



# Child Rights in Serbia 2006, Summary

Nevena Vučković Šahović

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CHILD RIGHTS CENTRE  
Belgrade, Skender Begova 20/12  
33 44 170, 21 84 122, 184 096  
www.cpd.org.yu  
cpd@eunet.yu

For the publisher  
Nevena Vučković Šahović, Director

Editor of all publications  
Tanja Zogović

Translated by  
Nevena Vučković Šahović

Edited by  
Elana Greenfield

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Nevena Vučković Šahović

Child Rights Centre



*Belgrade, 2007*

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# CHILD RIGHTS IN SERBIA IN 2006<sup>1</sup>

## Preface

This Report on the rights of the child in Serbia for 2006 has been drafted by the Child Rights Centre. **The Report's aim** is to inform the domestic and international public about the situation of the rights of the child in Serbia.

**The form of the Report** is based on the *General Guidelines of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by the States parties under the Convention on the Rights of the Child* (hereinafter referred to as: the Convention). As for the content, it is still based on the control list of questions compiled by UNICEF<sup>2</sup>. The offered list is tailored to our needs and circumstances, hence some indicators untypical for Serbia were omitted, while others were added.

By virtue of this methodology, this **Report contains** an introduction and eight chapters. Each chapter includes an overview of individual rights. The introduction provides a brief overview of general political, economic and social circumstances in Serbia over the period covered by this Report. It also features a general evaluation of the exercise of child rights in Serbia and of the institutional framework for the exercise thereof.

**The work** on the report of the rights of the child in Serbia for 2006 was **hampered** by the **limited data** that we were able to obtain due to the unsystematic monitoring of the field on the part of the relevant state authorities. For instance, the issues of child labour, domestic violence, child trafficking, street children, torture and many more are not particularly dealt with by the competent government services. Thus, available to us were solely fragmentary data, supported by other sources provided by international or non-governmental organizations. This is why many elements are still missing, which makes it difficult to paint a full picture of the level of exercise of child rights.

Further, only **limited human and material resources** necessary for systematic and daily monitoring were available in the Child Rights Centre in the course of 2006. This is particularly mirrored in the fact that we could not follow court and administrative proceedings in cases of importance for children. This problem would, for the most part, be overcome if all relevant administrative and court decisions were made available to the general public e.g. by placing regular updates on the Internet.

**The Centre is grateful** to all peers and collaborators who helped to draw up the Report. As always, their expertise and impartiality made an invaluable contribution to the compilation of this Report.

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<sup>1</sup> This Report, written in English is an executive summary of the full Report on the Rights of the Child in Serbia, in Serbian language.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF: Implementation Handbook for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF 2002, New York

The Centre also thanks numerous national and foreign government and nongovernmental organizations for allowing us to use and publish the results of their studies (in particular national NGOs: *Sigurna zenska kuca*, *Familija*, *Zdravo da ste*, *Staze*, *Nojeva barka i Samohrane majke*). We are especially grateful to Save the Children Norway, which has been our most devoted friend and partner ever since the Centre began to operate.

## Introduction

**Basic data:** Area: 88.361 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 7.463.1572  
Ethnic makeup: Serbs - 6.212.838  
Roma - 108.193  
Hungarians - 293.299  
Bosniacs - 136.087  
Albanians - 61.647  
Montenegrins - 69.0493  
Population (up to age 19): 1.662.029 (22,27%)  
GDP per capita: 3.200 US\$ (estimated)  
Inflation rate in 2006: 6,6%  
Average net monthly salary: 25.228 CSD (400 US\$)

### Basic achievements:

In 2006 (including the first three months of 2007) several legislative and strategic documents, relevant for the realization of the rights of the child, were adopted. This applies in particular to activities in the areas of:

- Prohibition of discrimination
- Rights of persons with disabilities
- Protection of children from violence
- Protection of children from exploitation

### Other significant activities:

- The only coordinating body in this area in Serbia - the Child Rights Council, continued its work, but was not strengthened institutionally and system-wise.
- The office of children's ombudsman in Vojvodina within the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman continued its work and advancement.
- Three more municipal Ombudsmen offices established units for children.
- Parliamentary Subcommittee on the rights of the child was very active in 2006 but its further activities will depend on the new composition after the elections in January 2007.
- The Report on the Implementation of the Convention in Serbia was adopted by Serbian Government and is due to be submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by May 2007.
- People's Office of the President of Serbia paid attention to the most burning needs of children in particularly addressing the physical state of elementary schools through Serbia.

