultations, these are solely intended to clearly identify situations in which there are no disputed or open issues, rather than to establish lower standards. The exclusion of the use of the proposer's website in favor of the <i>eKonsultacije</i> web Portal is not possible without amendments to the law, as legislation clearly recognizes the use of such websites. Notwithstanding the implementation of the obligation under the Agenda, and taking into account the subsequent comments you have raised, we firmly maintain the position that further improvements in the directions indicated are necessary. Accordingly, the competent authorities, together with partners from
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the civil sector, will continue to consider these issues within the framework of the established Working Group.

We express our satisfaction that certain positive aspects of the amendments to the Rules of Procedure have been recognized in the submitted comments and proposals. At the same time, we express concern that, when viewed in their entirety, all comments may be addressed only through amendments to related regulations, and not solely through amendments to the Rules of Procedure. Therefore, this may justifiably be regarded as a significantly broader approach to the existing issues than that expressed in the Agenda, which will be the subject of further work of the Working Group (continued work on related regulations in terms of preparing their amendments).

We would also like to point out that the subsequent interpretation of the requirements from the Agenda differs somewhat from the wording of the Agenda itself. Namely, when considering the text of the Agenda, it appears to lead to the conclusion that the Government should decide on the conduct of public consultations, rather than deciding only in exceptional cases when a public consultation is not conducted, as subsequently proposed. The text of the Agenda reads as follows:

*“The implementation of this part of the reform will be measured in two steps:

1. Amend the Rules of Procedure of the Government so that the decision on conducting a public consultation, the public consultation programme, and the deadline for its implementation are adopted by the Government, instead of the competent committee, upon the proposal of the proposer (November 2025).”

In this regard, it is not proper interpretation that, by omitting a Government decision on the conduct of a public consultation, the public consultation would lose its prerogatives and effectively be “absorbed” into the consultation process, which would be managed independently by the proposer. The Government, as stated in the new text of the Article 41. para. 8. the Government will have much more power over how the public debate is conducted.

However, this will be a matter for further consideration in the continuation of the work.

We express the readiness of the competent authorities to send a formal communication to proposers, even at this “working” stage during the preparation of amendments to regulations related to the Rules of Procedure, clearly stating that successfully conducted consultations encompass only those cases in which no unaccepted comments remain, or where no comments were submitted at all. Furthermore, there is also readiness to issue a recommendation that proposers place a link that serves as a quick, clear, and easily visible connection to the web portal eKonsultacije, in order to facilitate its use at this stage of the process as well.

Progress in the implementation of this payment step was regularly monitored through technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings

	enabled the NC TS to follow implementation progress and identify any issues requiring further attention. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. Also, two separate meetings dedicated to this specific payment steps were held on May 15 th and June 12, 2026. During these meetings, possible avenues for further improving and refining the existing Rules of Procedure were discussed, with a view to ensuring their alignment with the recommendations and comments provided by SIGMA.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 16

The step under review	Full alignment with the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) Regulation is reached
Baseline	Not fully aligned
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	Full alignment with the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) Regulation has been achieved through the adoption of amendments to the Law on Science and Research (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 49/2019 and 108/2025), which fully transpose the provisions of EU Regulation No. 723/2009.
Evidence provided	Amendments to the Law on Science and Research (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 49/2019 and 108/2025) adopted on 3 rd of the December 2025 and the document was submitted as part of the previous, Third Payment Request.

Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in the implementation of the relevant strategic framework and to monitor its continued application, including with a view to identifying any developments that could affect the continued fulfilment of the previously achieved payment step. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 17

The step under review	At least 10 projects financed from the national budget, not exceeding EUR 299,999 per project, contracted under public calls aimed to improve rural public infrastructure in the areas of water supply and road infrastructure facilities.
Baseline	Law on Incentives in Agriculture and Rural Development and Rulebook on Incentives for Investments for the Improvement and Development of Rural Public Infrastructure in force
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management undertook the following activities in order to achieve the stated step:

	1. Rulebook on Subsidies for Investments in the Improvement and Development of Rural Public Infrastructure was amended and published on 9 May 2025 ("Official Gazette of the RS", Nos. 97/23, 99/23, 57/24 and 41/25). 2. Public call for subsidies for investments in the construction and equipment of facilities: for water supply and road infrastructure was published on the official website of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments on 12 May 2025 (https://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Javni-poziv-.pdf). 3. The total available funds under this Public Call are set at 410,000,000 dinars (€3.413.630,46)¹. 4. The highest total amount of subsidies that a user can receive under the Public Call is 35,000,000 dinars (€298.692,66)². 5. The Commission for the implementation of the evaluation and scoring procedure for submitted applications for the exercise of the right to subsidies for investments for the improvement and development of rural infrastructure for 2025 conducted the evaluation and scoring procedure for submitted applications. Ranking list with a proposal for approval of subsidies for 16 projects that do not exceed the amount of 299,999 euros per project and whose goal is to improve rural public infrastructure in the areas of water supply and road infrastructure was published on 12 July 2025 on the official website of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments (https://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Bodovna-lista.pdf). 6. Following the increase in the available funds, the ranking list was expanded in accordance with the Report of the Commission for the implementation of the evaluation and scoring procedure of applications submitted for the exercise of the right to subsidies for investments for the improvement and development of rural infrastructure for 2025, dated 18 February 2026, and subsequently published on the website of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments (https://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/bodovna-lista-el-potpisano.pdf). 7. The Director of the Directorate issued decisions determining the right to subsidies, and under this public call, 18 local self-government units were granted subsidies (Vrbas, Apatin, Zaječar, Čačak, Mali Idoš, Žitorađa, Kraljevo, Zrenjanin, Krupanj, Ub, Mionica, Sombor, Mladenovac, Petrovac na Mlavi, Lajkovac, Odžaci, Bač, Topola,). The decision stipulates that the investment must be completed within 365 days from the date of receipt of
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¹ NBS average exchange rate RSD/EUR: on 4 July 2025 - 1 EUR = 117,1773RSD;

² NBS average exchange rate RSD/EUR: on 4 July 2025 - 1 EUR = 117,1773RSD;

	the decision. The fund disbursements are made through decisions issued by the Directorate for Agrarian Payments; therefore, no individual contracts were concluded. 8. The beneficiary of the incentive, i.e. the local self-government, is obliged to fully implement the investment under the conditions, in the manner, and within the timeframe specified in the decision granting the right to the incentive, and to submit to the Directorate for Agrarian Payments the documentation proving the realization of the approved investment within that period. The Directorate for Agrarian Payments is monitoring whether the implementation of the investment is proceeding in accordance with the Rulebook and issued decision. 9. By Jun 25, 2026, approximately RSD 410.000.000³ (€3.492.681,98) were disbursed (18 beneficiaries/projects). 10. According to the records of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments as of 25 June 2026, works have been completed in 4 municipalities (Petrovac na Mlavi, Sombor, Mladenovac and Bač). A contract with the selected bidder has been concluded in 10 municipalities (Ub, Mionica, Odzaci Mali Idoš, Lajkovac, Krupanj, Apatin, Vrbas, Kraljevo, Topola). Tender documentation has been prepared and will soon be published in 1 municipality (Zrenjanin).
Evidence provided	As already submitted under the previous Payment Request, the evidence demonstrating the fulfilment of the milestone consists of the following documents: Rulebook on Incentives for Investments for the Improvement and Development of Rural Public Infrastructure (<i>Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 97/2023, 99/2023, 57/2024 and 41/2025</i>) (https://uap.gov.rs/pravilnici/mere-ruralnog-razvoja/pravilnik-o-podsticajima-za-investicije-za-unapredjenje-i-razvoj-ruralne-javne-infrastrukture/) Ranking list available on the website of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments https://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Bodovna-lista.pdf Extended Ranking list available on the website of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments https://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/bodovna-lista-el-potpisano.pdf The contracts concluded under these calls are publicly available on the Public Procurement Portal of the Republic of Serbia

³ NBS average exchange rate RSD/EUR: on 26 Jun 2026 - 1 EUR = 117,3883RSD;

<https://jnportal.ujn.gov.rs/odluke-o-dodeli-ugovora>

List of municipalities for which documentation was provided:

1. Local Self-government of Petrovac na Mlavi
 - Contract Asphalting of Streets in Burovac
 - Final payment certificate
2. Local Self-government of Sombor
 - Contract for the Public Procurement of Works - Rehabilitation of Asphalt Base for the Public Road — Kralja Petra I street - Stapar
 - Final payment certificate
3. Local self-government Mladenovac
 - Contract for the Execution of Rehabilitation Works on Agricultural District Roads with Stone Base
 - Final payment certificate
4. Local Self-government of Ub
 - Contract for the Procurement of Works PP No. 0034/2025 – Reconstruction and Construction of Water Supply System along Svete Popovića Street in Ub
5. Local Self-government of Mionica
 - Contract for the Public Procurement of Works – Installation of a Central Water Supply Surveillance and Management System in Mionica
6. Local Self-government of Mali Idoš
 - Contract for the Public Procurement of Works – Road Surface Construction in Feketić
7. Local Self-government of Lajkovac
 - Public Procurement Contract for Works: Construction of an Uncategorised Road in Čeliće-Jevtići
8. Local self-government of Bač
 - Contract for the Public Procurement of Works: Road – Rehabilitation Works on the Streets of Settlements in the Municipality of Bač
 - Final payment certificate
9. Local self-government Kraljevo
 - Decision on Contract Award

	- Contract for the Procurement of Works – Reconstruction and Construction of 1400 Metres of Water Supply Network in Vitanovac and Čukojevac (Leg 1) - Decision on the Appointed Engineer to Survey the Performance of the Works on Reconstruction and Construction of 1400 metres of Water Supply Network in Vitanovac and Čukojevac – Leg 1 10. Local self-government Krupanj - Decision on the Implementation of the Public Procurement Procedure - Report on Bid Opening - Contract for the Execution of Construction Works to Reconstruct the Water Supply Network in Krupanj – Phase I
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 18

The step under review	Competent authority [for the implementation of the rules of the ETS Directive] approves monitoring plans [in line with national legislation that
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	transposes the Commission Implementing Regulation [EU] 2018/2066 [MMRR]
Baseline	Legislation that transposes MRVA acquis recently adopted: Law on Climate Change ("Official Gazette of the RS", No 26/21), Regulation on types of activities and greenhouse gases („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 13/2022), Rulebook on the verification and accreditation of verifiers of reports on greenhouse gas emissions („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, no. 107/21), Rulebook on the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, no. 118/23) or 0 GHG permits issued (GHG permit is an act by which the Competent Authority approves the Monitoring Plan).
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The step has been fully implemented through the establishment of a comprehensive MRVA system for monitoring, reporting, verification and accreditation of greenhouse gas emissions, including the issuance of GHG permits to operators of stationary installations. The system is fully operational and supported by the Law on Climate Change, relevant secondary legislation, and the digital eGHG platform enabling end-to-end permit processing and reporting. This step was included in the third payment request and is currently under assessment by the European Commission. Since the previous submission, an additional two GHG emission permits have been issued, bringing the total number of issued permits to 97. No other substantive changes have occurred, and the system remains fully operational.
Evidence provided	- Screenshot of the Register of issued permits hosted on the eGHG platform https://e-GHG-portal.ekologija.gov.rs/, demonstrating that 97 GHG emission permits have been issued. All other supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect

	its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not identified in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 19

The step under review	Designation of a single contact point in line with the RED II Directive
Baseline	Renewables Law adopted. The Law provides a basis for guarantees of origin and prosumers, but not for permitting.
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Single Contact Point established under the previous reporting period remains fully operational in accordance with the phased implementation approach. No material changes have occurred since the previous reporting period. The Contact Point continues to provide information and guidance for the pilot strategic renewable energy project (1 GW solar power plant), while the gradual expansion of its scope to additional renewable energy projects will follow future amendments to the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources (preparatory activities for amendments to the Law are ongoing and subject to public consultation), with the objective of achieving full alignment with the Renewable Energy Directive.
Evidence provided	All supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable.

Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 20

The step under review	The EPBD is implemented: recast of minimum energy performance standards for non-residential buildings and setting nearly zero energy building standards for new buildings, issuing of EPC in line with EPBD; independent control systems for EPC and inspection reports for heating and cooling systems.
Baseline	CREP system is operational
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	Regarding the activities related to the sub-step under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI), the majority of actions required to achieve this step are directly dependent on the completion and adoption of the National Methodology for the Calculation of Energy

	Performance of Buildings and are ongoing. Mitigation measures have been put in place through an accelerated implementation schedule agreed with the contractor. With respect to the activities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Mining and Energy (MoME), this sub-step has been successfully completed, with MoME authorizing economic operators to carry out inspections of heating and cooling systems in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. MoME had issued formal authorizations to two operators: - DOO ZA PROIZVODNJU, EXPORT-IMPORT GASTEC VRŠAC, - Komunalno preduzeće Dimničar AD, Belgrade. These operators are officially authorized to perform inspections and have been registered in the Registry of Persons Authorized for Heating and Cooling System Inspections (official registry maintained by the Ministry of Mining and Energy - Registar ovlasćenih lica za kontrolu sistema za grejanje i klimatizaciju-sajt.26062026.pdf). In addition, MoME has established a functional system for submitting inspection requests and reporting results electronically, ensuring that all inspection reports are collected, stored, and managed in accordance with the Law and relevant by-laws (electronic system for submitting and storing inspection reports, maintained by MoME).
Evidence provided	Extract from the official Registry of Persons Authorized for Heating and Cooling System Inspections, maintained by the Ministry of Mining and Energy
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	A thorough desk-based review was carried out by the Ministry of Mining and Energy to examine all relevant documents.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 21

The step under review	The establishment of the Just Transition governance process in accordance with the adopted Just Transition Action Plan and Just Transition Fund for Serbia is established with the financial support of the European Union [via the Reform and Growth Facility] and potentially other donors
Baseline	First NECP adopted
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Just Transition governance process is operational in accordance with the establishment of the governance framework reported previously. Since the last reporting period, the Interministerial Working Group has been expanded to include six civil society organisations, as well as representatives of the EBRD, the World Bank, UNDP, KfW and GIZ, further strengthening the inclusiveness and coordination of the governance process. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 5 June 2026, marking the commencement of operational activities. Further institutional capacity within the Ministry of Mining and Energy has been reinforced through the engagement of two staff members within the Just Transition Unit, with the recruitment of an additional staff member planned. Regarding the financing mechanism, the Government's December 2025 decision on the use of current budget reserve funds is in force, the Ministry of Mining and Energy submitted a renewed request to the Ministry of Finance in June 2026 to establish a dedicated budget line for Just Transition. A response from the Ministry of Finance was received on 30 June 2026, indicating that the request will be considered as part of the forthcoming amendments to the 2026 Budget Law and the preparation of the Budget Law for the following fiscal year
Evidence provided	- Decision on Amendment of the Decision on the Establishment of an Interministerial Working Group No: 4817680 2025 14820 010 000 000 011, dated 27 February 2026; - Minutes of the first meeting of the Interministerial Working Group held on 5 June 2026. - Requests from MoME to the Ministry of Finance in June 2026 to establish a dedicated budget line for Just Transition. - A response from the Ministry of Finance All other supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of	A desk-based review of the newly adopted documents and supporting evidence was carried out by the Ministry of Mining and Energy to verify the continued implementation of the governance framework.

the step and related findings	For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 22

The step under review	Serbia is aligned with the Gigabit Infrastructure Act through the adoption of the Law on Broadband infrastructure by the National Parliament
Baseline	Law on Broadband not adopted
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The new Law on Measures to Reduce the Cost of Deploying Very High Capacity Electronic Communications Networks, aiming at full alignment with the Gigabit Infrastructure Act, was drafted. Public consultations on the Draft Law were conducted in the period from September 17 to October 6 2025 and comments received from stakeholders were assessed and incorporated where appropriate. Draft Law was submitted to the European Commission in mid-October. Upon completion of the consultation process with representatives of

	the European Commission, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications received a positive assessment from the EC. Consequently, the procedure for the adoption of the law was initiated and comments received from competent institutions were incorporated where appropriate. Further on, the Government adopted the Draft Law on 4 May 2026 and submitted it to the National Assembly for consideration and adoption. The legislative proposal was registered under No. 1678-26 and is currently listed as "under procedure". Also, the Draft Law was submitted to the EC and the Ministry is expecting the Commission's feedback.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 23

The step under review	Serbia has joined the EU Third Countries trusted list for the validation of electronic signatures as advanced electronic in the EU as a first step towards pursuing mutual recognition of qualified trust services
Baseline	Serbia is not member of the EU Third Countries trusted list for the validation of electronic signatures as advanced electronic in the EU
Deadline of the step	December 2025

Actual results	In April 2025, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications submitted an official request to the European Commission for the inclusion of the Republic of Serbia on the EU Third Countries trusted list for the validation of advanced electronic signatures and seals as advanced in the EU. Following the submission of the request, consultations were held with the European Commission in order to assess the alignment of the Serbian legal and technical framework with the requirements of the eIDAS Regulation and relevant European standards. On the basis of the preliminary comments received from the European Commission, the Ministry prepared amendments to the relevant secondary legislation concerning qualified electronic signature and seal creation devices, qualified electronic certificates, and the form and manner of publication of the Serbian Trusted List of qualified trust services. The draft amendments were submitted to the European Commission for review. The European Commission indicated that the proposed amendments largely addressed the previously identified issues, while also submitting additional questions and comments concerning certain technical and regulatory matters, including the application of relevant ETSI standards and requirements related to cryptographic algorithms. The Ministry reviewed the additional comments of the European Commission, prepared responses and clarifications, and submitted new versions of the draft amendments to the European Commission for further consideration. The response of the European Commission is expected in the forthcoming period. If necessary, the Ministry will carry out final alignment of the relevant secondary legislation and continue the procedure for the inclusion of the Republic of Serbia on the EU Third Countries trusted list.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The status of the step was assessed on the basis of the activities carried out in the procedure for the inclusion of the Republic of Serbia on the EU Third Countries trusted list. The official request was submitted to the European Commission, technical consultations with the European Commission were held, and amendments to the relevant secondary legislation were prepared and submitted for review. Following the additional comments received from the European Commission, the Ministry prepared and submitted responses, clarifications and updated versions of the draft amendments for further consideration.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A

Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 24

The step under review	Compliance with the EU digital identity Regulation and eIDAS Regulation is achieved through the adoption of the amendments of the Law on Electronic Document, Electronic Identification and Trust Services in Electronic Business [or a new law depending on % of amendments] by the National Parliament
Baseline	Amendments of the Law on Electronic Document, Electronic Identification and Trust Services in Electronic Business not adopted
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Ministry of Information and Telecommunications has continued activities on the Draft Law on Electronic Document, Electronic Identification and Trust Services in Electronic Business, with the aim of aligning the national legal framework with the EU digital identity framework and the eIDAS Regulation, including the introduction of the digital identity wallet. Due to the scope and number of required amendments, it was decided that a completely new law would be prepared instead of amendments to the existing law. Following the public consultation, which was carried out from 26 December 2025 to 19 January 2026 on the basis of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Serbia of 26 December 2025, the Ministry reviewed the received comments and proposals and continued the preparation of the Draft Law. The Draft Law was prepared and, on 31 March 2026, submitted to the European Commission and to the competent national authorities for opinion. In June 2026, the European Commission delivered its preliminary findings on the Draft Law. The Ministry is currently reviewing the preliminary findings and the opinions received from the competent authorities, with a view to further harmonising the text before its submission to the Government procedure. The final opinion of the European Commission is expected in the forthcoming period.
Evidence provided	N/A

Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The status of the step was assessed on the basis of the activities carried out by the Ministry during the current stage of preparation of the Draft Law. The Draft Law on Electronic Document, Electronic Identification and Trust Services in Electronic Business was prepared and submitted to the European Commission and competent national authorities for opinion on 31 March 2026. In June 2026, the European Commission delivered its preliminary findings, while the final opinion is expected in the forthcoming period.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 25

The step under review	The Law on Information Security is adopted by the Parliament in full alignment with the NIS2 directive
Baseline	Law on Information Security not aligned with NIS2
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Law on Information Security was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia on 22 October 2025 and entered into force on 31 October 2025. The adopted Law establishes a new legal framework for strengthening national information security and further aligning the Serbian framework with the NIS2 Directive. It introduces a revised classification of operators of ICT systems of special importance into priority and important ICT systems, strengthens obligations related to risk management and incident reporting, improves supervision and enforcement mechanisms, and provides the legal basis for the establishment of the Office for Information Security and for further development of the national cybersecurity framework. The drafting process included public consultations carried out in accordance with national procedures, as well as consultations with relevant stakeholders. The draft Law was also submitted to the European Commission, together with the table of concordance, for assessment of its alignment with the NIS2

	Directive. Following the comments and recommendations received from the European Commission, the text was further revised, and most of the comments were incorporated into the final version adopted by the National Assembly. Following the adoption of the Law, activities are ongoing on the preparation of secondary legislation necessary for its full implementation. The adoption of the Law represents the key legislative milestone for the alignment of the national information security framework with the NIS2 Directive. The final assessment of compliance by the European Commission is expected after the relevant draft secondary legislation has been submitted and reviewed.
Evidence provided	Official publication of the Law on Information Security in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, available at the following link: https://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/slglrsViewPdf/ac82eb18-d107-48bb-8e77-47525a36a48b?fromLink=true. The Law is published on page 17 of the Official Gazette (in Serbian). All relevant supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	According to the Reform Agenda, the official source for verifying the fulfilment of this step is the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia. The verification of the step was carried out by confirming that the Law on Information Security was adopted by the National Assembly and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia. For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the step does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).

Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 26

The step under review	List of entities in scope of the national law corresponding to the NIS2 Directive is finalized and Frameworks introduced by NIS2 alignment (CVD framework, crisis management framework), are in place and in use
Baseline	List of entities in scope of the national law corresponding to the NIS2 Directive is NOT prepared and Frameworks NOT introduced by NIS2 alignment (CVD framework, crisis management)
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	Activities related to the fulfilment of this step are ongoing as part of the preparation of secondary legislation necessary for the implementation of the Law on Information Security and further alignment with the NIS2 framework. The step concerns, in particular, the establishment of the list of entities falling within the scope of the national information security framework and the operationalisation of the frameworks introduced through NIS2 alignment, including the coordinated vulnerability disclosure framework. The Ministry of Information and Telecommunications has prepared the Draft Regulation on general and sector-specific criteria for determining operators of priority and important ICT systems of special importance. The Draft Regulation was submitted to competent national authorities for opinion on 5 March 2026 and to the European Commission for opinion on 6 March 2026. The Ministry is currently awaiting the opinion of the European Commission, after which the received comments will be reviewed, the text further aligned as necessary, and the Draft Regulation submitted to the Government for adoption. In parallel, the Draft Regulation governing the reporting, recording and coordination of vulnerability remediation in ICT systems has been fully prepared. This regulation is intended to establish the coordinated vulnerability disclosure framework by defining the procedure for reporting vulnerabilities, their verification, recording and coordination with affected entities and competent authorities. The Draft Regulation is expected to be submitted to the

	European Commission and competent national authorities for opinion in the coming days.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The status of the step was assessed on the basis of the current stage of preparation of the relevant secondary legislation. The assessment confirmed that the Draft Regulation on criteria for determining operators of priority and important ICT systems of special importance has been prepared and submitted to competent national authorities and the European Commission for opinion, with the opinion of the European Commission still pending. It was also confirmed that the Draft Regulation on coordinated vulnerability disclosure has been fully prepared and is expected to be submitted to the European Commission and competent national authorities for opinion in the coming days.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 27

The step under review	The Law on Artificial Intelligence is adopted, based on a high-risk approach, and with the necessary enforcement structures in place
Baseline	AI regulation is not adopted
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The preparation of the draft Law on Artificial Intelligence is in its final stage. Following the work carried out by the Working Group and the incorporation of relevant comments and inputs, the draft text is currently undergoing final adjustments. The initiation of the public consultation process is expected in the coming period, subject to the completion of the necessary procedural steps. The objective remains to establish a comprehensive legislative framework aligned

	with the EU Artificial Intelligence Act and adapted to the national legal and institutional context.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 28

The step under review	The Office for Information Security [within the Office for IT and e-Government] is operational [sufficiently staffed with at least 20 employees, equipped with supervisory powers, performing supervisory checks]
Baseline	Office for Cybersecurity not operational and with not supervisory powers
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The Department of Information Security is fully operational in line with the reform step requirements. As regards its expert supervision mandate following the establishment of the Department of Information Security and its Group for Risk Management and Expert Supervision of ICT Systems in December 2025, the Annual Expert Supervision Plan for 2026 (hereinafter: the Plan) was adopted within the deadline prescribed by the Law on Information Security (hereinafter: LIS), on April 6 2026. The Plan defines the scope, priorities, methodology and schedule for conducting expert supervision of ICT systems, including preventive and continuous expert supervision, security assessments, verification of compliance, and monitoring of corrective measures.

