



## **Centar za ekologiju i održivi razvoj (CEKOR)**

Center for Ecology and Sustainable Development, Subotica

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## **REPORT**

### **On Climate Change Workshop**

Date:	<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2014.</b>
Place:	<b>Novi Sad, Serbia</b>
Participants:	<b>Stakeholders from Vojvodina (list attached)</b>
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to raise awareness on climate change issues and on country's commitments in fulfilling the requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),</li> <li>• to increase the level of knowledge amongst stakeholders in Vojvodina in relation to climate change policies and programmes in Serbia and internationally,</li> </ul>
The list of participants:	<b>Attached</b>

### **I Overall**

The workshop was held in Novi Sad (hotel Park) on June, 26<sup>th</sup> with participation of various stakeholders from Vojvodina including representatives of regional and national governments, municipal officials, academia, CSOs, media, etc (total 51 participants, plus organizers plus speakers).

The main purpose of the workshop was to increase knowledge of stakeholders on climate changes issues in Serbia and raise their awareness on challenges caused by mainstreaming of the climate change policies and programs into the other relevant areas in Serbia. Besides, Workshop was designed in order to allow sufficient time for exchange among participants and enable their reflection on issues raised through interactive work in small groups and plenary discussions.

During the Workshop preparation, CEKOR team has been closely collaborate with UNDP country team in Serbia in order to identify appropriate participants for the Workshop, and adjust proposed Agenda (please see Annex I) to the specific needs of Vojvodina's stakeholders. CEKOR team also design, prepare and print adequate promo material in line with UNDP's expectation and requirements. The comprehensive brochure including detailed information on findings and facts regarding influence of climate changes on sector of



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agriculture, forestry and water management in Serbia has been prepared and printed. Besides, CEKOR prepared short leaflet aiming primarily to raise awareness of the relevant stakeholders on the importance and challenges connected with climate in Serbia. In addition, CEKOR provided own presentation as background material for discussion.

## **II Realization of the Workshop**

The Workshop started with introduction made by UNDP and detailed presentation of Ministry for Agriculture and Environmental Protection on legal and institutional framework of climate changes policy and programmes in Serbia. This presentation was followed by detailed and comprehensive presentation of expert Team on vulnerability and mitigation measures, covering key challenges regarding climate changes in the sectors of water management, agriculture and forestry, followed by short plenary Q/A session. Due to comprehensiveness of the data presented and high interest of public regarding expert teams' findings, CEKOR team decided to extend this session until lunch time.

The Workshop continued with Working group session. The participants were asked to joint one of the groups (according to their preferences): agriculture, forestry, energy, water management and education & informing. During the session that followed, participants had chance to exchange their knowledge, experiences and concerns regarding key challenges regarding climate change policies within the targeted area, as well as to discuss about possible solutions (the detailed outputs of the group works is given within the Annex III of the Report). The plenary session with presentation of the main findings of the Working groups followed.

The Workshop has been concluded with the presentation on possibilities for financing programs and measures for mitigation of climate changes, given by UNDP expert Mr Seth Landau. The participants filled the evaluation forms at the end of the workshop (please see below for the result of the evaluation).

## **III Evaluation of the Workshop**

The evaluation form has been fulfilled by 19 participants. The overall usefulness of the Workshop was evaluated as very good. Apart from that, the most of participants emphasized discussions and, in particular working in small groups as the most beneficial during the workshop (total 11/19 participants). Besides, the presentation of the Team for vulnerability and mitigation measures, as well as those made by Ministry representative has been evaluated as highest (total 4/19 participants).

Participants also provided **suggestions for improvements**. The most common was expectation to enable more time for discussions and to better manage time over the course of the Workshop (8/19 participants), then to have more representatives of the Government and/or Ministry (4/19). Two people suggested that more concrete projects/programs should be presented instead of "well-known facts" regarding climate changes.



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Participants also proposed possible **topics for future Workshops**. The public health issues have been mentioned by two participants. The further individual ideas regarding consequences of the climate changes on overall education, biodiversity, risk management in agriculture, organic agriculture, global prevention, grants/programs, meat industry, etc were mentioned.

In terms of **overall comments/suggestions**, the majority of participants would like to see events similar to this one more often. Moreover, individuals suggested that follow-up of the Workshop should be done in terms of e-mails exchange of the participants, as well as sharing of presentations.

### **IV Conclusions**

CEKOR consider that Workshop objectives was fully achieved, i.e. that local stakeholders get better informed on climate changes policies and programs and raised their knowledge on possibilities for mitigation measures. It is overall impression of CEKOR team that giving opportunity to the local partners to organize Workshop was very constructive UNDP's decision. This kind of "regionalization" enable that participants are more thoroughly selected and that participation on the Workshop has been made more feasible due to the accessibility.

It is, also, worthwhile that UNPD allow certain flexibility to CEKOR in terms of design and methodology of the Workshop. However, the time needed for the UNDP's experts presentation could be more realistically estimated in future in order to avoid necessary shifting within the Agenda and shortening of the discussions, particularly taking into account evaluation done by participants.

In conclusion, CEKOR foresee that similar events should be organized more often and that follow-up on this Workshop would be necessary if one wants to increase participation of citizens in environmental and climate changes decision-making. In order to made this participation more sustainable, the mobilization of the wider stakeholder group could be considered, as well as organization of more narrow sector events like, for example targeted workshop for agricultural producers, of journalist, or energy sector representatives, etc.

### **V List of Attachments:**

- Attachment I – The list of signatures of Workshop participants
- Attachment II – Workshop Agenda
- Attachment III – Outputs of Working groups (On Serbian)
- Attachment IV- Financial report
- Attachment V- photos from the meeting

Date of submission: 4.7.2014      responsible person: Natasa Djereg