### **Not achieved/needs to be improved:**

- Decrease of number of children and their families living in poverty
- The human rights ombudsman The Law was adopted, but the ombudsman was not appointed as yet.
- The child rights Ombudsman. A decision was reached to adopt a law on children's ombudsman. The draft was prepared, but the law was not adopted.
- Increase and specification of budget allocation for children
- Children's Act - there is not a comprehensive legislation on children and the State never made any steps towards such goal.
- Higher level of concern, knowledge and accountability of the politicians in matters regarding children and their rights
- Substantial reform of education system, in accordance with international standards
- Improvement of health of children in particular of adolescent health
- Better information on rights of children and dissemination to all professionals working for and with children, including broader public, parents and children.
- Provision of efficient and effective system of protection of children (including prompt intervention) from all forms of violence and exploitation, including in the context of trafficking, through media and new technologies.
- Cooperation with NGOs limited and human rights NGOs often stigmatized by politicians and media. Position of NGOs still unresolved - no legislation.

## **General social and political context in Serbia in 2006**

Economic, social and political discourse of 2006 did not bring any improvements. On the contrary, and with scarce exceptions, the general situation deteriorated. The only pending **issue resolved in 2006** was the status of the **State Union of Serbia and Montenegro**: The Union was peacefully dissolved and after almost 90 years, Serbia is again an independent State.

However, Serbia is still a State with at least two very **burning issues**: the status of the southern province of Kosovo and cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY). Due to the lack of constructive contribution to the cooperation with the ICTY the negotiation process with the EU was suspended until visible improvements were made. The two issues burden Serbia and its population, and affect children and their lives.

Additionally, the 2007 January elections still did not result in a new or stable Government. The old Government, which calls itself "technical", is still in power. Such political limbo very negatively affects children and their rights, in particularly hampering their prosperity.

## Major factors:

- **Organizational**

Good coordination at both the micro and macro levels is of great importance for the child rights. Serbia still lacks political will, awareness, knowledge and human and financial resources to set up efficient and functional systems. In the child rights sphere, this becomes evident through the work of the national coordinating body - the Child Rights Council and most of the institutions dealing with children without parental care, schools and social work centres.

- **Economic**

As evidenced by the foregoing general statistics, a large number of children in Serbia live in poverty. Continuous political problems shift the activity focus from the economic issues; hence, the reforms are not progressing at an envisaged pace. Two major problems are unemployment and inflation (6.6% last year). Due to an increase in real terms in the costs of living, a large number of families are not able to ensure sound upbringing and quality education for their children. Education-related costs additionally worsen the position of a large number of families.

- **Political**

We believe that organizational, economic and social problems might be overcome more swiftly if the Kosovo issue and cooperation with the Hague Tribunal were resolved. Status quo, unwillingness to confront the truth and abuse of history, tradition and culture by some members of political elite diminish our chances to create a political ambience where the promotion and protection of human rights would be the first priority. It is only in the context of human rights friendly politics, political objectives of inclusion into European integration processes and development of a healthy society, that a more significant progress could be expected as regards the respect for and exercise of the rights of the child. Unfortunately, every child in Serbia is still a hostage of politics. The efforts of some politicians to improve certain walks of life for children remain eclipsed by the autistic and insensitive attitude of the majority. The fact that children and their rights are seldom a topic of political discourse (and action) fully supports the above assertion.

- **Social factors in Serbia** are numerous and remain one of the major obstacles to the exercise of the rights of the child. Patriarchal and conservative attitudes, even on the side of professional working with children, hamper most efforts towards improvement of the situation of the rights of the child in Serbia. They are primarily evident in the framework of the crisis of the system of values (see Report for 2005 for more elaborate information that are relevant for 2006 too).

Children remain very low on the agenda of political elites. Even when mentioned in campaigns, children are not the subject of a coordinated approach of the acting Government, nor of the plans of political parties. Political elites are preoccupied with areas such as economy (and related issues), State security and the police, justice system or foreign affairs. Other areas, such as health, education, environment or culture are marginalized and de facto not on the politician's list of priorities.