	In May 2026, in accordance with the LIS and the Plan, expert supervision was conducted over two entities. The expert supervision was conducted in accordance with the scope defined in the Plan, and included verification of compliance with legal obligations, review of relevant documentation, organisational and technical protection measures, implementation of the ICT system security act, performance of the annual compliance review of the implemented security controls, software update processes, as well as data backup and retention procedures. Records of the conducted expert supervision were prepared, while the findings and recommendations were documented through the relevant checklists. Activities in the expert supervision domain, together with the Department's other activities, contribute to improving the level of compliance of operators of ICT systems of special importance with the requirements of the national information security framework and to strengthening the resilience of public administration information and communication systems.
Evidence provided	Report on the expert supervision activities of the Department of Information Security Expert supervision plan for 2026 on the implementation of the Law on Information Security and the operations of operators of ICT systems of special importance as designated by the Law All other supporting evidence submitted within the third payment request remains valid and applicable.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The step has been fully achieved and the Department's operations are monitored continually. For payment steps previously submitted, the checks performed were conducted and documented in the respective Payment Requests. Checks were continued throughout the current reporting period, ensuring ongoing monitoring of the implementation status of the payment step. Developments relevant to the payment step were tracked through regular technical meetings held during the reporting period. These meetings enabled the NC TS to follow further progress in implementation, monitor the continued fulfilment of the payment step, and identify any developments that could affect its previously achieved status. The relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section "Summary of checks performed".
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement.

	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step is pending the European Commission's formal assessment following its previous submission. The Republic of Serbia considers the step to be fully achieved and therefore resubmits it for assessment.

Fiche No. 29

The step under review	a. Relevant legislation to address ODIHR and Council of Europe key recommendations, revised and adopted b. Improved capacities of Republic Electoral Commission and granting it its own secretariat.
Baseline	ODIHR February 2024 Report recommending to address recommendations pertaining to amending election legislation and capacities of Republic Electoral Commission
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	a. Revise and adopt relevant legislation to address ODIHR and Council of Europe key recommendations On 20 May 2026, the National Assembly adopted the following: - Law Amending the Law on the Election of Members of Parliament, - Law Amending the Law on Local Elections, and - Law Amending the Law on the Constitutional Court. The Draft Law Amending the Law on Financing Political Activities entered parliamentary procedure on 24 June 2026. The Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending scheduled four public hearings at which this Draft Law will be discussed, namely: - on 30 June 2026, a public hearing will be held in Kragujevac, - on 1 July 2026, a public hearing will be held in Niš, - on 2 July 2026, a public hearing will be held in Novi Sad, - on 3 July 2026, a public hearing will be held in Belgrade.

	On 19 May 2026, the Draft Law Amending the Law on the Prevention of Corruption (addressing two additional ODIHR recommendations) was submitted to ODIHR for opinion. ODIHR's Opinion was received on 26 June 2026. b. Improve capacities of Republic Electoral Commission and grant it its own secretariat Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Republic Electoral Commission (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 19/22) lays down that the National Assembly Service shall ensure and provide the necessary professional, administrative and technical assistance in carrying out the tasks within the REC's and its Working Groups' purview, in compliance with the law and the National Assembly's Decision on organisation and operation of the National Assembly Service. The Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Job Classification (Systematisation) in the National Assembly Service of 20 December 2024 lays down the establishment of the Republic Electoral Commission's Support Sector within the National Assembly Service. The job classification comprises a total of 21 job positions with 39 employees.
Evidence provided	https://www.parlament.gov.rs/akti/doneti-zakoni/doneti-zakoni.1033.html http://www.parlament.gov.rs/national-assembly/organisation-and-support-service.508.html
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	In the first composite sub-step: Consultations were held with ODIHR, which on several occasions provided informal opinions on the draft laws.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 30

The step under review	The legislation foreseen following the adoption of action plans on gender-based violence, de-institutionalisation and national minorities is prepared and adopted (following transparent and inclusive consultations in Serbia and with the Commission, and in line with the EU acquis and European and UN standards)
Baseline	Existing legal framework related to those areas need to be aligned with EU acquis and EU and UN standards
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	MoJ Criminal Procedure Code By the Decision of the Minister of Justice No. 119-01-126/2021-05 of 12 May 2021, the Working Group for the Analysis of Criminal Procedure was established in order to identify and eliminate its weaknesses and shortcomings and to prepare a draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code based on the results of the analysis. The draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code was sent to the European Commission for an expert opinion on 26 August 2024, together with the accompanying Table of Concordance with relevant EU regulations. A public debate was held from 1 October to 1 November 2024. The expert opinion of the European Commission on the text of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code was submitted to the Ministry of Justice in mid-November 2024. Given the great public interest in the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code, another round of public debate was held from 10 September to 1 October, 2025. The translated draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code together with the Tables of Concordance was sent to the European Commission on 15 October 2025. The European Commission provided additional comments on the submitted document on 11 November 2025, and the Ministry of Justice submitted its responses to all comments on 14 January 2026. Following the European Commission's final assessment, the necessary steps for the adoption of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code will be undertaken. The adoption of the Law is expected during 2026. Criminal Code By the Decision of the Minister of Justice No. 119-01-125/2021-05 of 12 May 2021, the Working Group for the Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Criminal

Justice System was established, based on completed cases, with the aim of identifying and eliminating its weaknesses and shortcomings and to prepare a draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code based on the results of the analysis. The Working Group meets regularly.

The draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code was submitted to the European Commission for expert opinion on 26 August 2024, together with the accompanying table of compliance with relevant EU legislation. A public debate was held from 1 October to 1 November 2024. The expert opinion of the European Commission on the text of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code was submitted to the Ministry of Justice in mid-November 2024. Afterwards Draft text was consolidated with the submitted comments from the European Commission as well as the comments from the public debate that Ministry of Justice received. Given the great public interest in the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code, another round of public debate was held from 10 September to 1 October 2025.

The translated draft Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code together with the Tables of Concordance was sent to the European Commission on 15 October 2025.

The European Commission provided additional comments on the submitted document on 11 November 2025, and the Ministry of Justice submitted its responses to all comments on 14 January 2026.

Following the European Commission's final assessment of 29 May 2026, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Draft Law on the Amendment to the Criminal Code concerning Article 348 on 18 June 2026 and submitted it to the National Assembly on 19 June 2026 to initiate the final adoption procedure.

Following the European Commission's final assessment, the necessary steps for the adoption of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code will be undertaken.

The adoption of the Law is expected during 2026.

Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence

The Working group for drafting the text of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence was established by the Decision of the Minister of Justice No 011-00-108/2025-05 from 30 July 2025.

The translated Draft of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence together with the Tables of Concordance was sent to the European Commission on 10 November 2025.

Public debate on the Draft of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence was held from 12 November to 2 December 2025. The translated report of Public debate was sent to the European Commission on 18 December 2025.

	On 18 May 2026, the European Commission provided its opinion and comments on the Draft Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, and the Ministry of Justice submitted its responses to all comments on 18 June 2026. The adoption of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence is expected during 2026. Law on Juvenile Criminal Offenders and Criminal Protection of Juveniles The Working group for drafting the text of the Law on Juvenile Criminal Offenders and Criminal Protection of Juveniles was established by the Decision of the Minister of Justice No. 011-00-81/2024-05 of 27 June 2025. First meeting of the Working group was organized on the 3 July 2025. Public debate on the Draft of the Law on Juvenile Criminal Offenders and Criminal Protection of Juveniles was held from 10 September to 1 October 2025. The translated Draft of the Law on Juvenile Criminal Offenders and Criminal Protection of Juveniles together with the Tables of Concordance was sent to the European Commission on 15 October 2025. The adoption of the law is expected during 2026. MFWD Family Law The Ministry of Family Welfare and Demography initiated the set up the Working Group mandated to prepare Draft Amendments of the Family Law in December 2025. Draft Law on Amendments of the Family Law was submitted to the EC for opinion at the end of April 2026 after public hearing held in March and April 2026. Until the end of June 2026, any feedback from the EC has been not received yet. The adoption of the Law on Amendments of Family Law is expected during 2026.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general	N/A

principles and DNSH principle	
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 31

The step under review	Full implementation of media legislation is ensured, [December 2025] in particular: All external complaints received by REM in 2025 are decided upon and published, including explanations on REM reasoning. Public co-funding of media content complies with Article 24 of the Law on public information and media.
Baseline	According to the Law on Public Information and media open calls for proposals for co-financing projects for producing for media content of public interest are launched and procedures are ongoing
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	MIT According to Article 16, paragraph 1, item 4 of the Law on Public Information and Media (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 92/23 and 51/25), the Republic of Serbia shall achieve public interest in the field of public information by co-financing projects in the field of public information. In accordance with Art.18 the Republic of Serbia, the Autonomous Province or the local self-government unit shall provide from their budgets part of the funding for the achievement of public interest in the field of public information and shall allocate such funding on the basis of public competitions and allowances, pursuant to the regulations governing the granting of state aid and competition protection, without discrimination. Projects are mainly financed through open calls for projects announced to provide financial support for the production of media content that contributes to the achievement of the public interest in the field of public information, defined in Article 15 of the Law on Public Information and Media. Additionally, with a view to aggregating all relevant information and improving the transparency of co-financing of projects in the field of public information conduct, the procedure of co-financing of the projects procedure is implemented

through an online platform - the Unified Information System for the Implementation and Monitoring of Co-financing of Projects in the Field of Public Information (JIS) and all data, except personal data, are public, and the entire process is transparent.

Article 24, paragraph 1 of the Law stipulates that the project shall be assessed, among other things, according to the extent to which the media outlet through which the project will be implemented adheres to professional and ethical standards.

The aforementioned measure shall be proven by obtaining data from the competent bodies that in the year preceding the open call no measure was issued by the regulatory authority in the case of electronic media, or no act was issued by the self-regulatory authority of the Press Council – for print and online media, which determined that the specific media outlet violated legal provisions, i.e. standards of professional ethics.

Also, Article 32, paragraph 1, item 4 of the Law stipulates that, among other things, the persons obliged to enter data and documents and the users of the Unified Information System are representatives of state authorities, the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media and the Press Council who impose measures on media outlets for violations of regulations and professional and ethical standards.

In addition, Article 33, paragraph 1, item 2) of the Law stipulates that the Unified Information System also contains data on measures imposed by state authorities, the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media and the Press Council for violations of regulations and professional and ethical standards.

