



2019-2021

YMCA Serbia Report

Signs of Hope



weltweit

Aktion Hoffnungszeichen

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ABOUT US

YMCA Serbia dates back to 2008. It is and always has been entirely managed by young people. We work with children, teens and young adults in Bački Petrovac, a Slovak municipality in northern Serbia.

YMCA Serbia's management team consists of 4 highly educated individuals and we have at least 50 regular volunteers and members. Our organisation is still very young and is currently transitioning from a fully voluntary YMCA to one that employs young people and is the heart of the community.

2

Part - time
staff members

7

Board
members

100+

Regular Participants
& Volunteers

2000+

Digital
followers



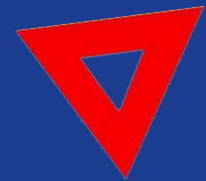
OUR VISION & MISSION

The strategy of YMCA Serbia revolves unconditionally around young people - while supporting the development of their natural interests, we create a space for youth empowerment with additional experiences aimed at developing life skills which are crucial and lacking in young peoples lives.

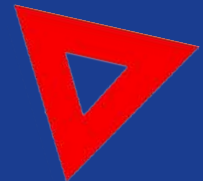
The mission of YMCA Serbia is youth empowerment.

We find that the young people are in their most tender, formative age and therefore need most attention from the society; at the same time, the young people in Serbia most often are the underprivileged, underserved, unnoticed members of society.

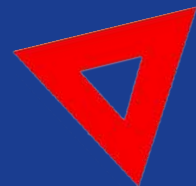
YMCA Serbia strives to find the most effective, sustainable and most needed ways to serve the ones who are most vulnerable in our society - children and the young. Our main objective is to empower young people with knowledge, facilitators, safe space and positive encouragement for self-actualization and development. This will motivate the young to see a bright future in Serbia and to choose to develop their potential here. We want to present them with a new perspective on society - a society in which they can become active creators and change makers.



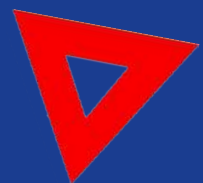
COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY

