

Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

## Activity important milestones in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018: global and international level

“Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development“ (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD) is non-governmental and non-for-profit association having the expert, scientific, innovative, professional and social character, established for an unlimited period, with the intention of acting in the general interest of advancing, popularization and promotion of scientific research work, as well as in the public interest in the areas of sustainable development, environmental protection and education, and in other areas of implementation of the objectives, through the research, consultancy, expert analysis, innovation, education and promotion.

From July 2015 EASD is organization with special consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Accredited with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP, ACUNS (Academic Council on the United Nations System) institutional member, SAICM National CSO Focal point, member of the UN and the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, member of the Sustainable Development Solution Network, IPEN participating organization and full member of EEB (European Environmental Bureau). Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD) implements activities globally, in the region of South Eastern Europe and nationally (Serbia).

“Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” develops and performs activities within the **program areas**:

- Scientific, Innovative, Research and Professional Work & Expertise and Consulting
- Education for Environment and Sustainable Development
- Sustainable development
- Environment.

Several important milestones marked the past 4 years. EASD activities are focused to **3 thematic groups**:

1. Promoting sustainable development; Agenda 2030 and SDGs;
2. Environment and Natural Resources; Climate action; Advancing policy integration ; Advancing science/technology/innovation integration; Environmental Security and Justice;
3. Building partnerships; Raising awareness on emerging issues; Working with civil society and non-state actors

The full list of activities could be find at: <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/news-archive/>

Headline news within this reporting period:

2015

By the decision of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Coordination and management meeting of July 2015 **special consultative status** to organization Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development was granted.  
<http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/consultativeStatusSummary.do?profileCode=601476>

We participated at the: - ACUNS 2015 Annual Meeting: **The UN at 70 – Guaranteeing Security and Justice**, June 11-13, 2015 | The Hague; - UNEP/UNECE **multi-stakeholders meeting on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**, combined with the yearly UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders on 12-13 November 2015 in Brussels, Belgium; - WHO-Regional Office for Europe-European Centre for Environment and Health technical meeting addressing **waste and health in the context of European Environment and Health Process** (EHP), Bonn, Germany; - European Green week in Brussels; - 10th International Convention on **Environment and Development** (X CONVENCION INTERNACIONAL SOBRE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO) in Havana, Cuba. We also participated at global eco-standards meetings in The Netherlands (Blue Flag) and in Northern Ireland (Eco-Schools).

We organized The Eleventh Regional Conference “Environment to Europe” EnE15. Thematic areas are **EU Environmental Horizontal Legislation: Methods, Standards and Tools**. We are [the partner organization with the Ombudsman to launch legislation initiatives through collaboration with civil society](#)

This year we published: - EnE15 Conference Proceedings of Papers; - Thematic No of Journal Limes Plus “Environment to Europe”, as well as [A Guideline of EU Accession Monitoring Tools for CSOs in candidate and potential candidate countries: Chapter 27](#), Published by Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development with the financial assistance of the EU

2016

**We participated at UN Environment UNEA3, with focus to Science for Green Solutions (Nairobi, Kenya Dec 2017).**

We also participated at: -2016 Vienna UN Conference: **sustainable development is the basis for a peaceful world**; - the International Conference ‘**ESD for transforming Education for Children and Youth**’ by sharing our experience in ESD in practice, Ahmedabad, India; - ISWA 2016 WORLD CONGRESS, Novi Sad, Serbia. We also participated at global eco-standards meeting in Puerto Rico (Blue Flag).

We organized the (12<sup>th</sup>) Regional Conference “Environment to Europe – EnE16” addressing *issues related to climate changes and sustainability of resources* .We published: - EnE16 Conference Proceedings of Papers.

2017

EASD participated at Minamata COP1 in Geneva. The first meeting of **the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP1)** was held in Geneva, Switzerland and at Summit to Plan the End of Amalgam in Europe in Berlin.

Also participated at the International POPs Elimination Network regional meeting for Central and Eastern Europe in Prague.

