Knowledge for Social Development
SeConS Development Initiative Group is an independent think-tank organization of experts from Serbia, established with the aim of contributing to long-term socio-economic development and improvement of living conditions of individuals and social groups in Serbia and the region. It was founded in 2005, as an initiative of a group of sociologists who worked on issues of social development at universities and in other civil society organizations in the country and abroad. Today, SeConS brings together interdisciplinary experts to conduct empirical research, analyze policies and processes, challenges and specific social and economic environments to build a reliable base for further development of methodologies, recommendations and measures to advance the development and implementation of national, regional and local policies. SeConS educates, empowers and trains other organizations and institution representatives, and its quality of work and expertise has been recognized outside country borders as well.
SECONS VISION IS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SERBIA AND SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Our mission is to help advance adequate and effective socio-economic development programmes by conducting analyses of social trends and public policies. SeConS supports and activates various stakeholders from the public, private and civil sector to make a more effective contribution to development on the national, regional and local level.

“They are using excellent methodology”
OUR GOALS

- To contribute to inclusive and sustainable social and economic development
- To contribute to the development of regional cooperation in the field of social inclusion
- To support modernization of social inclusion services in accordance with the most developed European practices
- To facilitate social inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable social groups
- To contribute to social equality and eradication of discrimination
- To support improvement of knowledge and skills of individuals and groups in institutions and organizations engaged in socio-economic development and social inclusion

“They are open for suggestions”
SECONS UP-TO-DATE

- 1st mapping of social enterprises in Serbia
- 1st conducted in-depth research of poverty in rural Serbia
- 1st developed set of nationally specific indicators of social exclusion and poverty
- 1st mapping of family violence against women in Serbia
- 1 of 4 best evaluations in the world for UN Women in 2015
- 8 web sites/platforms developed in order to contribute to knowledge sharing
- 15 young researchers trained through an internship programme
- 51 publications published
- 102 projects conducted
- 200 associates in the research network
- 400 decisions makers and opinion leaders trained to use data in their work
- 500 000 people received a video advocacy message on girls’ living conditions in Serbia

“They are reliable”
SERVICES

Research
- Development of methodologies and implementation of applied research
- Analyses of policies, legislation and measures with recommendations
- Conducting comparative and sensitive studies

Capacity Building and Training
- Designing and delivering training and mentoring
- Empowerment of and advocacy for marginalized groups

Monitoring and Evaluation
- Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of programmes, policies and projects

“They are accurate, fulfill everything they promise”
“They have excellent communication with partners”
SeConS Values

tolerance
nondiscrimination
interculturalism
human rights
minority rights
gender equality

SeConS Principles

professionalism
work ethics
impartiality
transparency
independence
solidarity

“SeConS is excellent in organizing professional events”
EVIDENCE BASED POLICY MAKING AND ADVOCACY WORK IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

- Anti-Poverty Network – Serbia

The Network operates in all areas where it can improve the quality of life of individuals and groups stricken by poverty as well as social inclusion processes in Serbia. The Anti-Poverty Network – Serbia is part of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).
The Cross-Border Citizens’ Network for Peace, Inter-Communal Reconciliation & Human Security – Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia and Greece

The Network approaches the issue of human security from different perspectives, thus focusing on a particular aspect (local, civic, regional) and field of activity (advocacy, broader social mobilization, research). It aims to create security-oriented political culture and build structures within their communities.

Open Parliament – Serbia

The Open Parliament serves to help citizens become more familiar with the work of the National Parliament. The coalition’s work is based on values contained in the International Declaration on Parliamentary Openness.

Coalition for Social Entrepreneurship Development (KorSP) – Serbia

The Coalition aims to raise key stakeholders’ awareness of the importance of this concept for economic progress and sustainable development of society as a whole, in order to establish an appropriate legal framework and sustainable financing mechanisms for social enterprises.
WE COOPERATED WITH:

Delegation of the European Union to Serbia
UNCT Serbia
UNDP Serbia
UNICEF Serbia
UN Women Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina
World Bank
UNAIDS
UNFPA Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Open Society Foundation
USAID/ISC
IOM Serbia
UNHCR
ILO
Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia
Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of Serbia (SIPRU)
Ministry of Agriculture of RS
Republic Institute for Social Protection
Provincial Secretariat for Health
Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Gender Center of the Government of the Republic of Srpska
Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Gender Equality Department at the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro
Youth with Disabilities Forum
Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia
European Agency for Reconstruction
International Management Group
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA
Gender Equality Directorate of the Republic of Serbia
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
University of Fribourg Switzerland
CRDP
FREN
Women Space
Tourism Organisation of Serbia
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro
Center for Peace Studies of the Republic of Croatia
YUCOM
hCa ORC
IRIS
ZID
hCa Turkey
Centre for Ethics, Law and Applied Philosophy (CELAP)
Trag Foundation
Transparency International
VESTA Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
EDA Republic of Srpska
Forum Syd Sweden
Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS)
SEESAC

