

+4122 839 33 59



**СТАЛНА МИСИЈА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ ПРИ УЈЕДИЊЕНИМ НАЦИЈАМА  
И ДРУГИМ МЕЂУНАРОДНИМ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈАМА У ЖЕНЕВИ**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

5, Thury CH-1206 Genève Tel: 022.839.3344 Fax: 022.839.3359

E-mail: [serbian.mission@bluewin.ch](mailto:serbian.mission@bluewin.ch)

No : 37/1	Date: 16. januar 2012. godine
To : Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	
Fax: 022 917 9006	

Subject: Reply of the Republic of Serbia to the letter of the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed, pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 10/23

Dear Mrs. Shaheed,

Please find enclosed the reply of the Republic of Serbia to your letter dated 29 September 2011 relating to the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 10/23.

Sincerely,

*Vesna Filipović Nikolić*  
Vesna Filipović Nikolić,  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Mission of Serbia

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

17 JAN. 2012

Recipients :... *S.P.D.*.....

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**Responses to the questionnaire of the Independent expert in the field of cultural rights on the benefits of scientific progress and its practical application, regarding the Human Rights Council resolution no. 10/23**

4.6) Within the scope of various programs of bilateral scientific and technical cooperation based on the existing agreements on scientific and technological cooperation, our scientists are given the opportunity to exchange experiences, information, examples of research findings through the freedom to travel abroad and in the course of joint research projects.

8. Declining population and the age structure in the Republic of Serbia and its environment, have an impact, among other factors, on the preservation and strengthening of the scientific community. According to data provided by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia there is a total of 10,220 researchers, of whom, 8,800 are engaged in the projects run by the Ministry. The average age of researchers is 44.3 years, which is higher than the average population age, indicating the necessity to take actions targeted at the creation of scientific and research offspring. Out of the total number of researchers 43% are women, the fact that makes the gender structure positive and much better than most countries in Europe.

Existing 8% of the highly educated persons compared to the total population can not ensure the development of the Republic of Serbia. Increasing the number of graduates, as the future scientific potential, could be achieved not only by increasing the number of enrolled students but also through more efficient studies. Shifting to the Bologna Declaration education system, despite the significant initial difficulties, the efficiency of study will increase and new Ph.D. study programs will produce much younger age structure among scientific researchers.

9. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding and the association to the Seventh Framework Program of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities, the Republic of Serbia was given the status of the associated country on 13 May, 2007. This status implies the possibility of participation of Serbian researchers in almost all programs, an option to coordinate projects and also the opportunity to influence the research policy through participation of Serbian experts and delegates in various program committees of the Seventh Framework Program. The average success rate of 12.6% achieved by our researchers in the Seventh Framework Program is encouraging and is close to the success of the new EU members.

10. In the period from 2001 to 2009 our researchers have achieved encouraging initial results in international scientific and technological cooperation. Basic programs, frameworks and instruments used for its implementation are the Sixth and the Seventh Framework Program of the European Community, COST, EUREKA, and NATO SPS, the programs of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNESCO and bilateral cooperation programs. The obstacle that is, inter alia, stated to be in the way of a better international cooperation in the national strategy: "the organisation of state institutes should be adjusted and brought to the level of competence present in the corresponding institutions in developed countries".

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Please also be informed that the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society adopted a Rulebook on the Initial Set of Universal Services ("Official Gazette of RS" no. 55/09), determining the initial set of services, defined as universal service, consisting of:

1. Access to a public fixed telephone network, including the service of data transmission which enables quality access to the Internet;
2. Special measures to ensure equivalent access to the public voice service for the persons with disabilities and socially vulnerable users;
3. Free access to emergency services;
4. Public pay telephone service;
5. Access to telephone operator and directory services.