- **Some of the issues that should be priority in 2007 and on:**
- **Children's Act** adopted
- **Children's Ombudsman** (act and person installed)
- **National, comprehensive plan of action for children in Serbia** needs to be developed
- **Poverty Reduction Strategy** further implemented
- **Exclusion and discrimination** given higher attention in Government's policies
- **Health and in particular adolescent health** needs to be fully addressed and implemented

The professional ethics of health professionals, teachers, educators in institutions, employees in social work centres and others dealing with children, was particularly interesting to the Child Rights Centre in the course of 2006. The absence or low level of professional ethics was not evident vis-a-vis children only, yet children are most certainly the greatest victims of the problem. In Serbia, some efforts were invested, primarily in the social welfare sphere, in shedding light on the issue and drawing up a system reform plan aimed at raising professional and ethical awareness of all those dealing with children within the system.

Social violence, particularly **violence against children**, is a huge problem in Serbia. It is committed in all five contexts of the UN Study on Violence - school, family, institutions, local environment and work place - mostly by adults against children. However, an increase and change in the quality of peer violence is particularly disconcerting. In Serbia, no quality plan or strategy is in place for the resolution of the problem. Current activities are aimed at repression and security, taking no account of the causes, and do not promote the amicable settlement of conflicts.

The attitude towards **violence against children**, in particular in schools and families is still very conservative. Relevant legislation is not appropriate to handle violations. Corporal punishment, for example, is still acceptable form of disciplining children in families. Although forbidden in schools, corporal punishment is widely spread in that setting and additionally in institutions and residential care settings. Children are too often subject of corporal punishment and of different forms of degrading treatments and punishments.

Violence against children became more difficult to hide, in particular thanks to the **media**. Unfortunately, media representatives often additionally burden a situation for an abused child by not respecting his or her privacy. With more active campaigns and additional assistance, the media can become a more educated partner in the prevention and protection of violence against children

## I GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION<sup>3</sup>

The Republic of Serbia has still not submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child its Initial Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Government of Serbia has prepared and adopted the Report recently and it should be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by May 2007.

### 1. National Strategy

- The activities that contribute to the improvement of the status of children are based on the National Action Plan for Children that was adopted in February 2004. This document is not a comprehensive one, but rather contains guidelines for several areas on the rights of the child. Nevertheless, the existence of the National Action Plan for Children is valuable, and based on that plan the 3 local plans of action were drafted in 2005 and 13 in 2006 (16 Municipalities).

Other plans of action developed in 2006:

- Special protocol on conduct of police officers in protection of minors from abuse and neglect adopted;
- Special Protocol on protection of children from abuse and neglect in institutions within social care system adopted;
- Ministries of Health and Education started drafting protocols on abuse and neglect of children within their respective jurisdictions;
- Situation analysis made, as starting point for Strategy on action in relation to violence against children;
- A Working group formed to draft a National strategy on crime prevention.

### 2. Harmonisation of National Legislation with the Convention

In 2006 some improvements towards harmonization with the Convention and other relevant international standards were made.

- The new Constitution includes, for the first time in Serbian history a provision (Article 64) with the title: Rights of the Child. The Constitution prescribes that a law shall regulate rights of the child, which should be a good basis for initiatives to pursue a children's act.
- The other important piece of legislation is the Law on prevention of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.
- 5 by-laws were adopted to allow for the application of the Law on Juvenile Offenders and Criminal Law Protection on Minors.

<sup>3</sup> These are just extracts. Please see the full Report published in Serbian language and posted on the web site of the Centre: [www.cpd.org.yu](http://www.cpd.org.yu)

Segmented work on harmonization results in partial harmonization of national legislation with the Convention. A coordinated approach can be achieved by adopting a Children's Act of Serbia.

### **3. Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

In the Republic of Serbia, international treaties are applied directly, which means that if there is any legal void or discrepancy between domestic rules and international law, the provisions of the Convention may be applied. However, in practice, local courts apply international regulations in a negligible number of cases, but no concrete data are available on their actual number.

### **4. Protection Mechanisms**

The system of protection of rights of the child in the Republic of Serbia provides for the exercise of regular and extraordinary remedies, including appeals to the Constitutional Court of Serbia in the last instance. However, the Constitutional Court is not operational.

The system of legal remedies does not cover certain situations when matters pertaining to the child are decided but the child is not accorded the status of a party to the proceedings, which is the result of insufficiently recognised and imprecisely defined rights of the child to express views.