Participated at 2017 **Vienna UN Conference – Implementing the 2030 Agenda**, organized by ACUNS and hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as at **Civil Society Forum** in Trieste, Italy. We also participated at global eco-standards and environmental education meetings in Athens (Green Key), Young Reporters for the Environment (Portugal) and in Netanya, Israel (Blue Flag).

We organized the (13th) Regional Conference “Environment to Europe – EnE16 addressing issues on **Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development**. We published: - EnE17 Conference Proceedings of Papers.

2018

**EASD became the full member in European Environmental Bureau.** The EEB is Europe’s largest network of environmental citizens’ organizations. EEB bring together around 140 civil society organizations from more than 30 European countries. EEB stand for sustainable development, environmental justice & participatory democracy. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/11/07/easd-full-member-in-european-environmental-bureau-honor-and-challenge/>

EASD team, **from January 1, 2018 follows activities through SDGs lenses: outreach is**, in accordance to evidence of number of EASD activities/projects/news linked in 2018 with relevant SDG- **we are primarily active in: SD GOAL 4- Quality Education, SD GOAL 12 – Sustainable Consumption and Production, SD GOAL 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, SD GOAL 15 – Life on Land (Chemicals and Waste, Nature), as well as in UN Environment theme ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW.**

We participated as UNEP/UNEA accredited NGO at UN Environment and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, organized a **Ministerial conference on “Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe”** Belgrade, Serbia.

We participated at ESDN Conference 2018, **“Stakeholder-Policy Cooperation in the Age of the SDGs: What new approaches are required to be successful?”**, Vienna (Austria), as well as the **2018 Vienna UN Conference: ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.’** Also participated at the 6th UN CEE regional meeting on **Strategic Approach to International**

**Chemical Management**, Lodz, Poland. We also participate at global eco-standards and environmental education meetings in Talin (Green Key), Riga, Latvia (FEE General Assembly) and in Zakintos, Greece (Blue Flag).

We organized the (14th) Regional Conference “Environment to Europe – EnE18 addressing issues on **Nature protection – Nature-Responsive Development**, as well as the first **regional conference on circular economy**. We published: - EnE18 Conference Proceedings of Papers, and publication “**Textile and Fashion within Circular Economy Concept**”.

The biggest project, ongoing

**ENV.net 2** (EuropeAid/132438/C/ACT/Multi – 2012/306-642 and 2014/351-610 (2012-2016)) and **ENV.net 3 : ENV-net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western Balkans and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda** (reference number 2017/394-372), 2017-2010

#### More about activities within thematic groups:

##### 1. Promoting sustainable development – Agenda 2030 and SDGs

*We participated!*

-The highly anticipated Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt **the Post-2015 Development Agenda** was available for Stakeholder feedback.

- In preparing the **MTS 2018-21 and Programme of Work (PoW) for 2018-19**, UNEP wishes to consult with Major Groups and Stakeholders to solicit views and ideas on what is expected from UNEP in the future, where UNEP should direct its efforts to serve best interests of all stakeholders and the environment, and which challenges UNEP should be well prepared to meet. **EASD responded.**

- EASD acknowledged Initiatives by Non-State Actors to Curb Emissions Can Help Win the **Fight against Climate Change** – New UN Report.



**ACUNS 2015 Annual Meeting: The UN at 70 – Guaranteeing Security and Justice, June 11-13, 2015 | The Hague.** EASD representative participate with statement/paper on **Local Environmental Security and Global Environmental Security - the same coin?** Paper has a goal to promote a comprehensive understanding between democracy, human security and environment. There is a big concern about environmental degradation threatening livelihoods, health and the fulfilment of basic needs, and harming the sustainability of political, social and economic systems. Also, there are obvious links between poverty, environmental safety and the level of human security- the poor are most exposed to negative environmental impacts. Paper deals with meaning of Local Environmental Security (from perspective of South Serbia's local communities) and meaning of Global Environmental Security, focused mainly on differences.