Based on Article 17 of the Rulebook on Co-financing of Projects for the Realization of Public Interest in the Field of Public Information (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 6/24, 106/24 and 98/25), one of the criteria for evaluating projects submitted to the open call for projects is whether the media outlet through which the project will be implemented has been subject to measures imposed by state authorities, the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media or the Press Council during the previous calendar year for violating professional and ethical standards.

According to the scoring list for evaluating media content production projects, the members of the Commission had the opportunity to rate the media outlet that applied for the open call based on the measures imposed by the Press Council with the following points for measure 7. Measure in which the media outlet through which the project will be implemented adheres to professional and ethical standards:

- 0 - the imposed measure was not published;
- 5 - multiple measures were imposed and published;
- 10 - the imposed measure was published and not repeated;
- 15 - no measure was imposed.

	Conclusion on the achievement of the step: Fully achieved REM According to the European Commission's clarification, REM has not fulfilled the step on the transparency of its work, due to objective legal and institutional constraints. All complaints and decisions adopted by the REM Council in 2023 and 2024 have been published on REM's official website. Furthermore, all complaints submitted after the expiration of the mandate of the previous Council, together with reports and analyses prepared by REM's professional departments - intended for consideration by the newly appointed Council - covering November and December 2024 and the year 2025 and 2026, have also been published. However, formal decisions on external complaints submitted in late 2024 and throughout 2025 and 2026 have not yet been adopted, as the REM Council - the only body authorized under the Law on Electronic Media to consider and adopt such decisions - has not yet been appointed fully.
Evidence provided	The relevant publicly available documentation is available at the following links: Complaints and decisions from 2023: https://www.rem.rs/sr/izvestaji-i-analize/izvestaji-i-analize-o-nadzoru-pruzalaca-medijskih-usluga/izbori/izbori-2023/prijave-izbori-2023 Complaints and decisions from 2024: https://www.rem.rs/sr/izvestaji-i-analize/izvestaji-i-analize-o-nadzoru-pruzalaca-medijskih-usluga/izbori/izbori-2024/prijave-izbori-2024 Complaints and reports (analyses) from November–December 2024 and 2025/2026: https://www.rem.rs/sr/prijave/odluke-po-prijavama English translation of analyses for 2025/2026: https://rem.rs/en/complaints/decisions-on-complaints
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	MIT According to the Law on Public Information and Media, a Unified Information System (JIS) has been established for the implementation and monitoring of co-financing of projects in the field of public information. From the archive of decisions and complaints (link https://savetzastampu.rs/zalbe/?zalbe_page=1) of the Press Council for media that violated the code in the last twelve months of 2025, it was established that

	measures were issued against some of the media outlets that participated at the open calls for projects in the field of public information. REM The Expert departments of REM carried out checks for the purpose of verifying this step and published the relevant complaints, reports and available decisions in accordance with their statutory competences.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 32

The step under review	Adoption of operational plan on financial investigations
Baseline	Currently there is no any strategic framework covering the financial investigations in Serbia
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	The revised Action Plan for Chapter 23: "Judiciary and Fundamental Rights" and the revised Action Plan for Chapter 24: "Justice, Freedom, and Security," in the subchapters related to the fight against corruption and organized crime, envisage the development and adoption of a strategic framework in the field of combating financial crime. Moreover, the Reform Agenda of the Republic of Serbia, through the European Union Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, includes the adoption of an Operational Plan for Financial Investigations as one of the measures in the fight against organized crime. Pursuant to the abovementioned, the Ministry of Justice, on 13 May 2025, established the Working Group for drafting the Operational Plan for Financial Investigations. The Working Group consists of relevant stakeholders (representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime, representatives of the Ministry of Finance, National Bank, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Republic Directorate for

	Property of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian Business Registers Agency, Republic Geodetic Authority). The inaugural meeting of the Working Group was organized on 26 May 2025. The second meeting of the Working Group for drafting the Operational Plan for Financial Investigations was held in the form of a three-day retreat in Sokobanja, in the period of 9-11 June 2025. Public debate on the Draft text of the Operational Plan for Financial Investigations was held from 22 October to 10 November, 2025. The translated Draft text of the Operational Plan for Financial Investigations was sent to the EC on 25 November 2025. The European Commission submitted its opinion and additional comments on 16 February 2026. Comments were addressed to the relevant institutions. A meeting of the Working Group was held on Thursday, 5 March 2026, to discuss and agree on the comments submitted by the European Commission. The revised Draft Operational Plan for Financial Investigations was submitted to the European Commission on 30 April 2026. On 27 May 2026, the European Commission provided its preliminary assessment. The Ministry of Justice is currently working on implementing the recommendations from the TAIEX expert mission report and will submit an improved version of the Draft to the European Commission as soon as possible. The adoption of the Operational Plan for Financial Investigations is expected during 2026.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 33

The step under review	All vacant positions for prosecutors and judges in anti-corruption departments and in special prosecutor's office for organised crime, and special department of the higher court and of the appellate court in Belgrade for organised crime are filled in accordance with the Annual Schedule of Judges (adopted by the HJC) and the Decision of the High Prosecution Council on the number of public prosecutors and trained.
Baseline	No of employees in special departments for Suppression of Corruption in the High Courts Beograd – 4, Novi Sad – 6, Niš – 5, Kraljevo – 6, Special Department of the Appellate Court in Belgrade has 11 judges. No. of employees in special departments for Suppression of Corruption within the High Prosecution Offices Beograd – 9, Novi Sad – 12, Niš – 9, Kraljevo – 6, Prosecutors Office for Organised Crime has 22 public prosecutors.
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	High Judicial Council The annual schedule of the court activities is not adopted by the High Judicial Council. Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on the Organization of Courts ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 10/23), the annual schedule of work activities shall be adopted by the president of the court. Article 36 prescribes the procedure for adopting the annual schedule of activities. The president of the court determines the schedule of court activities in writing for the following year after obtaining the opinion of the judges and announces it at a session of all judges by 1 November of the current year. A judge can file an objection to the annual schedule of activities and changes to the annual schedule to the High Judicial Council, within three days from the day the schedule of activities or amendments are presented at the session of all judges or from the day the judge becomes acquainted with the annual schedule

of activities, if the judge, for justified reasons, did not attend the session of all judges.

Article 53 prescribes the rights and obligations of court president. The court president shall organise the work of the court, represents the court, manages court administration, ensure the implementation of the Court Rules of Procedure, and shall be responsible for the proper and timely operation of the court. The court president is required to ensure legality, order and accuracy in the court, order removal of irregularities and prevent excessive delays in work, designate ex officio lawyers, ensure the safeguarding of the independence of judges and the reputation of the court, and perform other tasks set forth by law and the Court Rules of Procedure.

Taking into account the above legal provisions, it is a fact that the president of the court, through the annual schedule of work, assigns judges to court divisions, including, among others, the Organized Crime Division and the Anti-Corruption Division in courts where such divisions exist, while ensuring the proper and timely functioning of the court.

We specifically point out that courts publish their annual schedules of activities on their official websites. The annual schedule of work lists the names of judges assigned to the Organized Crime Division and the Anti-Corruption Division.

No of employees in special departments for Suppression of Corruption in the High Courts

Beograd – 21,

Novi Sad – 7,

Niš – 6,

Kraljevo – 5,

Special Department of the Appellate Court in Belgrade has 12 judges.

Conclusion on the achievement of the step: *Fully achieved*

High Prosecutorial Council

The Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime has **25** systematized positions, **9** filled and **16** vacant positions. There are **15** seconded public prosecutors in the Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime.

The procedure for the election of **9** public prosecutors of the Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime is ongoing.

Number of public prosecutors in special departments for combating corruption in higher prosecutors' offices:

Belgrade - 18

Novi Sad - 12

Niš - 9

Kraljevo – 11

	Conclusion on the achievement of the step: <i>Not achieved</i> as the Council has been in a deadlock for the better part of 2025 and, as a consequence, unable to finalize the election process for the PPOOC and the Higher Public Prosecutor's offices in question. However, the Council has seconded more public prosecutors to the PPOOC, bringing the total number of public prosecutors in this office to 24 (9 elected and 15 seconded), out of the maximum of 25 systematized positions.
Evidence provided	High Judicial Council https://vss.sud.rs/sednice High Prosecutorial Council HPC Sessions regarding the secondment of public prosecutors to the PPOOC: https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Dnevni-red-5.pdf https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Dnevni-red-4.pdf Current competitions for public prosecutor elections: https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Javni-konkurs-za-izbor-javnihtuzilaca.pdf https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Javni-konkurs-za-izbor-javnihtuzilaca-sajt.pdf https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Javni-konkurs-za-izbor-javnog-tuzioca-u-Vjt-NS-19.5.2025.-sajt.pdf https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Javni-konkurs-za-izbor-javnog-tuzioca-u-Vjt-NS-sajt-002.pdf https://vst.jt.rs/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Javni-konkurs-za-izbor-javnihtuzilaca-sajt-1.pdf
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	Review of the High Prosecutorial Council sessions regarding the election and secondment process for the PPOOC and the election process of public prosecutors in higher public prosecutor's offices with special departments for combating corruption.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A

Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 34

The step under review	Number of elected judges and number of public prosecutors increased by 10%
Baseline	2 718 judges employed 689 public prosecutors perform their duties
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	High Judicial Council In the period from October 2024 to 31 December 2025, a total of 153 judges were elected for the first time. In the period from January 2026 to June 2026 a total of 167 judges were elected for the first time. Update: In the period from October 2024 to June 2026 a total of 320 judges were elected for the first time. Conclusion on the achievement of the step: <i>Fully achieved</i> High Prosecutorial Council Currently there are systematized 899 public prosecutor and 90 chief public prosecutor positions, including the Supreme Public Prosecutor, in the Republic of Serbia. Of these systematized positions, 735 public prosecutor and 62 chief public prosecutor positions (including the Supreme Public Prosecutor) are filled. All the 51 public prosecutors who were elected in 2025 but hadn't taken office due to appeals filed with the Constitutional Court, have since taken office, as the appeals were rejected. These public prosecutors are included in the mentioned 735.

	Public competitions for 20 Chief Public Prosecutors and 88 Public Prosecutors were unsuccessful as the Council was unable to achieve a qualified super majority and finalize their election. Conclusion on the achievement of the step: <i>Not achieved</i> as the Council has been in a deadlock for the better part of 2025 and, consequently, was unsuccessful in electing 20 chief public prosecutors and 88 public prosecutors. The Council is forced to repeat the whole election process for these positions with new public competitions.
Evidence provided	High Judicial Council All decisions are published on the website of the High Judicial Council www.vss.sud.rs and in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" and thus available to the public.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

JUNE 2026

Fiche No. 35

The step under review	The Law on Land Consolidation is adopted
Baseline	No Law on Land Consolidation
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	The Draft Law on Land Consolidation has been prepared.