The process of establishment of a children's ombudsman was not completed in 2006; The draft law is currently in the parliamentary procedure. Also, the issue of independent legal representation of the child in all relevant legal and administrative proceedings is still not regulated.

The SOS Hotline for children is implemented by the Foundation of HRH Princess Katarina Karadjordjevic in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the People's Office of the President of the Republic of Serbia, and Centre for Protection of Infants, Children and Youth. The SOS Hotline in 2006 received 7576 calls. Advisory assistance was provided in 2682 calls.

### **5. Coordination and Implementation of the Convention**

The main coordinating body for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and child rights-based activities is the Child Rights Council, which was set up by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in 2002. Further institutionalization of the Council was achieved in 2006. A progress was made in the development of local action plans and formation of a database for the monitoring of the status of children.

Despite the Council's activities, the mechanisms of intersectoral cooperation were weak in 2006. There was no appropriate coordination between the relevant subsystems - education, social welfare, judiciary, finances, health care, internal affairs. The same problems exist in the cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental sectors, as well as in the relations between the national Government and the local government authorities. Poor coordination is, inter alia, the result of lack of reforms in some of the said subsystems, primarily in the judiciary.

Efforts to transfer childcare from the state to local levels remains insufficient due to the overall problems in Serbia, as indicated in the Introduction of this Report.

## **6. Monitoring the Implementation**

Mechanisms for monitoring of implementation are non-existent in most areas. No progress was made in that direction in 2006. It seems that there is still no awareness of the necessity of systematic control over accomplishment of the set goals (in the areas for which they were set), since no indication was given of any such actions and projects in the future period. The currently existing mechanisms of supervision of activities move within the limits of regular control of everyday activities of relevant Government departments.

The only body tasked with coordination in area of legislation is the Child Rights Subcommittee in the Parliament of Serbia. That Subcommittee is charged with the task of prior control of compliance of all proposed legislation that might have relevance for children.

## **7. Budget Analysis and Allocation of Necessary Funds**

Budgetary allocations in the Republic of Serbia are made by sectors, which makes the analysis of the amount of funds assigned for children's needs and of their allocation more difficult, and it is not evident how much funds from the budget are set aside for children. The Serbian Government allocates the biggest portion of funds for children's needs through the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy (all contributions related to social welfare of children are provided through this ministry) and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Budget allocations for education are still between 3,5 and 3,8% of GDP which places Serbia with the lowest group in Europe. The same applies to social transfers of 1,4% of GDP.

## **8. Data/Indicators**

The Serbian Statistics Bureau keeps information of public interest that represent the basis for analysis of other indicators, but the age groups used by the Bureau are not in compliance with the definition of a child provided in the Convention. Namely, the

Bureau does not use the 18-year age limit, and its data cannot be applied to the entire child population in Serbia. Furthermore, the Bureau does not even have the information on the number of children in Serbia (under 18 years of age).

The DevINFO data base was set in 2005 and has improved its methods in the last year. UNICEF aided DevINFO to a great extent in this area. Now DevINFO uses 312 indicators. Data are not always current but the system is being improved.

The Ministry of Education and Sports initiated a data collection of all education-related activities in Serbia. The effect of this activity is unknown.

### **9. The Role and Status of Non-governmental Organisations**

The role and status of non-governmental organisations remain undefined as respective legislation has not been enacted yet. Hence, important preconditions for strengthening cooperation among non-governmental organisations and state institutions do not exist. As in the past period, their cooperation was implemented on a project basis in the situations when the government authorities were mostly in need of professional support from the civil sector. However, concrete support to the non-governmental organisations dealing with child rights is still wanting, as are legal solutions envisaging financial facilities for the activities of the civil sector.

It is also worth pointing out that the Fund for Social Innovations, which funds the local community projects within the social welfare system, has imposed a requirement on the principals to have a partner coming from among local non-governmental organisations in order to become eligible for project funding.

The position of child rights NGOs is even more difficult due to limited or non-existing institutional support. No Government in Serbia has ever approached the Child Rights Centre or responded to its requests to institutionally support this organization (in spite of all the Centre's work and significant contribution to development of the rights of the child in Serbia).

### **10. Dissemination, Training and Raising Awareness**

Non-governmental organisations still play the main role in information dissemination and raising awareness about child rights. In 2006 UNICEF broadcasted a series of ads on rights of the child (Happy TV).

