

REPORT

On the workshop “**Politics in the area of climate changes – the importance of involving climate changes in sector and local/regional development goals**”, as part of the project “**Second national report of the Republic of Serbia in line with the frame UN convention about climate changes**”, held in Nis on June 27, 2014.

Preparatory activities

In order to successfully implement the workshop in Nis, it was necessary to conduct certain preparatory activities which encompassed securing proper technically equipped venue, refreshments for the workshop participants and defining subjects who will be addressed as well as geographical coverage.

Municipalities and cities which were addressed to participate at the workshop include: Aleksinac, Bela Palanka, Medvedja, Pirot, Presevo, Babusnica, Bujanovac and cities of Leskovac, Nis and Vranje. It was agreed with UNDP representatives that the geographical coverage be widened, so the call for the workshop was sent to municipality Prokuplje in order to cover the entire south Serbia region since the municipality of Prokuplje is one of the bigger municipalities in south Serbia.

The stakeholders to whom the call was sent are representatives of local authorities, departments, and administrations dealing with environment, agriculture, communal, energy, inspection and other areas. In addition, the call was sent to all public institutions, faculties and enterprises doing business in these municipalities and cities as well as to civil society organizations in line with the beforehand defined list containing over 100 contacts of potential participants.

The invitation letter was defined by the UNDP office and sent to all aforementioned subjects on June 7 via email, fax and making phone calls emphasizing the deadline for applying – June 16. As the field situation required, along with our long-year experience in organizing such activities, the invitation letter was resent (June 18 and 23) after the given deadline for applying in the first round in order to have the number of confirmed participants around 50. The workshop itself hosted around 60 persons since a certain number of participants appeared without previous confirmation.

Promo and working material was provided for all workshop participants. Promo material encompassed a brochure and a leaflet; the design and contents of the material was done in cooperation with UNDP representatives with the acceptance of all suggestions and comments. The preparation, design and print were done in accordance with UNDP suggestions, in line with the budget. 300 leaflets done in full colour, printed in A4/3 size, double-sided. Brochures were printed in A5 size, full colour, double-sided, with a total number of 16 pages. All workshop participants received working material prepared by UNDP: folders, notes and pens while PROTECTA prepared the brochure, leaflet, printed presentation of panellists (7 presentations), agenda and evaluation sheet.

The workshop was promoted in the media by sending the calls to local media (electronic and print) to report on the event. Journalists were given an info material about the workshop and organizers. The workshop was promoted by 4 media: TV Zona +, NTV (Nis Television), BelleAmie (regional station), and Narodne novine Nis. Please find press clippings from local TV stations at the following links: <http://ntv.rs/klimatske-promene-nasa-realnost/>, <https://www.facebook.com/TvZonaPlusNis> and in Narodne novine.

All workshop participants verified their attendance by signing the list of participants. The workshop was held in the hall of the Regional Chamber of Commerce in Nis which was most suitable for the execution of the workshop due to its capacities and downtown location.

Narrative report

The workshop was executed on June 27 starting from 11h. At the beginning of the workshop the attendees were addressed by Miroslav Tadic, UNDP portfolio manager, Ana Repac on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection and the director of the Center for civil society development PROTECTA, Dejan Milosevic.

The attendees were presented by the UNDP Programme for development and the project called "Second national report of the Republic of Serbia in line with the UN convention on climate changes" which was presented by Miroslav Tadic, UNDP portfolio manager.

The second workshop presentation was given by Ana Repac from the Department of climate changes through the presentation "Activities in the areas of climate changes on a national level". Afterwards, the presentation was given by Prof. Gordana Stefanovic from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Nis who held a presentation called "Implemented activities in South Serbia for reducing the greenhouse effect gas emissions". Through this presentation, the attendees were given highlights about the level of involvement of principles of pollution reduction, energy consumption and waste recycle in South Serbia in the period up to day.

Ana Repac, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, Department of climate changes presented activities on designing the inventory of gasses with greenhouse effects and held a presentation called "Inventory of gasses with the greenhouse effect" on behalf of the Agency for Environment Protection.

The attendees had the opportunity to get more knowledge about the project introduced through the presentation "Adaptation to climate changes in Nis agriculture", held by the representative of the Administration for agriculture and countryside development of the city of Nis, by Ivan Pavlovic. The project is aimed at irrigating orchards.

The attendees were addressed by Prof. Sasa Orlovic from the Institute for lowland forestry and environment, from Novi Sad, manager of the expert team for the assessment of vulnerability and adaptation measures to climate changes within the project "Second national report of the Republic of Serbia in line with the UN convention on climate changes". After the introduction, members of the Team for vulnerability assessment and measures for adapting to climate changes addressed the audience in order to present the preliminary results of up to day analysis.

