



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
СТАЛНА МИСИЈА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ ПРИ УЧЕДИЉЕНИМ НАЦИЈАМА И ДРУГИМ МЕЂУНАРОДНИМ  
ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈАМА  
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No. 608/1

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's Note Verbal dated 28 January 2010, concerning the implementation of the Human Rights Council resolution 12/4 entitled "World Programme for Human Rights Education", has the honour to convey the response of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of the Republic of Serbia.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia hopes that this information, although conveyed after the provisional deadline, will present significant contribution to the valuable work of the Office.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**GENEVA**  
**Fax: 022 917 90 08**  
**Email: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org); [wphre@ohchr.org](mailto:wphre@ohchr.org)**

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

- 7 AVR. 2010

Recipients : W.P.H.R.E.  
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## II. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GOVERNMENTS

The questionnaire below to be completed by Governments contains questions that should be addressed in Member States' national reports. Please mark the specific answers with corresponding numbers of the questions. In addition to the questionnaire, supplementary information may also be provided as additional attachments to your report.<sup>4</sup> Governments are strongly encouraged to involve National Human Rights Institutions and civil society in the preparation of their reports. Please return the completed questionnaire and any other additional information to the Methodology, Education and Training Section at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (by fax: +41 22 917 9008 or by email: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) ; with copy to [wphre@ohchr.org](mailto:wphre@ohchr.org)) no later than 31 March 2010. Submissions by email are preferred, but any materials not available electronically may be posted to OHCHR, attn: METS – WPHRE, Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Replies received by the deadline will be reflected in the evaluation report to be submitted to the UN General Assembly 65<sup>th</sup> session and may also be uploaded on OHCHR's website for the World Programme.

### Part 1: BASIC INFORMATION

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Date:  | 9 March 2010   |
| 2. Institution responsible for completing this questionnaire: | The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia                        |
| 3. Responsible department:                                    | Sector for Education Development and International Educational Cooperation |
| 4. Contact person:  | Vesna Fila,<br>Assistant Minister  |
| 5. Mailing address:   | 22 – 26, Nemanjina Street<br>11000 Belgrade                                |
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| 8. E-mail address:  | <a href="mailto:vesna.fila@mp.gov.rs">vesna.fila@mp.gov.rs</a>             |
| 9. Webpage:   | <a href="http://www.mp.gov.rs">www.mp.gov.rs</a>                           |

<sup>4</sup> This may include but is not limited to relevant information reported to the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies contained in Common Core Documents and Treaty-specific reports, as well as relevant responses to UNESCO (e.g. Forth Consultation on the Implementation of the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms), Council of Europe (EDC/HRE programme "Learning and Living Democracy for All" 2006-2009), and other consultations.

## Part 2: COMPONENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

### A. Educational policies<sup>5</sup> and policy implementation

10. Do education laws, education policies and education policy objectives exist which explicitly refer to the following?<sup>6</sup>

	Yes	No
▪ Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ The right to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ A rights-based approach to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Human rights education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

You may elaborate further if you wish:

In September 2009, two reformed laws were passed: the Law on the Basic Educational System and the Law on Textbooks and Teaching Aids. Both laws are based on the principles of fairness, equality, accessibility to education and that that education is being developed in a democratically functioning and socially responsible institution, which promotes openness, cooperation, tolerance, awareness of a worldly connection of culture and civilisation, devotion to basic moral values, values of justice, truth, solidarity, freedom, respect and responsibility, which also demands full respect for the rights of children, students and adults. The laws stipulate that each child must be guaranteed an education in accordance with the ability for development, which would effectively be providing an access to education based on the rights of a student. In this respect, the Law on the Basic Educational System governs a mechanism producing an individual educational plan and class (Article 77), student enrolment into primary school (Article 98), etc. This law also regulates the ways mandatory elective subjects of civil education are planned (Article 72) and the creation and work of the student parliament (Article 105). The Law on Textbooks and Teaching Aids affirms a right of students with disabilities and development disorders to textbooks in a format corresponding to their educational needs (Article 3). For persons with disabilities and development disorders, textbooks are published in accordance with special needs of the students, in Serbian as well as in languages of ethnic minorities. Textbook content must not be discriminatory on any grounds (Article 4): race, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or sex, development disorders, disabilities, physical and psychological abilities, health conditions, ages, social and cultural origin, assets, political involvement, as any other grounds.

As regards the concrete measures on elementary/primary and secondary school education in reference to the rights based access to education, it ought to be noted that there is education in the languages of the national minorities in the multinational environments, which our educational system has a long tradition in, and is more closely defined in the curricula. The minority languages are Hungarian, Albanian, Slovak, Romanian, Russian and Bulgarian Roma, Croatian and Bosnian. The affirmation of minority rights in Serbia's educational system became a focus of matter as a part of the World Roma Decade Programme when positive actions were taken to enrol Roma students to the first year of secondary schools. Affirmative actions have been taking place in the last five years with an objective to stimulate the Roma population to integrate themselves into the social community by means of education. In order to overcome any

<sup>5</sup> Education policies according to the Plan of Action include legislation, plans of action, curricula and training policies.

<sup>6</sup> Plan of Action, appendix A.2-5.