Formal education system in Serbia does not contribute to human rights, child rights or education on democracy. Efforts towards dissemination of human and rights of the child are now mostly where they were during Milosevic regime. Formally Civic education an optional program is offered in elementary and secondary schools but no systematic training of teachers is provided.

## **11. International Cooperation**

A large number of international organisations taking active part in the child right programmes and projects are present in the Republic of Serbia. (UNICEF, UNDP, OSCE, the European Agency for Reconstruction, and the World Bank or international NGOs such as Save the Children UK). It is important to note that most of the projects of the Child Rights Centre are funded by international organisations (UNICEF), international nongovernmental organisations (SC Norway, UK, Sweden), and foreign governments.

## **II DEFINITION OF THE CHILD**

There is no explicit definition of the child in Serbian laws. However, the Constitution defines major hood - the full legal capacity - as of the age of 18. The same definition is in the Family Law of Serbia. Consequently, it is only the drawn assumption that the child is every human being below the age of 18. A children's act should provide a definition of the child.

## **III GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

### **1. Life, survival and development**

No action towards general safety and security of children in 2006. Disaggregated data on traffic accidents are not available to the Centre.

Life, survival and development in Serbia are greatly endangered by violence and again, there are no available data.

Infant and child mortality constantly drops but the concern remains with mortality among the most vulnerable groups, in particular Roma children. Infant and child mortality within Roma population are at least three times higher than in the majority population.

### **2. The best interest of the child**

The best interest of the child is not a Constitutional principle. Other legislation that contains mention of the best interest of the child does not define it or even offer elements for the purpose of implementation of this principle.

### **3. Child participation**

Right of the child to participate in family life is limited and measured only through surveys. The Centre has offered results in the previous reports and there were no indication of bigger differences for the year 2006.

Child participation in schools is very much related to their discriminated position (age discrimination). Although legislation provides for child parliaments and similar bodies of participation within schools, actual preparation of children for and participation in the formulation of school curricula, school rules and in other issues of their concern, is very limited or non-existent.

Participation in the administrative and court procedures remains as described in the 2005 Report. It is legally quite harmonized with international standards but in practice child's views are not fully respected.

#### **4. No discrimination**

As mentioned, the new Constitution is important. Also the Law on Prevention of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities.

The Law on Protection from Discrimination is in the drafting process.

Efforts to fight stigmatisation of different, minority groups are limited to civil society activities. The State does not put enough efforts, which is evident, for example, in low response of prosecution and courts response in cases of human rights violation issues.

Education system does not support efforts to fight discrimination and change attitudes towards differences. For example, the optional program for elementary and secondary schools Religious education actually is based on discrimination between girls and boys (their different roles in society and family) and is discriminatory towards other religions.

## **IV CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

### **1. Right to identity**

Around 98,9% of children in Serbia are registered at birth. However, this is significantly lower among Roma population: 95,4%.

### **2. Freedom of expression**

There is no particular limitation to the child's freedom of expression but it is closely related to the previously described right to participation (expression of views).

The Centre notes violations and misuse of freedom of expression, mainly through media.

### **3. Freedom of thought, consciousness and religion**

No significant changes or improvements.

#### **4. Freedom of associations and peaceful assembly**

No significant changes or improvements.

#### **5. Rights to privacy**

Increase of violations of rights of the child to privacy by media.

#### **6. Right to information**

This right is exercised freely by children but question of access is closely related to economic potentials of the child's family, school and local community.

Protection of children from harmful information exists in the legislation but its implementation is not there. The laws prohibit information that can be harmful to moral, intellectual, emotional or social development of the child. However, in practice, children are exposed to all sorts of violence through written and visual media. These issues still need to be addressed in Serbia, particularly in relation to the exploitation of children, including when it is related to trafficking in human beings or the sale of children.

#### **7. Prohibition of torture, capital punishment and deprivation of liberty**

Sentencing to juvenile prison in constant decrease, including in 2006.

There are no reliable data on violence against children in schools, the prison, institutions for juveniles and other residential care institutions as well as in other settings where children reside under State supported care (for example, medical institutions and hospitals). The common knowledge of violent behaviour and use of corporal punishment applies to these institutions in particular. The centre has not had a chance to do the survey.

