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# Serbia

**Total area:**

88,361 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:**

7,058,322 (2016)

**Literacy:**

93%

**Official languages:**

Serbian

**GDP (PPP) per capita:**

\$15,321 (2017 est.)

**Life expectancy:**

75 years

**Religions:**

87% Eastern Orthodox, 7% Catholic, 4% Muslim, 2% Protestant

## Prayer points

### Making Jesus Christ known in Serbia

Serbia is a country where the people are genuinely hospitable, passionately care for others, and love to socialise. Despite the unique and loving qualities of its people, Serbia suffers great challenges of economic depression, low economic standards, and divisions. The figure of Jesus Christ is not familiar to the Serbian people. Please pray for Serbian evangelicals to be courageous and bold, that they take an initiative to share the gospel with friends and colleagues; that they are authentic Christians who act as they think and believe. Pray for revival in this new generation to bring hope to the nation. (European Christian Mission - June 2019)

### Peace in Balkan negotiations

Serbia is a landlocked Balkan state with two autonomous provinces, Vojvodina in the north and Kosovo in the south. Kosovo declared independence in February 2008 but is only partially recognised as a state. The future of Kosovo and its independence is a contentious issue for Serbia. Pray for peaceful negotiations over this matter. Pray for the Christian compassion ministries to the many war refugees who were uprooted in the Balkans war. Few have returned to their original homes. Pray that they will experience God's love and find a new sense of home and family. (Transform Europe Network (TEN) - September 2018)

### Holistic Healing

With a population of more than 7.7 million Serbia has been poorly served economically from 45 years of communism. Evangelical believers face many difficulties. Yet, many churches are effectively taking

a very holistic approach in reaching the country's more marginalised people. Mihajlo, one man who encountered The Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre for heroine addicts and a hospice serving people dying of cancer, says "I have been a thief, a liar, and a drug addict, Jesus pulled me out of that by his mighty hand." Pray for those accessing this ministry for deep healing and for them to know they are children of God. (Transform Europe Network (TEN) - September 2017)

### **My First Bible**

OM EAST works in partnership with the Roma Bible Union to share the gospel with Roma groups in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Arli in Serbia. Together, they produced an illustrated family Bible in the Arli language. *My First Bible* is capturing the attention of both adults and children. Recently one of the Roma Bible Union team members, Kristof\*, gave a copy to an Arli man. As he left, Kristof was deeply moved by what he had witnessed. "It was so touching to see him react to having a Bible in his own language," Kristof said. "He just held it and said over and over 'this is my language'." The man's response is a powerful example of how important it is for people to receive God's truth in the language closest to their heart. \*Name changed (Operation Mobilisation - July 2014)

### **Ethnic hatred**

Although dictator President Milosevic was finally ousted in 2000, Serbia is still struggling with bitter ethnic hatred - partly a legacy of the 'ethnic cleansing' that took place during the succession of wars in the 1990s. Evangelical believers among Serbs number only a few thousand, and these have to contend with a revitalised Orthodox Church which threatens to restrict freedoms of non-Orthodox groups. Yet it is possible that the tiny evangelical community may prove a catalyst for good. Across the whole of the former Yugoslavia, evangelicals are almost the only body which has been able to retain multi-cultural fellowships. Pray for Serbia's tiny evangelical church as it bears witness to reconciliation in Christ. (European Christian Mission - November 2010)

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