“Gladly transfer their knowledge to others”
SeConS (2017) Sources of insecurities in Western Balkan and Turkey: Human Security Barometer

SeConS (2017) Towards efficient mechanisms for the protection of children from violence

SeConS (2017) Towards transparent and accountable political institutions in Serbia

SeConS (2017) Towards more efficient mechanisms for supporting irregular migrants in Serbia

Babovic et al. (2016) Gender Inequalities in Republika Srpska from the perspective of life courses


SeConS (2016) Public Sector Employment According to Political Party Affiliation: One of the Key Mechanisms of Political Clientelism in Contemporary Serbia

Cvejic, S. and Stefanovic, S (2016) Situation of Young People with Disabilities in the Labour Market in the City of Belgrade


SeConS (2015) Human security in Serbia


Cvejic, S. (2013) A Platform for Trade Union Organizing of the People with Disabilities


Vukmirovic, D. et al. (2014) Economic Impact of Social Enterprises in the Republic of Serbia

Babovic M. et al. (2013) Gender equality at local level


Babovic M. et al. (2013) Prevalence characteristics of violence against women in BIH

Vukovic D. (2013) How are laws made in Serbia: The role of social interests and institutions in the legislative process

Vukovic D. et al. (2013) Access to justice and free legal aid in Serbia


Babovic M. et al. (2012) Social inclusion at local level


SeConS (2011) Rural development and social inclusion of rural population

SeConS (2011) New cooperatives in the development of social entrepreneurship

SeConS (2011) Access of women and children to services in rural areas of Serbia and proposed measures for improving the situation

Cvejic, S. and Djurovic, D. (2011) Rural tourism as a rural development factor


Babovic, M. (2010) Gender Economic Inequalities in Comparative Perspective: EU and Serbia

SeConS (2010) Actors in the Social Inclusion Process

Babovic, M. et al. (2009) Local Labour Market in Kragujevac: conditions and opportunities


SECONS TEAM

Olivera Vukovic  
*Executive Director*

Olivera Vukovic is a sociologist with an academic background and extensive experience in policy oriented research. She has wide experience in planning and implementing organization’s programs and services, as well as training curricula development and training delivery and evaluations. She is experienced in cooperating with international and national institutions, local governments, and civil society organizations. The main field of her expertise is social policy and social protection, and she is very skilled in designing surveys and analytical reporting.

Marija Babovic  
*Director of Programme*

Marija Babovic, PhD, is a full professor at the University of Belgrade, Department of Sociology. The main fields of her expertise are socio-economic development, economic sociology, social inclusion, and sociology of work. Her research and policy analysis focus is on poverty and social exclusion, gender equality, labor market, migration, and inequalities from a regional and structural perspective. She is a senior consultant in international networks and coalitions. She is very skilled in evaluations. Babovic is member of the EU Inclusion Strategies Group. She was a visiting fellow at the Centre for the Study of Global Governance at LSE (UK) in 2008 and 2010. Currently, she is editing the *Monitoring of Social Situation in Serbia* web platform.

“Dynamic, cheerful team, full of energy and ideas”
Slobodan Cvejic

Director of Research

Slobodan Cvejic, PhD, is a full professor at the University of Belgrade, Department of Sociology. Key areas of his expertise are economic sociology, social research methodology, and statistics. Most of the research he conducted has been in the fields of social inequalities, social and economic development, social inclusion, employment, and education. He has abundant experience in research design and he is familiar with key survey methodologies, such as Labour Force Survey, Statistics on income and living conditions, Human Development, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Time use surveys, European Social Survey, and World value surveys. In 2000-2001 he was a visiting scholar at the University College London. He is the Editor in Chief of the SCOPUS ranked journal Sociologija.

Danilo Vukovic

Supervisory Board Member and Senior Consultant

Danilo Vukovic, PhD, is an assistant professor at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law. The main areas of his academic interest are empirical sociology of law, social policy in the post-socialist context, public policy analysis, and civil society. He was the director and team leader in UNDP Serbia. Vukovic is experienced in cooperation with state institutions, private and consulting sector in the region, particularly in the fields of social protection, youth and civil society. He has developed, managed and evaluated numerous projects and programs. He conducted international research as LSE Fellow.
Tomislav Novovic  
*Senior Consultant*

Tomislav Novovic, MA, is a senior consultant for monitoring and evaluation, with twenty years of professional experience in public administration reform, decentralization, local and regional development, development planning and improving local competitiveness. He is an expert for monitoring and evaluation with extensive experience in evaluating national strategies and policies and project and programme evaluations in Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, Macedonia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines and other countries. He has been working primarily with international organizations.

Tatjana Milic Zanoskar  
*Finance Manager*

Tatjana Milic Zanoskar has extensive experience in finance and law. She is an expert in financial law, laws and regulations related to the implementation of projects and activities of civil society organizations. She has worked in numerous civil society organizations, as grants subcontract and finance manager, as well as a consultant in the area of procurement and compliance.