Though forbidden by the Law, corporal punishment, degrading treatments or punishment as well as humiliation of children happen in schools regularly. There is no data collected with regards to this issue but surveys could be carried out. The Centre has learned that violence in schools is so spread that even some teachers of Civic education violate rights of the child, rather than being driving force for the promotion of human rights values and philosophy.

The Government carried out several activities addressing violence against children. After the 2005 General Protocol on protection of children from neglect and abuse, last year's results were in follow up to that General Protocol. They were:

- Special Protocol on conduct of police officers in protection of minors from abuse and neglect adopted;
- Special Protocol on protection of children from abuse and neglect in institutions within social care system adopted;

- Ministries of Health and Education started drafting protocols on abuse and neglect of children within their respective jurisdictions;

Situation analysis made, as starting point for Strategy on action in relation to violence against children.

## **V FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE**

### **1. Family life**

There is a constant drop of birth rate in Serbia. Therefore, it is now a Constitutional provision that: "Republic of Serbia supports parents in their decision to have children and assists them" (Art 63). In other aspects of the right to family life, no significant changes or improvements since last year.

### **2. Alternative care**

No significant changes or improvements.

### **3. Illicit transfer and non-return**

No significant changes or improvements.

### **4. Abuse and neglect**

- As stated earlier, family violence is alarming in Serbia. The earlier indicated plans and strategies address the issue of violence against children in a more holistic approach, though more attention is paid to the violence that happens outside the family. The areas not addressed by the Government are violence in community and in workplaces.

In general, attempts to protect people from violence within family are visible now. The NGO Safe house for Women hosted many more women and children.

There is still not one safe house or any other structure for children who are victims of family abuse or neglect. There is only the shelter, a very unfriendly setting from temporary placement of children. The shelter is a closed unit, located within the Institution for residential care of children in conflict with the law.

There is not a unified database on abused and neglected children. The centre commends the Police for setting a date base for children victims of 27 criminal acts and that data are disaggregated by age and gender. In accordance with this data for first 9 months of 2006, 2151 grave criminal offence against children was reported (1504 younger than 14).

## **VI HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

### **1. Health and social protection**

No significant changes or improvements. Roma remain the most disadvantaged group when it comes to health, primarily immunization, neonatal health as well as access to health.

### **2. Education, free time and cultural activities**

Starting as of school year 2006/2007, preparatory school as of 6 years is compulsory.

Enrolment rate in Serbia is 96-98%.

Drop-out is still high for Roma children. Only 76% Roma children are in schools and only 13% finish school.

Around 60 % of children with disabilities do not attend elementary school.

Education is officially free but costs of education are actually high. Parents and families spend an average monthly salary to equip their children for every school year. In addition, parents are obliged to pay for extra classes in particular areas of their children's educational gaps. The school rarely provides extra-class assistance to children.

Otherwise, there were no significant changes or improvements. More on quality education and attitudes, including school discipline can be found in the Serbian text.

## **VII CHILDREN IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **1. Exploitation**

Child labour is a burning issue and closely related to school non-attendance or drop-out rates. Most working children are in the informal sector, which make it almost impossible to assess number. The results of the detailed research are published in "Child Labour in Serbia" in 2006.<sup>4</sup> Data and other information apply to the period until 2006 and the Centre did not notice any significant change in the last year.

Programs related to raising awareness and building capacities in response to all forms of sexual exploitation were continued in 2006; this resulted in the increase of reported cases.

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<sup>4</sup> Publication of the Child Rights Centre, Belgrade

In response to anti-smoking campaign for adolescents, a drop of 5% is recorded. The Government concentrated also on plans for anti-narcotics campaign and have undergone research study in order to draw a plan of action which we hope to get later this year.

## **2. Juvenile justice**

Thanks to the new Law on Juvenile Offenders, the numbers of offences committed by juveniles decreased in 2006, being 8,8% lower than in 2005. There is also a decrease in types of criminal offences. Namely, in 2005 fifteen juveniles committed murder and in 2006 only five. There is also a decrease in thefts: 1776 in 2005 and 1650 in 2006 (Police data base)<sup>5</sup>.

Further activities to reform the juvenile justice system include an on-going training of judiciary and police. Information that is more detailed is available in the Serbian version of the Report.

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<sup>5</sup> Further activities to reform the juvenile justice system include an on-going training of judiciary and police. Information that is more detailed is available in the Serbian version of the Report.