	The Conclusion on the conduct of a public consultation on the Draft Law on Land Consolidation has been adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Public consultation procedure has been initiated in accordance with the prescribed procedure. During the period from 10th until 30th of July, interested parties were able to submit comments, proposals and suggestions on the text of the Draft Law. All information on consultations are available on the website of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and can be found on the following link: Public consultations Following the completion of the public consultation procedure and the review of the submitted comments, the Law will be translated and subsequently submitted to European Commission for consultations.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 36

The step under review	TSO to participate in Regional Coordination Centres and fulfil conditions to join EU balancing platforms
Baseline	The primary and secondary legislation establishing a legal basis is in the process of preparation. Expected adoption is Q4 2024
Deadline of the step	June 2026

Actual results	Since the previous reporting period, progress has continued on the implementation of the remaining activities required for TSO participation in Regional Coordination Centres and preparation for integration into EU balancing platforms. The European Commission has informed that the previously reported transposed Electricity Integration Package requires further alignment of certain secondary legislation, resulting in a re-verification process by the Energy Community Secretariat and the European Commission. In this context, the Republic of Serbia is working on aligning its legislation with the comments provided by the European Commission in order to address identified gaps and enable the completion of the renewed verification process. This has led to a delay in the subsequent steps towards full operational readiness for market integration. The exact duration of the delay cannot yet be precisely determined, as it depends on the outcome and timing of the renewed verification process. In parallel, EMS AD Beograd has continued operational preparations for regional coordination and market coupling activities, including engagement with relevant regional coordination centres Selene and TSCNet and the signing of NDA agreements enabling data exchange and cooperation. Preparatory activities related to operational arrangements for cross-zonal capacity allocation, including on the EMS–KOSTT bidding zone border, are ongoing in coordination with relevant regional stakeholders and within applicable regulatory frameworks. With regard to integration into EU balancing platforms, EMS AD Beograd remains the only non-EU TSO actively participating in IGCC, holds observer status in MARI, and continues preparatory technical and organisational activities for future participation in PICASSO. Full operational readiness for advanced balancing platforms remains dependent on the completion of the EIP verification process and subsequent technical adaptation requirements. Technical assessments confirm that further integration into SDAC and SIDC frameworks is feasible, while ongoing preparatory work by NEMOs and TSOs continues in line with regional coordination processes. However, potential regulatory developments at EU level, including CBAM-related measures, may have implications for the timing of full market integration, which remains under assessment.
Evidence provided	Notification on the commencement of the drafting process for the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources, published on the national e-Consultation Portal and the official website of the Ministry of Mining and Energy (https://ekonsultacije.gov.rs/topicOfDiscussionPage/718/3 and https://www.mre.gov.rs/tekst/16291/-obavestenje-da-otpocinje-izrada-nacrta-zakona-o-izmenama-i-dopunama-zakona-o-koriscenju-obnovljivih-izvora-energije-kao-i-polazne-osnove-za-njegovu-izradu.php).

Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 37

The step under review	Adoption of the legal and institutional framework for designating renewable acceleration areas and permit granting procedures in line with the Directive (EU) 2023/2413
Baseline	Renewables Law adopted. The Law provides a basis for guarantees of origin and prosumers, but not for permitting.
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	Progress continues on the adoption of the legal and institutional framework for designating renewable acceleration areas and permit granting procedures in line with Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III). Following the completion of the legal gap analysis under the PLAC technical assistance, the Ministry of Mining and Energy prepared draft amendments to the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources and initiated an extensive inter-institutional consultation process involving the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, AERS, EMS, EPS and EDS. Following several rounds of technical consultations and alignment of comments, the draft law is expected to be submitted to the European Commission for comments in August 2026. Preparatory activities for the public consultation have commenced through the publication of the initial drafting proposal on the national e-Consultation portal

	and the Ministry's website, while the public consultation on the draft law is planned for the second half of July 2026. The establishment of the legal and institutional framework for renewable acceleration areas, including the designation of at least one renewable acceleration area, will proceed following the adoption of the legislative amendments.
Evidence provided	Notification on the commencement of the drafting process for the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources, published on the national e-Consultation Portal and the official website of the Ministry of Mining and Energy (https://ekonsultacije.gov.rs/topicOfDiscussionPage/718/3 and https://www.mre.gov.rs/tekst/16291/-obavestenje-da-otpocinje-izrada-nacrta-zakona-o-izmenama-i-dopunama-zakona-o-koriscenju-obnovljivih-izvora-energije-kao-i-polazne-osnove-za-njegovu-izradu.php).
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	A desk-based review by the Ministry of Mining and Energy was carried out of the available documentation related to the preparation of the legal and institutional framework for renewable acceleration areas and permitting procedures.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 38

The step under review	Digital Corners (adult digital skills training centre) are established and operative in 50+ municipalities
Baseline	Digital Corners established in 0 municipalities
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	In the previous period, the Ministry prepared the Study on the Development of Digital Skills in Rural Areas as an internal analytical document, which serves

	as a basis for planning the content of trainings and support to citizens. The study supported the assessment of possible implementation models and the identification of the most suitable approach for establishing Digital Corners. Based on the analysis carried out and the assessment of different implementation models, the establishment of Digital Corners within the existing network of Post of Serbia facilities was identified as the most appropriate solution, taking into account their territorial coverage, accessibility to citizens and visibility in local communities. The Ministry prepared a draft cooperation agreement with Post of Serbia and submitted it to Post of Serbia for opinion. In parallel, the Ministry is carrying out preparatory activities necessary for the next phases of implementation. These activities include the preparation of public procurement documentation, planning of the curriculum and training materials, selection of specific locations, preparation for the adaptation of the selected premises, development of the logo and visual identity of Digital Corners, planning of the procurement and installation of equipment and software solutions, preparation of the training-of-trainers model, promotional activities, and preparation for the first trainings for citizens.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The status of the step was assessed on the basis of the activities carried out by the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications in the current stage of implementation. The assessment confirmed that the preparatory phase has progressed through the preparation of the internal analytical study, the identification of the Post of Serbia network as the preferred implementation model, and the preparation and submission of the draft cooperation agreement to Post of Serbia for opinion.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 39

The step under review	Alignment is achieved with Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information (eFTI)
Baseline	Not harmonized
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	The Draft Law on Electronic Freight Transport Information was submitted, through the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia, to the European Commission for its opinion. In parallel, the Draft Law was circulated to the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia for the purpose of obtaining their opinions. During the inter-institutional consultation process, the Republic Secretariat for Legislation submitted comments and suggestions on the text of the Draft Law. These comments and suggestions were duly considered, accepted, and incorporated into the revised text of the Draft Law. The revised Draft Law was subsequently resubmitted to the Republic Secretariat for Legislation for the issuance of its positive opinion.
Evidence provided	The Draft Law on Electronic Freight Transport Information was published on the official website of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure: (https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/aktuelnosti/javni-poziv-za-ucheshtshe-u-javnoj-raspravi-o-nacrtu-zakona-o-elektronskim-infomacijama)
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 40

The step under review	At least 80% of children aged 3 to 5,5 years enrolled in pre-primary education
Baseline	74.1 (school year 2023/24)
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	The projected value was not achieved: in 2025/26, 74,3% of children of this age was enrolled in preschool education. The trend in the enrolment rates of children aged 3 to 5.5 years has recorded continuous and stable progress: from 63.3% (2020/21) to 70.5% (2023/24) to 74.3% in the 2025/26 school year. Despite this, achieving the strategic goal requires additional expansion of existing spatial capacities and optimization of the network of preschool institutions in accordance with the needs of children and families and the capabilities of local self-governments. The key role in creating conditions for wider participation of children in quality preschool education belongs to local self-governments as the founders of public preschool institutions. It is within the competence of the local self-government to assess the needs of children and families in a specific local community, to map children who are not covered, to monitor demographic trends and internal migration of the population, and to accordingly plan measures to increase the participation of children in early childhood education in the territory of the local government. At the same time, we note that, in relation to the EU priorities until 2030 in the field of preschool education, an increase in the enrolment rates of children from the age of three until the starting age for compulsory primary education can be observed (from 75.4% in 2021/22, over 78.2% in 2023/24 to 80.28% in 2024/25, or 80.73% in 2025/26).
Evidence provided	SORS publication on preschool upbringing and education: SORS announcement for 2025/26 (available at the link: https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2026/Html/G20261104.html) Data on the number of enrolled children of the reference age, which the Ministry of Education requires from the SORS in the process of determining the preschool enrolment rates, are also available in the SORS dissemination database, area: Education, subarea: Preschool education, at the SORS link: https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/11010309?languageCode=sr-Cyrl&displayMode=table&guid=62eff2d3-31ca-4c8a-8dd0-4f5cdfb0e40d Data on the number of live-born children of the appropriate age, which the Ministry of Education requests from the SORS for the purpose of determining the preschool enrolment rates, are also available in the SORS database at the

	link:https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/18030507?languageCode=sr-Cyrl&displayMode=table Additional analysis of the Ministry of Education: Enrolment in Preschool Education in the Republic of Serbia in the context of the Reform Agenda and strategic priorities in education (based on data from the SORS - Department of Education and Department of Vital Statistics)
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 41

The step under review	At least 38% of children aged 6 months to 3 years participate in pre-school education
Baseline	25.9 (school year 2023/24)
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	In the 2025/26 school year, 59,902 children under the age of three attended preschool education programs (which accounts for 39.1% of the total number of live births of this age).
Evidence provided	SORS publication on preschool upbringing and education: SORS announcement for 2025/26 (available at the link: https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2026/Html/G20261104.html) Data on the number of enrolled children of the reference age, which the Ministry of Education requires from the SORS in the process of determining the

	preschool enrolment rates, are also available in the SORS dissemination database, area: Education, subarea: Preschool education, at the SORS link: https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/11010309?languageCode=sr-Cyrl&displayMode=table&guid=817f0845-59b7-4d64-9cc7-a3e50ba47ce8 Data on the number of live-born children of the appropriate age, which the Ministry of Education requests from the SORS in the process of determining the preschool enrolment rates, are also available in the SORS database at the link: https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/18030507?languageCode=sr-Cyrl&displayMode=table MoE Report on Enrolment in Preschool Education in the Republic of Serbia in the Context of the Reform Agenda and Strategic Priorities in Education
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The implementation of the step is verified by the MoE in line with the methodology for determining the status of children's enrolment in early childhood education (Ministry of Education Report), which includes regular communication related to data delivery by SORS (MoE official request from 20 April 2026 and subsequent e-mail correspondence from 21 April until 1 July 2026). As this was the first reporting cycle covering payment steps under Policy Area 3 – Human Capital, particular attention was devoted to their verification throughout the reporting period. Multiple meetings and checks were conducted to enable the NC TS to develop a comprehensive understanding of the relevant data sources, methodology and requirements for assessing fulfilment. On 9 March 2026, representatives of the NC TS visited the Ministry of Education to gain a detailed understanding of the functioning of the Unified Education Information System (JISP) and the methodology used to calculate progress towards the targets defined for the payment steps due in June 2026. Further clarification of the requirements for this payment step was sought at a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Delegation of the European Union on 8 April 2026. The implementation status of the payment step was further discussed in detail at a meeting held on 14 May 2026, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. The discussion focused, inter alia, on the interpretation of the target, the methodology used for its calculation and the information required to assess the status of implementation. Other relevant meetings informing this assessment are described in the section “Summary of checks performed”. The NC TS carried out a detailed desk-based review of the report and supporting information submitted by the Ministry of Education. The review included an examination of the methodology used to calculate the participation

	rate and an independent cross-check of the underlying data against publicly available data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Using the relevant data on children participating in pre-school education and the corresponding demographic data, the NC TS independently applied the methodology described in the submitted report and verified the consistency of the reported result with the underlying official data.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

Fiche No. 42

The step under review	Transition rates from elementary to secondary education increased to 99% and completion rates of secondary students increased to 93%, as projected considering an ambitious yet realistic increase rate. Specific targets for women and students with disabilities [students with individual education plans]
Baseline	Transition rate: 97.9 (2019); Completion rate: 87.0 (2019)
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	Transition rate from primary to secondary education The Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia published by the SORS provides data on the most significant indicators related to secondary education. Educational coverage - represents the ratio of the number of students enrolled in a certain level of education to the corresponding age group for that level of education.

Dropout rate - represents the difference between the number of students at the beginning of the school year and the number of students at the end of the school year, compared to the number of students at the beginning of the school year.

Completion rate – is the ratio of the number of students who have completed the final grade of a particular level of education to the age group expected to complete a particular level of education.

School continuation rate (transition rate from primary to secondary education) - the ratio of the number of newly enrolled students in the first grade of secondary school to the number of students who enrolled in the eighth grade of primary school in the previous school year.

At this time (July 2026), the last published Statistical Yearbook is for 2025 and contains the following indicators of importance for the step being observed:

School continuation rate 100.3%.