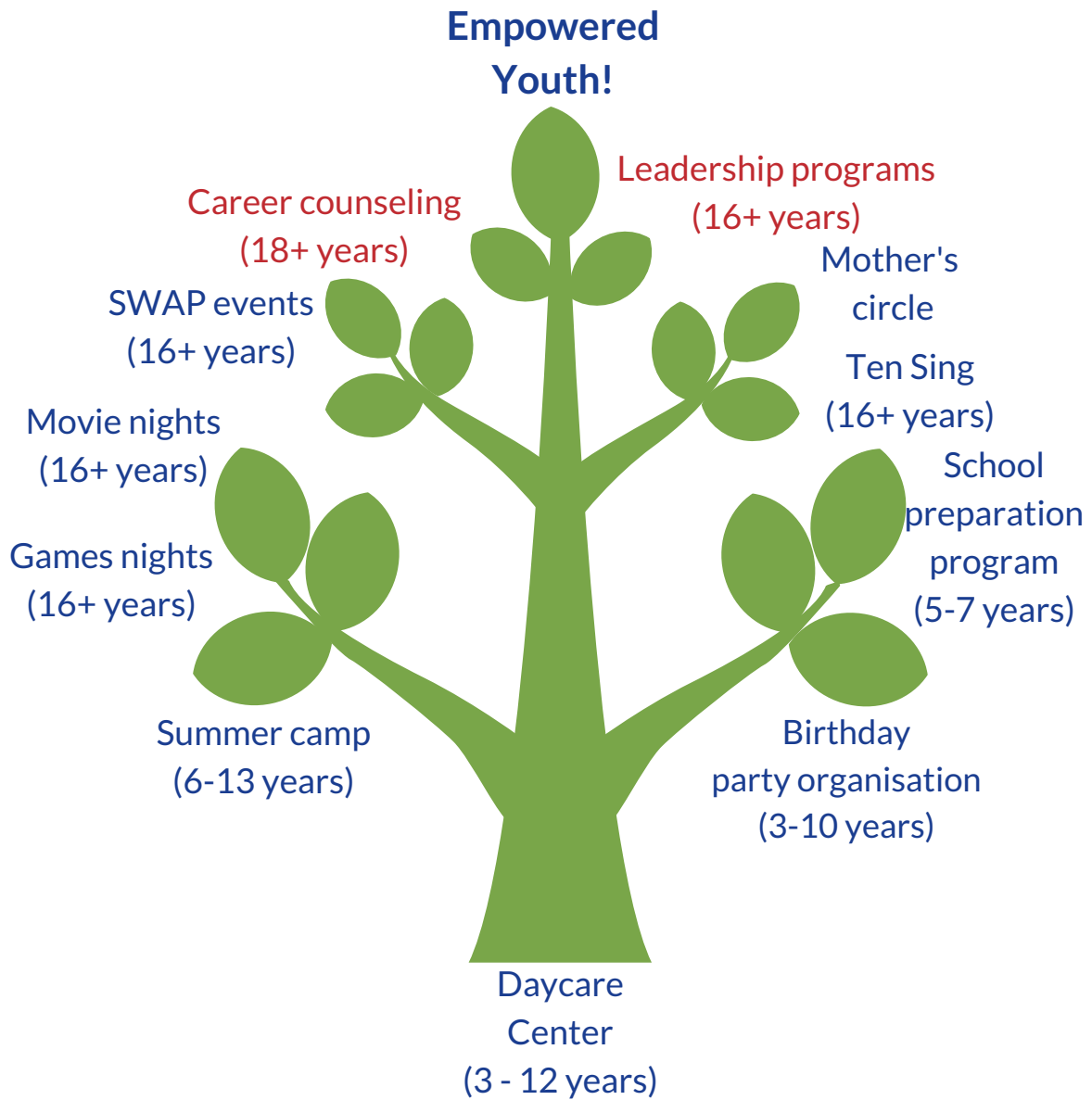


RESPECT



CARE





GROW WITH 

2.1

DAYCARE CENTER

Our Daycare Center "Ymcáreň" is part of "Signs of hope" project, running from April 2019 to December 2021 with it's main objective: become **service to wider community**.

Daycare Center is open daily for children from 3 up to 12 years. Every week we present a new topic on our social media platforms and parents choose between: environmental, educational, creative or cultural activities for their children. After hiring a new part-time educator, we started working daily from July 15th, 2020.

July 2020 - September 2021 results:

300

Days open

1335

Visits

900

Hours

60

Subjects





NEW SPACE!



weltweit

Aktion Hoffnungszeichen

- Our Management team worked hard to acquire the new space from the Municipality to use for an indefinite period of time. The new center consists of classroom / playroom, office, hall and restroom.
- Financial help from the project "Signs of hope" allowed us to renovate and equip the space and make it suitable for children and activities.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Current increase in number of participating parents/children 299% in comparison to years 2018 and 2019 - jump from 18 children per month to about 100 children/month
- Financial income generated from services charged has increased significantly
- We have two part time employees: a project coordinator and a qualified children and youth educator.
- **MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Sustainable program which generates income to cover the salary for a part-time employee



NEW OBJECTIVES/PLANS:

- School preparation program for 6 year olds - consists of 8 different steps and individual weekly gatherings with its main goal to fully prepare future first graders
- Birthday organization - activities planning and supervision done by educator at YMCA Serbia space.
- Reach increase - presenting our activities in nearby towns (Kulpin and Gložan) and reaching kids from vulnerable backgrounds.

More photos:



"This program came into my life just when I needed it the most! I studied in Slovakia for the past 5 years and after graduating in non-formal pedagogy, I was determined to live and work abroad. The pandemic had brought me back to Bački Petrovac and I had no other option than to stay at my hometown and look for job opportunities here. I was really skeptical about finding a job in my field in Serbia, but luckily YMCA Serbia was looking for a children's educator at their Daycare center.

Today, more than a one year later, I can proudly say that I have not only developed as an pedagogue, but also as a person - I am more open-minded, proactive, creative and most importantly, I feel like the work that I do is meaningful. All of that thanks to YMCA Serbia.

I'm looking forward to being even more involved at YMCA activities and programs since they are a great platform for implementing all of my ideas. Although, I am really happy here, I really feel we need to make my position full-time so we can grow as an organization. I hope that "Signs of Hope" project will help us with that!"

Mgr. Nataša Kinik,
Children and Youth Educator







This summer we celebrated our 10th annual Summer camp for children! The main goal of our summer activities is to provide quality time for children from 6 - 13 years of age. We have combined learning, physical activity and civic engagement which resulted in a successful self-sustainable program. During our summer camp, children visit local companies, institutions and NGO's and get to know their community on a whole other level!

REVENUE INCREASE:2019 - 2020 **14%**2020 - 2021 **130%**

More photos:

**NEW OBJECTIVES/PLANS:**

- Camping facility - suitable for overnight camps
- Camping abroad - organized stay at rented camping facility, opportunity for cultural growth for children from low-income families.

99Children
(2019 - 2021)**11**

Volunteers

19Locations
visited





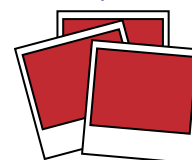
Our folklore ensemble "Petrovčan" brings together young dancers, singers and musicians in order to cultivate / preserve Slovak folk traditions and music. This program allows young people to perform regularly at local and international folklore festivals. It offers young performers a space to be creatively active through music, dance and singing. Head of the folklore ensemble works as a volunteer.

14

Dancers

14Local and
international
performances**30+**Costumes
collected**240**Hours
rehearsing

More photos:

**NEW OBJECTIVES / PLANS:**

- Private dance lessons for teens and adults (waltz, step, čardaš)
- Relive COOL;TURA a modern dance, music and theatre club





HTLAS
75
LEUDU

Dni Petrovca 2019

2.4

MOTHER'S CIRCLE

From November to December 2019, 10 new mothers met 12 times. Due to the pandemic that began in early 2020, the mothers limited their social activities. In the next period, we plan to start running this activity again, as much as conditions and measures will allow us to.