The final panelist at the workshop was the UNDP expert for climate changes, Seth Landau presented potential funding sources and activities in the area of climate changes through the presentation "Potential funding sources – grants and investment mechanisms". He introduced the participants into procedures for applying for certain support programmes for grants as well as for project credits.

After the end of all panels, there was a discussion and summing up of conclusions of the workshop. Participant questions were addressed towards the Team for vulnerability assessment and measures for adapting to climate changes, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, Department of climate changes and other panelists. Dragoljub Miljojkovic, from the VPC Morava – PCU – Srbijavode from Nis expressed his opinions and suggestions with which the waterpower engineering sector is facing, as well as with the achieved results.

Workshop conclusions

After the end of the discussion which was very productive and active, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Problem of financing projects in south Serbia in the fields of environment (limited access to funds, lack of partnerships, especially towards the IPA funds, inadequate implementation of IPA programming).
2. Lack of transparency of the draft on the Strategy on waters (inadequate and inapplicable for all water surfaces in Serbia).
3. Researches carried out on the territory of south Serbia in the area of waterpower engineering indicate significant changes in the precipitation regime, mean maximum temperature is increased by 10 degrees.
4. It is necessary to increase the level of quality and knowledge in this area and conduct essential and structural changes.
5. The general conclusion of the civil sector representatives is that:
 - the civil sector is insufficiently involved in this part;
 - it is necessary to find mechanisms for active participation of the civil sector;
 - work in the field of environment is not transparent enough, including the area of climate changes;
 - given information are insufficient in both quantitative and qualitative means.
6. There is little interest among the citizens on the issues of climate changes and that it is necessary to work on raising the eco awareness in the wider public.
7. Education in the areas of environment (especially in climate changes in faculties and schools) is insufficient and inadequate, it is necessary to revise existing books and update them with new facts and information, especially in the areas of expert literature which is one of the main sources of information for students and pupils.

Workshop organizers thanked all participants for big attendance and active contribution to a successful implementation of the workshop and emphasized the belief that there will be more

active work in the field of climate changes and that cooperation among all relevant stakeholders will contribute to finding a solution to problems in this area. In addition, all workshop participants were asked to fill in the evaluation sheet for the goal of indicating potential flaws of the workshop; organizational, thematic and define closer specific theme areas in the field of climate changes.

Workshop evaluation

45 people filled in the evaluation sheet and the following conclusions were deducted based on the obtained answers from given questions:

Question 1. How would you grade today's seminar as a whole?

50 % graded it as excellent, 42,86% as very good and 7,14% as good.

Question 2. I think that the best part about the seminar was...

Answers to this question were mostly: presentation by Prof. Gordana Stefanovic from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Nis, climate changes and adaptation to climate changes, financing the field situation in south Serbia and undertaken activities.

Question 3. The seminar could have been better if...:

- The introductory part had been shorter
- There had been more time for discussions
- Some lectures had been shorter and more concise
- The seminar had lasted longer, so that some topics could have been elaborated more
- There had been indications as to how to involve the local authorities in such processes
- There had been more panelists from different areas, climate changes from more aspects
- There had been more good practice examples
- There had been established legal regulations

Question 4. As a result of this seminar, I intend to...

Inform in more detail about these topics, get involved in the problems of the issues, inform my surroundings, prepare and implement more projects from this area, establish contacts with people from TPC for the goal of utilizing their expertise in further activities and projects, write projects and deal with children education, use results for preparing projects, work and do research in this field.

Question 5. It would be good to include the following topics in further seminars:

- Sustainable development and green economy;
- Forest fires as a risk for the environment;
- The effect of combustible biomass as an effect of endangered environment;
- The reason for climate changes;
- Waste management;
- Non-governmental projects and results on the issues of climate changes;
- Adaptations in agriculture and forestry;
- More general issues on the topics of mitigation measures;

- Alternative energy sources;
- Local action plan and its implementation;
- Specific society contributions to solving problems related to climate changes;
- Improving forest protection and measures for protecting soil from erosions;

Comments and suggestions

Higher interaction of lecturers with participants, higher media support, more information about the experiences of developed countries in this areas, more time.

Financial report

Finances were used to implement the workshop in amounts given in the workshop budget proposal by PROTECTA. The funds were spent on designing:

1. The promo material (brochure, leaflet).
2. Renting the venue and equipment for the implementation of the workshop.
3. Travel expenses for persons coming outside Nis.
4. Catering and refreshments for workshop participants.

Annexes with the report:

1. Copy of the participant list from the workshop
2. CD with photos
3. Press clipping (Narodne novine Nis)

In Nis, July 9, 2014

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