Secondary education coverage 86.2%.

The dropout rate in secondary education is 1%.

So, regarding the indicator we are observing – the transition rate from primary to secondary education, we conclude that **the target of 99% has been achieved.**

The value of this indicator, 100.3%, exceeds 100%, and one of the reasons identified is the fact that Serbia has a positive net migration balance in the age group of secondary school students. There is an inflow for secondary school education in Serbia, despite the fact that a certain number of students have left the country to study abroad.

Source:

<https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2025/Pdf/G20252058.pdf>

High school completion rate

High school completion rate it was obtained indirectly, through analysis and assessment, based on official data from the Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia for 2025 published by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, bearing in mind that data on the secondary school completion rate is not provided directly in the yearbook itself.

<https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2025/Pdf/G20252058.pdf>

Secondary education dropout rate, which represents the difference between the number of students at the beginning and the number of students at the end of the school year, compared to the number of students at the beginning of the school year, according to the Statistical Yearbook for 2025 **is 1%.**

The data is located on page 132 of the Yearbook and refers to the 2023/24 school year. This is the last school year for which data has been officially published at this time.

Based on the above, we conclude that in secondary education, 1% of students drop out of the regular school system during the school year. Taken cumulatively, projected on a generation whose secondary education lasts a maximum of 4 years, we arrive at an estimate that the total dropout rate from secondary education is 4%, from which we draw the conclusion that the completion rate is 96%, i.e. that **the target of 93% was achieved**

INDICATORS

1. Support measures for students at risk of early school leaving are continuously implemented (scholarship system, support for resource centers for students with disabilities).

Systemic support is available to children and students from vulnerable social groups: affirmative enrollment in preschool and primary school, application of affirmative action measures for enrollment in secondary school, scholarships, resource centers, a model institution for inclusive education, educational counselors and external advisors for inclusive education, as well as continuous professional development programs for employees in educational institutions in the field of educational inclusion.

The most significant effects of the support measures taken are reflected in the increased inclusion of students from vulnerable social groups in the education system, reduced dropout rates, and prevention of early school leaving. In particular, there is an increase in the number of Roma students enrolling and completing secondary school.

The affirmative action measure for secondary school enrollment for the 2024/25 school year was used by 2,502 Roma students, at least 50% of whom were girls. For the 2025/26 school year, this measure was used by 2,443. In total, more than 25,500 Roma students have used this measure so far.

Through affirmative enrollment in secondary school in the 2025/26 school year, 162 students with developmental disabilities were enrolled.

There are currently 296 Roma pedagogical assistants employed in our schools: 249 in primary schools, 15 in secondary schools, 32 pedagogical assistants in preschool institutions, and the network of these important helpers is continuously expanding, with secondary schools in particular being encouraged to introduce pedagogical assistants. For the 2024/25 school year, 11 new Roma PAs have been employed, while for the current 2025/26 school year, 15 new Roma PAs have been employed. All PAs are provided with free distance learning (financed from the budget of the Ministry of Education).

Scholarships for Roma high school students are a systemic support measure that has contributed to increasing the secondary school completion rate and reducing

dropout rates. In accordance with the Law on Pupil and Student Standards, the Regulation on Pupil and Student Loans and Scholarships, and competitions for the award of scholarships and loans to secondary school students, up to 10 percent of the available number of scholarships and loans is allocated to vulnerable social groups. We note that each school year more scholarships than the prescribed percentage are awarded, as the number of Roma students who are eligible for student scholarships is increasing. Over the past 11 years, a total of 10,931 scholarships have been awarded to Roma high school students, 65% of whom are girls. For the 2024/25 school year, 1,097 scholarships were awarded, and for the 2025/26 school year, 1,119 scholarships were awarded this year.

Resource Centers (RCs)— a total of 13 RCs have been established with the aim of improving the quality of inclusive education and upbringing and increasing the availability of additional support to children, students, families and employees in other educational institutions, with a special focus on the application of assistive technologies <https://prosveta.gov.rs/prosveta/sistem-inkluzivnog-obrazovanja/mehanizm-i-mere-inkluzivnog-obrazovanjavanja/>.

Through the work of the RC, 3,115 assistive technology (AT) products are available to students with developmental disabilities and disabilities in typical schools. According to the data entered by the institutions into the JISP, thirteen resource centers have provided a total of 5,161 times of support to various primary, secondary and secondary schools during the last three working/school years. During the last three working/school years (2023/2024, 2024/2025. and 2025/2026) a total of 5,161 support was provided by 13 resource centers to 3,565 children (according to the JOB).

With the aim of increasing the accessibility of information about the work of resource centers, a web platform was created on the ZUOV website with information about available assistive technologies, as well as a space for communication with parents, <https://at.zuov.gov.rs/resources-center/>. In September 2025, 11 humanoid robots were assigned to resource centers to support students with developmental disabilities and disabilities (developmental, motor, speech and emotional-social disabilities), by providing customized support in learning, communication and daily activities. More than 30 employees at the resource centers to which the robots were assigned were trained in the use of humanoid robots in education.

With the aim of preventing dropouts from the education system, the Sector continuously implements from budget funds the accredited training "Training for Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Measures to Prevent Student Dropout", which improves the competencies of employees in the education system for work in the field of dropout prevention. During 2024, 227 participants from 16 schools, and during 2025, 229 participants from 14 schools successfully completed this training. All schools participating in this training have developed an Action Plan for Dropout Prevention, and these measures are also part of the school's development plan. In the last few years, 2,916 employees have attended this training.

	2. INDICATOR Given that no baseline values or targets have been set for the sub-step regarding students who are educated according to IOP1 or IOP2, we present data from JISP: A. Indicator: % of transition of students from IOP1 and IOP2 from primary to secondary education: 2022/23: 70% 2023/24: 72% 2024/25: 73.40% Proposed target 2025/2026 75% B. Indicator: % of secondary school (two-year, three-year and four-year) completion of students with IOP1 and IOP2: 2022/23: 86% 2023/24: 90.74% 2024/25: 89.23% Proposed target 2025/2026 91%
Evidence provided	Unified Education Information System https://at.zuov.gov.rs/resources-center/ https://prosveta.gov.rs/prosveta/sistem-inkluzivnog-obrazovanja/mehanizm-i-mere-inkluzivnog-obrazovanjavanja
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	The most credible national source of statistical data was used, whose methodology is aligned with European regulations - the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS).
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 43

The step under review	Both Actions plans continuously implemented, leading to (i) increased number of investigations, indictments and final convictions in organised crime cases (track record), (ii) Increased number of investigations, indictments and final convictions for trafficking of weapons (track record), (iii) Increased number and value of seized and confiscated assets in serious and organised crime cases, (iv) Increased number of tracing of firearms and investigations on origin of seized weapons (track record), (v) Increased number of victims of THB granted especially vulnerable witness status in line with the Code of Criminal Procedure
Baseline	Average performance of the previous three years (2023, 2024, 2025), based on the data provided by the authorities to the Commission's Organised Crime and Corruption Track Record (OCCTR) e-platform
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	The Republic of Serbia establishes an initial track record of results in conducting efficient and effective investigations, prosecutions, and convictions in cases of organized crime, including the confiscation of assets derived from criminal activities. The Republic of Serbia demonstrates an initial track record of results regarding successful investigations, prosecutions, and final convictions of human traffickers, including the successful confiscation of their assets derived from criminal activities. This activity will be effectively monitored on an ongoing basis following the adoption of the documents mentioned above, beginning in June 2026. We are pleased to confirm that the Program and AP for SALW have successfully been adopted.
Evidence provided	N/A
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A

Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

Fiche No. 44

The step under review	The track record of effective and efficient investigations, prosecutions, final judgements, seizure, and final confiscations in corruption, including high-level corruption cases is improved
Baseline	The track record tables for 2023 that Serbia submitted to the European Commission
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	<i>Corruption related cases</i> With regard to corruption-related offenses (non-high-level), a noticeable increase has occurred in the number of new indictments and financial investigations launched in parallel with criminal investigations, concerning both the number of persons and the number of cases. Indictments were filed against 374 defendants (compared to 313 in 2024 and 367 in 2023), while parallel financial investigations were launched against 69 defendants (compared to 36 in 2024 and 42 in 2023). The number of new investigations (560 defendants) is lower than in 2024 (607), but higher than in 2023 (515). The plea agreements were concluded with 78 defendants, which is a decrease compared to previous years (94 in 2024 and 139 in 2023). With regard to corruption related offenses (non-high level), the number of final convictions is also lower compared to 2023 and 2024. In 2025, 214 final convictions were rendered, compared to 259 final convictions in 2024 and 326 final convictions in 2023. A lower number of judgments based on plea agreements is also noted. In 2025, 78 judgments were rendered on the basis of plea agreements, compared to 94 in 2024 and 139 in 2023. <i>High-level corruption related cases</i> In relation to high-level corruption, a noticeable increase has occurred in the number of new investigations and financial investigations launched in parallel with criminal investigations, concerning both the number of persons and the number of cases. Investigations were launched against 35 defendants (compared to 18 in 2024 and 50 in 2023), while parallel financial investigations were launched against 31 defendants (compared to 5 in 2024 and 42 in 2023). New indictments were filed against 25 defendants, which is a decrease compared to

	previous years (45 in 2024 and 74 in 2023). No plea agreements were concluded (compared to 19 in 2024 and 19 in 2025). In 2025, a total of 28 final court decisions were rendered in high-level corruption cases, with 16 persons being finally convicted, which is less than the number of convicted persons in 2024 (28) and 2023 (31). However, it should be noted that not a single judgment was based on a plea agreement, while in 2024 there were 19 decisions based on plea agreements, as well as in 2023. In this respect, the total number of finally adjudicated high-level corruption cases is lower in 2025 compared to the previous years. When it comes to temporary freezing/seizure of assets and confiscation of assets, according to the established methodology for data collection via the E-platform (reporting to the European Commission on statistical data in the field of corruption and organized crime), data are collected on all confiscated assets within the meaning of the Law on Confiscation of Assets Derived from Criminal Offenses, as well as under the provisions of the Criminal Code. The estimated value of confiscated assets amounts to €9,800,013 (considering the estimated value of confiscated apartments/residential buildings). However, a number of immovable properties 48 cadastral parcels, 5 garages, as well as numerous movable items could not be estimated. This represents an increase compared to the value of confiscated assets in previous years.
Evidence provided	E-Platform for Data Collection of the Enlargement Countries' Criminal Track Records – https://organised-crime-corruption-track-record.ec.europa.eu/ The quantitative overview is in the annex. Reporting to the European Commission on statistical data in the field of corruption and organized crime – E-platform – see the quantitative overview in the annex.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	N/A
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	N/A
Double funding	N/A
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Not achieved

DECEMBER 2026

Fiche No. 45

The step under review	Road international convention (eCMR) needed to deploy eFTI is ratified
Baseline	Convention not ratified
Deadline of the step	December 2026
Actual results	The Draft Law was circulated to the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia (the Republic Secretariat for Legislation, the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade) for the purpose of obtaining their opinions. After obtaining positive opinions, the Draft Law was submitted to the Government. At its session held on 4 June 2026, the Government adopted the Draft Law on the Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR) and submitted it to the National Assembly for adoption. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on the Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR) on July 10, 2026.
Evidence provided	Official Gazette - International Treaties No. 6/2026 of July 13, 2026 Draft Law on eCMR Law on the Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	At its session held on 4 June 2026, the Government adopted the Draft Law on the Ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR) and submitted it to the National Assembly for adoption.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the step does not contravene the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle (DNSH).

Double funding	In this process, the Ministry had support from IFC, including both local and EU-based experts. Within the project „Support to e-CMR Ratification” expert assistance was provided to support the Ministry in preparing the Draft Legal Explanation for the ratification of the e-CMR Protocol, addressing relevant constitutional requirements, legal aspects, and potential financial implications.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	Fully achieved

PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING THE STEPS REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT RELEASE OF FUNDS

1. A Policy Paper and an adjoining time-bound Action Plan for the improvement of public investment management, following consultations with the European Commission, has been adopted and their implementation started

Following previous consultations with the European Commission and the comments received on the draft Policy Paper, the revised **Policy Paper**, together with the accompanying **Action Plan**, was submitted to the European Commission on **12 June 2026**.