Jovana Ilic  
*Office Manager*

Jovana Ilic coordinates all field research at SeConS. She has been a part of SeConS field researchers’ team since 2012, conducting surveys across the country. She is very skilled in implementation of qualitative research
techniques, as well as writing research reports. Jovana also has extensive experience in event management and logistical support. She graduated from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences.

Jovana Obradovic
Researcher

Jovana Obradovic, MA, took part in numerous research projects conducted by SeConS over the last 6 years. The main field of her interest is economic sociology. She participated in different research projects, and focused on issues related to the position of workers in the privatization process, migrations, domestic violence, etc. She is very skilled in qualitative research and methodology development, as well as analytical writing. Jovana is a PhD student at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, where she was a student assistant at the Department of Sociology.

Stefan Stefanovic
Researcher

Stefan Stefanovic started in SeConS as an intern in 2013, and then continued as the main field researcher, conducting surveys across the country. His main areas of interest are social media research and quantitative methods of inquiry with a focus on social inclusion and migratory issues. He is very skilled in quantitative research methodologies and techniques. He is a member of the EAPN Migration Task Force. Stefan is a Master student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade.
Dragana Savic
*Junior Researcher*

Dragana Savic participates in different research projects conducted by SeConS, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as the preparation of content that provides visibility of the organization. She is very skilled in writing. She had completed an internship and took part in the implementation of projects at the Anti-corruption Agency. She also worked in media for two years. Dragana graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade.

Katarina Velickovic
*Junior Researcher*

Katarina Velickovic, MSc, started as an intern in SeConS in 2016, and has assisted with both qualitative and quantitative research projects. She is skilled in data analysis and writing, and has experience in psychological research. Her main research interests lie within the fields of social psychology and behavior change. Katarina completed her Master’s program in Health and Social psychology at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University.

Snezana Bajceta
*Communication Coordinator*

Snezana Bajceta, MA, coordinates communications of the organization with different external actors, as well as internal. She ensures the visibility
of SeConS in public, both traditional and new media. Snezana is the SeConS website editor. She has experience in media research, public relations, content management, and journalism. Snezana is a PhD student in Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences, where she was also a student assistant.

“They are open for suggestions”
ADVISORY BOARD

Vesna Bojicic Dzelilovic
Vesna Bojicic Dzelilovic, PhD, is an Associate Professorial Research Fellow at the Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit of the Department of International Development, and an Associate Fellow of the Research on South Eastern Europe at the European Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her main areas of research are political economy of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction, post-communist economic transition, political economy of policy making, decentralization and regional development. She has published a number of academic and policy papers on these topics with a focus on South East Europe.

Dalibor Petrovic
Dalibor Petrovic, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering and Faculty of Philosophy. His main area of expertise is sociology of e-communication with a focus on social impact of Internet use. His book “Sociability in the age of the Internet” was awarded a Plaque from the Society for Informatics for the greatest scientific achievement in the field of information technology in 2014. Dr Petrovic participated in a number of national and international projects that, directly or indirectly, dealt with various aspects of social use of the Internet.

Natalija Bogdanov
Natalija Bogdanov, PhD, is a Full Professor at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture. Her main areas of academic research involve rural development and agricultural and rural policy. Most of her activities focus
on transitional reforms of agricultural and rural policies and institutional adjustments in the context of European integration, as well as socioeconomic aspects of structural changes in agriculture and development of rural areas. Natalija Bogdanov has participated in creating policies for numerous local and international research and development projects.

**Elena Bataglini**

Elena Bataglini, PhD, is a Senior Researcher. She is the director of the Urban and Regional Economics’ Research Area of Giuseppe Di Vittorio Foundation in Rome, where she has been working since 1992. She holds an MSc in Political Science and a PhD in Environmental and Spatial Sociology. She has published more than thirty books, peer-reviewed articles and international research reports in the field of regional endogenous development and innovation processes. She teaches methods and techniques of spatial analysis at the PhD Program in Landscapes of Contemporary Cities at the University of Rome.

**Ivana Aleksic**

Ivana Aleksic, MA, is a Senior Education Advisor for Wider Europe at British Council. She has a master degree in economic and political development from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) of the Columbia University in the USA. As a human development specialist in the World Bank Office in Belgrade, she led the education portfolio. She benefited from the US-funded Ron Brown Fellowship and was given Moses Leo Gintelson award for advancing human values in international affairs. Ivana previously worked as a team manager for monitoring the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Serbia, and as a Program Director of the Centre for Policy Studies.
Svetlana Stanarevic

Svetlana Stanarevic, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade, and she is also engaged at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad. Her main areas of expertise include human security, urban security and security culture. She is the director of the Human Security Research Centre, an organizational unit of the Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade. She participated in COST action (the oldest program of European cooperation in scientific and technologic research) TU 1203 Crime Prevention through Urban Design and Planning.