3 FUTURE PLANS

Youth programs

- Leadership programs
- E-Bridge project (in partnership with YMCA Kosovo and YMCA Ireland)
- Career counseling
- Weekly gatherings (Game and Movie nights)

Kids programs

- Summer camp abroad
- School preparation program
- Organizing birthday parties

Ten Sing

- Private dance lessons (waltz, step, čardaš)
- COOL;TURA - modern dance, music and theatre club

Community programs

- SWAP events (clothing, books, toys, furniture...)

Full time staff member

- Youth and children educator

Youth center

- Reconstruction and equipping the current facility for the upcoming activities

More photos:



During the duration of this project, the management team developed a one year plan to focus more on youth leadership programs.

We are currently developing our first longterm strategy as a young movement. We have identified our 1 and 5 year goals which we hope will move us towards a more concrete longterm strategy. Our organization is in a transition period where we are moving from a fully voluntary organization to employing a small staff team - this takes, time, patience and energy in order for it to be done correctly and be sustainable with relevant methods, policies and work culture.

When it comes to the actual strategy, this year we plan to establish partnerships with local companies as part of the leadership program for high school students from our municipality. This program will benefit both parties - students will improve their soft skills that employers are looking for and most importantly grow and become more independent. On the other hand, companies will have a chance to build relationships with future potential employees. This leadership program will result in an increase in members in our organization and also generate stable income for our employees, thanks to paid cooperation with companies.

A corporate partnership with YMCA Serbia will allow local businesses to strengthen their position as a socially responsible company.

We feel that companies could help address the growing problem of youth unemployment and help local young people develop the right skills they need to enter the workforce by offering work experience or skills training.

Since the beginning of the project and employing a part-time project / activities coordinator, we have gained:

- **better organization in term of finances** - we have a better financial overview
- **growth capacity** - coordinator manages administrative, organizational and procurement works such as: convening meetings, communication with board members, mail and social media management
- **effective and reliable activity and program coordination**
- **applied to more public calls for project funding**

Still, there is space for improvement. We are currently working on strengthening our weakest organization points:

- Enforcing a stable membership system
- Putting registration and participation forms in regular, daily usage
- More professional social media management
- Building partnerships with other NGOs in Serbia

Donators:

- YMCA Czech Republic (2014 - 2021)
- Office for Slovaks Living Abroad
- Bački Petrovac municipality
- CVJM - Signs of hope

Future partnerships:

- Sponsorship program for private companies
- West Balkan Initiative

Ref	Description	Type of Unit e.g. item / time	Unit Cost	Quantity Year 1	Quantity Year 2	Quantity Year 3	Notes	Amount used	Amount not spend	Total planned (approved)	Notes
A	Capital expenditure							2353.13	-103.13	2250	
A1	Computer	x1	150	1	0	0	YMCA Serbia	150	0	150	
A2	Admin computer	x1	350	0	0	1	YMCA Germany	467.08	-117.08	350	amount of 103.13 EUR
A3	Projector Screen	item	150	1	0	0	YMCA Serbia	150	0	150	
A4	Printer	item	100	1	0	0	YMCA Serbia	100	0	100	
A5	Furniture and other similar equipment	item	1000	1	0	0	YMCA Serbia	1000	0	1000	
A6	Projector	item	500	0	0	1	YMCA Germany	486.05	13.95	500	
B	Recurring expenditure							15159.6	550.45	8680	
B1	Internet	Monthly	13.52	5	12	4	YMCA Germany	283.92	196.08	480	
B2	Project Materials	Monthly	38.85	1	8	4	YMCA Germany	505.05	-25.05	480	
B3	Printing Materials	Monthly	48.91	0	2	2	YMCA Germany	195.64	44.36	240	
B4	Space	Monthly	350	12	12	6	Municipality	10150	-5350	4800	managed to acquire from municipality additional space
B5	Electricity	Monthly	100	12	12	5	Municipality	2900	-1460	1440	
B6	Water	Monthly	15	12	12	5	Municipality	435	-195	240	
B7	Promotional expenses	yearly	689.99	0	0	1	YMCA Germany	689.99	310.01	1000	
C	Staff costs							12950.6	-1299.4	14250	
C1	Project Manager (part time)	Monthly	355.32	10	12	5	YMCA Germany	9593.64	656.36	10250	
C2	Project Assistant (includes Finances) part time	Monthly	209.81	1	9	6	YMCA Germany	3356.96	643.04	4000	
D	Project activities							5000	0	5000	
D1	Traditional Dance Clother (female)	item	250	12	8		YMCA Serbia	5000	0	5000	
E	Monitoring, evaluation							0	200	200	
E1	External Evaluation	Person	200	0	0		YMCA Germany	0	200	200	
	Total costs for all mentioned fields of expenditures financed by YMCA Germany							15578.33	2,049.85	17,500	