The revised document has been agreed across all relevant institutions, ensuring broad institutional consensus on the proposed reform measures.

Significant revisions have been introduced with regard to projects of special significance, fully reflecting the comments and concerns previously raised by the European Commission. Under the revised approach, projects of special significance will no longer be exempt from the standard procedures from the outset. Instead, they will first be subject to the same appraisal, review and monitoring procedures as all other public investment projects within the standard Public Investment Management (PIM) framework.

The progress achieved to date, together with the revised policy framework and the planned legislative amendments, provides a solid basis for addressing the European Commission's comments and advancing the implementation of the agreed reform measures.

2. 100% of SOE's, applying the Law on SOE Governance, management bodies and directors meet the same requirements in the procedure of appointment

According to the SOE Law, the representative of the Republic of Serbia is appointed by the Minister of Economy or Minister in charge for Energy. After this, the constitution of other bodies continues, after which the prerequisites for implementing the procedures for electing directors are created.

In order to meet the deadline from the Agenda, we will intensify activities to harmonize founding acts and accelerate the constitution of company assemblies, i.e. the appointment of representatives of the Republic of Serbia.

3. 100% of SOEs, which are obliged by the Law on SOE Governance to establish Audit Committee, will establish an Independent IA function in line with the Budget System Law

The 2025 reporting cycle on the state of the Financial Management and Control and Internal Audit (PIFC) system in the Republic of Serbia has been completed. An analysis of the data collected for one of the priority groups, state-owned enterprises, provided information on the establishment of the Internal Audit (IA) function in those organizations.

According to the collected data, out of 41 state-owned enterprises, which according to the Law on the Management of Companies Owned by the Republic of Serbia should have an Audit commission as well as an established internal audit function in accordance with the Law on the budget system. Only three out of 41 have not established an internal audit function in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Rulebook for IA.

The findings are encouraging and indicate that the Reform Agenda milestone is achievable within the prescribed deadline. It was agreed with the Ministry of Economy, which subsequently engaged with this group of entities, to monitor the situation in these organizations and react as necessary.

4. All public enterprises, founded by the Republic of Serbia, are registered as joint stock companies or limited liability companies and publicly publish by the law prescribed information and documents

In the previous period, the Government approved the necessary acts to change the legal form of republican SOEs in the portfolio of the Ministry of Economy.

The above-mentioned economic entities will make all information, i.e. documents, publicly available.

5. The private sector expenditure on research and innovation is increased to 50% of total expenditure on R&I, submitted to Eurostat by the National Statistics Office

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) carried out the **Research and Development Survey (R&D) for 2024** between March and August 2025. The results were published on 29 August 2025.

In addition, SORS conducted the **Innovation Activities Survey 2022–2024** between September and October 2025. The results were published on 4 December 2025 and are publicly available.

Data, delivered to Eurostat, are available at: <https://www.stat.gov.rs/en-US/oblasti/nauka-tehnologija-i-inovacije/>

Through these activities, SORS fulfilled its responsibilities related to the production, publication and transmission of the relevant statistical data. SORS will continue to regularly conduct these surveys in accordance with the methodology and timetable prescribed by Eurostat.

In parallel, the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation continues to implement measures aimed at increasing private sector investment in research and innovation. Since 2022, the Innovation Fund has approved investments in four alternative investment (venture capital) funds amounting to EUR 20 million, with a planned total capitalization of EUR 77 million. By the end of 2024, two venture capital funds had become operational, with the Innovation Fund investing EUR 2.87 million (RSD 335.9 million) in these funds. In addition, the Ministry has continued to support innovative enterprises through the Innovation Fund's Early Development Program, Innovation Co-financing Program, Accelerator Program and startup support schemes, while also strengthening science–industry cooperation through pre-accelerator programmes, industrial PhD guidelines and the Open Research Infrastructure Platform with its dedicated B2B sub-platform.

As the target is measured on the basis of official statistics reported by SORS to Eurostat, the major challenge is that the impact of these measures is expected to become visible with a certain time lag.

6. At least 10 projects financed from the national budget, not exceeding EUR 299,999 per project, contracted under public calls aimed to improve rural public infrastructure in the areas of water supply and road infrastructure facilities

The Directorate for Agrarian Payments has announced a Public Call for the submission of applications for incentives for investments in the improvement and development of rural infrastructure for 2026. This Public Call covers investments in the construction and equipping of water supply facilities and road infrastructure.

Applications for incentives under this Public Call were submitted from 10 to 17 June 2026. The maximum total amount of incentives that a beneficiary may receive under this Public Call is RSD 35,000,000⁴ (EUR 298.155,78) and total available funds under this Public call are set at RSD 400.000.000 (3.407.494,61EUR).

A total of 72 applications were submitted. The Commission for the implementation of the evaluation and scoring procedure for submitted applications for the exercise of the right to subsidies for investments for the improvement and development of rural infrastructure for 2026 is going to conduct the evaluation and scoring procedure for submitted applications. After that, Ranking list with a proposal for approval of subsidies for 10 projects that do not exceed the amount of 299,999 euros per project and whose goal is to improve rural public infrastructure in the areas of water supply and road infrastructure will be published on the official website of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments.

The implementation of this measure is expected to be completed in line with the timeline established under the Reform Agenda, i.e. December 2026.

7. Expert surveillance in land consolidation procedures is implemented

⁴ NBS average exchange rate RSD/EUR: on 26 Jun 2026 - 1 EUR = 117,3883RSD;

The Preparation and planning of the step is completed.

As part of this step, an analysis of the existing situation, an analysis of the initiated consolidation procedures and available documentation, as well as activities for planning the establishment of an information system to support consolidation, were carried out. As a result of these activities, the final version of the technical specification for the preparation of the public procurement for the development of the information system and the control module was prepared.

The prepared document is titled "Functional and Technical Specification - Land Consolidation Support Information System" and is the basis for the implementation of the public procurement procedure for the development of the information system and control module, in accordance with the planned activities from the Reform Agenda.

Foreseen activities have been completed in accordance with the Reform Agenda. The verification included a review of the document "Functional and Technical Specification – Land Consolidation Support Information System", which confirms that:

- an analysis of the current situation, initiated land consolidation procedures and available documentation was carried out;
- the implementation approach for the information system was defined;
- the final functional and technical specification was prepared, providing the basis for the public procurement procedure for the development of the Land Consolidation Support Information System and the control module.

8. TSO and NEMO to fulfil all requirements under the Electricity Integration Package to join intra-day electricity market coupling with the EU

Progress continues on the implementation of the Electricity Integration Package requirements for participation in intra-day and day-ahead electricity market coupling with the EU. The MCO IP process is ongoing, with Serbia having submitted a complete set of documents to the Energy Community Secretariat in October 2025. Subsequent developments relate to the European Commission's request for further alignment of certain secondary legislation and the resulting re-verification process by the Energy Community Secretariat and the European Commission. In this context, the Republic of Serbia is working on aligning the relevant secondary legislation with the comments provided by the European Commission in order to address identified gaps and support the completion of the re-verification process. Following ACER's decision not to approve the initial MCO IP submitted by the EU NEMOs and to request an additional impact assessment, an updated MCO IP was submitted in June 2026. A new ACER decision is expected within six months of that submission.

Preparatory technical and regulatory activities continue in parallel, including coordination between EMS AD Beograd, SEEPEX and EU NEMOs, as well as ongoing work on operational readiness for SDAC and SIDC participation. Further steps towards formal membership and market coupling will be undertaken following positive assessments by the Energy Community Secretariat, the European Commission and ACER.

Considering the ongoing preparation of the revised MCO IP and continued alignment of technical and regulatory requirements, the prospects for achieving the next steps remain positive, while their finalisation is dependent on the completion of the EU-level approval and verification procedures.

9. A national policy framework and measures for deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in line with alternative fuels infrastructure regulation (EU) 2023/1804 are adopted

The drafting process of the Law on the Introduction of Alternative Fuels Infrastructure has been finalized, and the draft text was approved by the dedicated Working Group in April 2026. A public consultation on the draft law was conducted between 5 and 25 June 2026. The draft law has also been translated into English and, together with the correlation tables and the report on the public consultation, is being submitted to the European Commission for comments through the Ministry for European Integration on 26 June 2026.

In parallel, work is ongoing on the preparation of the National Policy Framework for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure. A draft framework is currently being developed by an external consultant and will enter the formal adoption procedure following the enactment of the law.

Based on the progress achieved to date, including the completion of the draft law, the conduct of the public consultation, and the submission of the draft to the European Commission for comments, the implementation of the step is progressing as planned.

10. Minimum 1,5 GW of renewable energy (cumulative in energy mix for solar and wind) capacities are installed in line with the adopted NECP

The Republic of Serbia has continued the implementation of measures supporting the increase of installed renewable energy capacity in line with the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP).

As of May 2026, the total installed capacity of solar and wind energy sources amounts to 1,051.1 MW. When including current prosumer installations, the total installed capacity reaches 1,195.8 MW.

The increase in capacity has been driven by the successful implementation of renewable energy auctions (2023 and 2025), which allocated market premiums for a total of approximately 850 MW of new wind and solar projects, as well as the commissioning and trial operation of several wind projects, including Kostolac (66 MW) and Čibuk 2 (150 MW).

Additional capacity is expected to become operational following the completion of ongoing projects awarded under the auction schemes and other ongoing investment projects in the renewable energy sector.

Based on the current level of installed capacity already exceeding 1 GW and the pipeline of awarded renewable energy projects under implementation, the 1.5 GW target is expected to be achieved through the progressive commissioning of additional wind and solar capacities.

11. Measurement control and verification systems in line with EED established; Consumption-based billing increased up to 40% comparing to the status in December 2023; Implementation of Eco-design regulation for solid fuel local space heaters and boilers through the establishment of effective infrastructure for market

surveillance and initiation of a replacement scheme for domestic heating in line with the Air Quality Programme of the Republic of Serbia is implemented

A system for monitoring and verification of energy savings under Article 7 of the EED has been established through the operational Monitoring and Verification Platform (MVP), which is now owned and operated by the Ministry of Mining and Energy and enables the collection and verification of energy efficiency savings data.

The share of consumption-based billing in district heating systems has increased compared to December 2023 levels, with preliminary data indicating progress towards approximately 40% implementation in certain systems, based on submitted municipal heating utility plans and ongoing reporting.

Eco-design legislative requirements for solid fuel local space heaters and boilers are in force, supported by established market surveillance arrangements. Preparatory and ongoing activities are underway to further strengthen market surveillance through amendments to the Law on Energy Efficiency and Rational Use of Energy, while replacement schemes for inefficient heating systems in households are already being implemented within the framework of the Air Quality Programme.

Considering the progress achieved to date and the ongoing preparation of the draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Energy Efficiency and Rational Use of Energy, the step is expected to be completed within the grace period upon finalisation and formal adoption of the legislative amendments.

12. Electricity price for households ensures that the average electricity tariff covers the cost of electricity supply in accordance with the Article 5 and Article 9 of Directive 2019/944

Preparatory activities for the development of the Action Plan for the Reduction of Energy Poverty are ongoing, recognizing the need for a cross-sectoral approach involving the competent institutions in the areas of social policy, construction, health, energy, finance and statistics. The Action Plan will be developed in accordance with the relevant legislation of the Republic of Serbia and aligned with applicable EU directives in this area.

In June 2026, the Ministry of Mining and Energy conducted a market assessment to support the definition of the subsequent steps for the preparation of the Action Plan. The market assessment was carried out in accordance with the applicable national legislation.

Considering the progress achieved to date, the step is expected to be fulfilled within the grace period, as the remaining activities are ongoing.

13. The framework for spatial and urban planning including digitalization of spatial and urban planning procedures (E-Space) is implemented

The following steps should be achieved for the release of funds:

1. Law on Planning and Construction – suggestions for the amendments of the Law on Planning and Construction were collected within the line ministry which is the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI) and within the Agency for Spatial and Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia, they should be reviewed formally and public hearing organized.

2. Public Policy Document on Urban and Spatial Planning Reform – existing draft has been prepared and it should be reviewed by the Agency for Spatial and Urban Planning in order to send it to MCTI for further procedure with public hearing.
3. Bylaw on Central Registry of Planning Documents and Digital Format – the draft version which is ready should be signed by the Minister of MCTI following the adoption of the amendments of Law on Planning and Construction which is required in order to sign it and publish it in the Official Gazette.
4. Bylaw on Classification of Land Use and Protection and Use of Space – the draft version is going to be finalized during the summer 2026, it should be signed by the Minister of MCTI following the adaption of the amendments of Law on Planning and Construction which is required in order to sign it and publish it in the Official Gazette.
5. Regulation on e-Space – this Regulation has not been prepared yet, but it is going to be rooted into the Public Policy Document on Urban and Spatial Planning Reform and its final version, therefore it can be finalized in parallel with this public policy document or immediately after it.

14. National and governmental CERTs are operational in line with NIS2 requirements, nCERT reaching at least status ‘certified’ and govCERT reaching at least status ‘accredited’ on TF CSIRT-Trusted Introducer

The accreditation process within the Trusted Introducer international platform for independent verification and networking of national and sectoral CSIRT/CERT teams was successfully completed. As a result, the Government CERT was awarded “accredited” member status on 12 February 2026. Please refer to the following source: <https://tf-csirt.org/trusted-introducer/directory/teams/govcerts-rs/>

The certification process for the National CERT on the TF CSIRT-Trusted Introducer platform was initiated in January 2026. The National CERT is currently listed as a “certification candidate”. Please refer to the following source: <https://tf-csirt.org/trusted-introducer/directory/teams/srb-cert/>

15. National supercomputing platform expanded to at least 380 GPUs

The first upgrade of the National Artificial Intelligence Platform has been successfully completed, increasing the total number of GPUs to 80.

The second upgrade of the National Artificial Intelligence Platform is ongoing and will increase the number of GPUs by 640, bringing the total to 720. Equipment procurement is being financed through a loan from the French Government, together with a contribution from the national budget. The purchase order has been submitted, and the platform is expected to reach a total capacity of 720 GPUs by the end of December 2026.

16. The ITS frameworks and standards for road and rail are implemented

The prospects of achieving the step are presented separately for each of the numbered sub-steps required for its fulfilment.

1. ITS strategy/ action plan - The Intelligent Transport Systems Development Program and the accompanying Action Plan have been finalized and are entering the public consultation phase. scheduled to take place from July 3 to July 23, 2026. After the public consultation, the final text of the Program will be sent to the European Commission, and subsequently adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

2. ITS Directive 2023/2661; ITS Directive 2010/40 3. Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/962 4. Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/670 5. Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/490 - The Draft Law on Roads and the related draft rulebooks, namely the Draft Rulebook on requirements for the provision of ITS data and the delivery of real-time traffic information services and the Draft Rulebook on requirements for the provision of ITS data and the delivery of ITS multimodal travel information services, have already been submitted, through the Ministry of European Integration, to the European Commission for opinion. Following the receipt of the Commission's opinion, the remaining national adoption procedures will be initiated. The completion of the step remains dependent on the timely receipt of the Commission's opinion and the subsequent completion of the national adoption procedures. At this stage, the responsible institution expects the step to be achieved within the established timeframe.

6. Interoperability Directive 2016/797 - The Law on the Interoperability of the Railway System was adopted by the National Assembly in July 2023.

7. Compliance with all rail TSIs achieved and all TSIs published - In accordance with the Law on Interoperability of the Railway System ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" No. 62/2023), Article 9, paragraph 4. The Directorate for Railways publishes the technical specifications of interoperability (TSIs) in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", and in accordance with Article 62 of this Law, until the publication of the TSIs in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", the TSIs published by the Directorate for Railways on its website shall apply. The Directorate for Railways regularly publishes all new TSIs or amendments to TSIs in Serbian translation on its website at the following link <https://www.raildir.gov.rs/tsi.php>. 8. Vehicle registration data transferred to the European Vehicle Register (ERV) of the European Railway Agency The implementation of this activity is ongoing. The transition from the National Vehicle Register (NVR), managed by the Directorate for Railways, to the European Vehicle Register (EVR) shall be provided by the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) in cooperation with the Transport Community. As a first step, the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) granted the Directorate for Railways access to the European Vehicle Register (EVR) application. This has given the Directorate insight into the application and the ability to search the register database, without the ability to enter data.

17. Traffic data collection systems and road user information systems deployed and operational

The prospects of achieving the step are presented separately for each of the numbered sub-steps required for its fulfilment.

1. Implementation of the project "Improvement of Transport and Trade in the Western Balkans" – Component 2.1 "Deployment of ITS on Corridor X" - The bids have been evaluated and a report has been prepared and forwarded to the Bank for further action. The contract is expected by the end of September 2026.

2. Deployment of Sustainable and Smart Mobility solution: Implementation of communication infrastructure and ITS subsystems for traffic control and management on the A3 motorway, Weigh in Motion and Safe and Secure Parking - Tender preparation in the final phase for the "Weigh in motion and safe and secure parking" component of the project, while the implementation of the "Implementation of communication infrastructure and ITS subsystems for traffic control and management on the A3 motorway" component was delayed due to the time limit of the WBTF project.
3. Implementation of the Traffic Monitoring and Management System on the A1 – Belgrade Bypass - Project implementation underway, completion according to plan by the end of September 2026.
4. Implementation of the Traffic Monitoring and Management System on the A4 – Niš–Gradina - The project is planned to be implemented through the budget of "Putevi Srbije" doo, depending on the approved financial resources through the Business Plan for 2026.
5. Implementation of the Traffic Monitoring and Management System on the A2 – Obrenovac – Lajkovac section Implementation of the Traffic Monitoring and Management System on A2 – Obrenovac – Lajkovac section – action completed in February 2025.
6. Implementation of the Safe Parking Areas project on Class IA state roads - The project is implemented through the business program of "Putevi Srbije" doo, the signing of the contract is awaited.
7. Projects for the construction of new motorway sections in the Republic of Serbia, which also include the implementation of ITS - Activity ongoing on all current road infrastructure construction projects

18. 7000 adults, out of which at least 50% are women, each year obtain an official document [certificate of an appropriate type] through the system of informal education at PROAE [publicly recognized organizer of adult education and 3000 adults each year complete short cycles at the higher education institutions [maximum projected capacity of PROAEs].

The Qualifications Agency sent a Questionnaire to all active JPOAs to collect data on the number of adults who obtained some of the official documents in 2026.

At this time, the Qualifications Agency cannot provide data with certainty on the number of adults who have completed short programs in higher education institutions. By the end of the observed period, the Agency will provide data on the number of people who have completed short programs in higher education institutions.

19. All VET profiles in secondary education are based on qualification standards

Based on data from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia, there were 195 qualifications in the enrolment of students in secondary vocational schools in the Republic of Serbia in 2026/2027.

Based on data from the Qualifications Agency, which, in accordance with Article 15 of the Law on the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of the

Republic of Serbia" No. 27/2018, 6/2020, 129/2021 (other law) and 76/2023), maintains the Register of the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Serbia, out of 195 qualifications on the register, 163 of them, or 84%, have a qualification standard.

Qualifications that do not have a qualification standard are at levels 2 and 3 of the NOK and for them, teaching and learning plans and programs have been developed and are implemented according to IOP 2, in accordance with Article 76 of the Law on the Foundations of the Education System ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No.88/2017, 27/2018 - other law, 27/2018 - other law, 10/2019, 6/2020, 129/2021, 92/2023 and 19/2025). The teaching and learning plans and programs for acquiring the aforementioned qualifications are adapted to the needs of each student individually, whereby the student, in accordance with the individual educational plan, acquires the learning outcomes defined in his personal plan.

Given the given baseline value, significant progress has been made in implementing this step.

20. The quantifiable targets for the implementation of the aforementioned action plans are reached in order to ensure effective protection of vulnerable individuals [December 2026]:

- I. **Central records are established on all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention [remark: by 2026 in the draft action plan];**
- II. **20 victims support services are established and victim support officers are systematised within the Act of Systematisation at each high court and the services are operational at the 20 high courts;**
- III. **The number of users of community services by licensed service providers increased by 18%.**

MoJ:

- I. Central records are established on all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention [remark: by 2026 in the draft action plan];

Preparatory activities are being conducted in order to implement this step.

- II. Twenty (20) victims support services are established and victim support officers are systematized within the Act of Systematization at each high court and the services are operational at the 20 high courts

Preparatory activities are being conducted in order to implement this step.

MoLEVSA:

- III. The number of users of community services by licensed service providers increased by 18%

1. Development of a draft standard for intensive family support services

A draft standard for intensive family support services was developed during the fourth quarter of 2024. The proposal has been prepared and its normative arrangement and adoption are expected.

2. Drafting standards for non-standardized services

- A draft standard for social-educational services was developed in the second quarter of 2026.
- New standards for family accommodation for adults and the elderly were adopted in the fourth quarter of 2025 (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 112/2025).
- A draft standard for the provision of the Training for Independent Living service was developed, which is planned as an integral part of the Rulebook on the detailed conditions and standards for the provision of social protection services.
- A Proposal Rulebook on the conditions and standards for the operation of work centers for persons with disabilities was developed, as well as an Analysis of needs and potential mechanisms for the establishment and financing of work centers for persons with disabilities in the Republic of Serbia.
- The development of proposals for new standards for services that have not yet been standardized, and which need to be implemented in the existing Rulebook on detailed conditions and standards for the provision of social protection services, is ongoing.

3. Drafting amendments to the Rulebook on detailed conditions and standards for the provision of social protection services, which will implement new standards of social protection services

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the Ministry formed a new Working Group that began work on drafting amendments to the Rulebook on detailed conditions and standards for the provision of social protection services. During the second quarter of 2026, the Working Group drafted a proposal for amendments to the Rulebook in the part relating to the improvement of services intended to improve the position of children with developmental disabilities and persons with mental and intellectual disabilities.

The proposal for amendments to the Rulebook has been sent to the Republic Secretariat for Legislation, from which a positive opinion was received. Publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia is expected, after which a detailed report on the final amendments to the Rulebook will be submitted.

A particularly significant result is the development of a new database (software solution) for monitoring community-based social protection services, within the Republic Institute for Social Protection. This database will enable the systematic collection of data from all local self-government units in which social protection services are provided, both standardized and those that have not yet been standardized.

21. The documents are adopted to:

- a) Define the tasks of the multi-departmental Team for the initial assessment of the risk of radicalization and violent extremism, the modalities of its cooperation with other relevant actors in the field of prevention, as well as the roles and obligations of the various participants in the Initial Assessment Team**
- b) Define the human capacities, resources and Plan of the activities/ Methodology (adopted by the Government) for responding to a terrorist attack, as well as establish a system for managing the consequences of a terrorist attack.**
- c) Define work plans in different crisis situations and Plan of the activities/ Methodology (adopted by the Government) in order to define the tasks, human capacities, resources and procedures in order to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack.**

The Republic of Serbia remains committed to preventing and countering terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism and continuously works on strengthening the relevant institutional, operational and strategic framework. Existing inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms are in place in the areas of risk assessment, crisis response and consequence management, while further efforts are being undertaken to formalize procedures, clarify responsibilities and enhance preparedness in line with international standards and best practices. The further activities regarding this step are ongoing.