Note: Paper re-presents actuality of Initiative for Regional Environmental Cohesion as the Tool for Sustainable development, launched by EASD now Hon.President Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov in 2002; see also <http://www.jhubc.it/ecpr-riga> Regional environmental initiative: South-Eastern Europe (Balkan) Regional Environmental Cohesion Initiative

*Post Rio+20 busy July 2015*

EASD was pleased to share document: ***Towards an Integrated and Inclusive Follow-up and Review of Natural Resources.***

Participated on UN/UNDP consultations with CSOs on SDGs.



### **Recognition and encouragement for further work: special consultative status in UN ECOSOC for our organization**

By the decision of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Coordination and management meeting of July 2015, special consultative status was granted to our organization, Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development. Consultative status for an organization enables it to actively engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways.

**For EASD Team it is big recognition, as well as encouragement for further work!!!!**

*In November 2015 EASD representative participated in an on-line survey on UNEP programme planning and implementation. In implementing results-based management, UNEP seeks feedback from civil society to improve the quality of its operations, especially in the context of the Programme of Work 2014-2015, which called for an assessment of the level of satisfaction among stakeholders with UNEP programmes, products and services.*

**A two-day conference on the implementation of the SDGs in Europe and the UNECE region was held on 12-13 November, 2015 in Brussels.** The conference was organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). The conference was attended by high-level speakers from the UN and European institutions as well as representatives from civil society organizations and other stakeholders, including a representative from the Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development.



Issues discussed at the Conference were: major challenges on how to put SDGs into practice set by the new agenda globally as well as for Europe; United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA); and Opportunities for Engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS), etc.

At the 2015 UNEP Regional Consultation for Europe (RCM) with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) from the UNECE region discussion was held on how to prepare the positions for the preparation of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) to be held in May 2016 in Nairobi.

*In December 2015 EASD participated also in Survey on the involvement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the generation, utilization and dissemination of environmental information developed by UNEP.*



EASD participated at **2016 Vienna UN Conference** (Vienna, January 13-15, 2016): **sustainable development is the basis for a peaceful world**. Participants, institutions, diplomats, and academics discussed, in interactive sessions, the challenges and how the UN system and the international community can deliver to overcome emerging challenges and ensure a peaceful and more sustainable world.

EASD Hon. President participated in the Opening session, as well as in Session entitled **Women, Peace and Security**. She noted the importance for SEE countries to recognize multilateralism as the co-share track to EU accession and sustainable development/resource efficiency/ environmental sustainability as the tool and SDGs means of implementation. She promotes Gender Impact Assessment as the indicator for each process.

For Serbia, EASD team is focused on Environmental Sustainability, Science and Technology, Health and Hygiene and Energy and Environment in contributing to **Sustainable Development Indicators data and development for SEE region** through Platform Indicators Development.



The 2nd meeting of the **UN Environment Assembly (UNEA2)** took place from 23-27 May, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was held under the overarching theme: “[Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#).” There was also a [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum \(GMGSF\)](#) held prior to UNEA-2 on 21 and 22 May 2016. In the preparatory phase for the **2nd meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)**, May, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, EASD participated in the process of **UNEP Redefinition of its Youth Strategy**, familiarize with and promote the interactive version of the Bali Guideline Implementation Guide. EASD representatives were registered for participation at UNEA-2<sup>1</sup>. EASD provided views and inputs for GMGSF. EASD participated in the UNEP’s **survey on the involvement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the generation, utilization and dissemination of environmental information developed by UNEP**. In addition, we kept eye on Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (OECPR) and Preparatory meeting for the 2nd Session of UNEA2, February 2016 – we registered our representative to participate.

EASD is noted for results in **education for sustainable development**. Among the various initiatives on education for sustainable development throughout the world, our (EASD) activity on **Collect, investigate and find solutions for waste management in schools** is given as the good example in UNESCO GREEN CITIZENS initiative.

*InWASTEgate* is previously published in FEE publication Blue Flag Program: Environmental Education Activities Handbook 2013.

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (at that time) President developed this course as the part of her lecture at the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) held in Braunwald, Switzerland and Bratislava, Slovakia.

EASD also promoted The World Environmental Education Day, having the great event in school “Vuk Karadžić”, Surčin (Belgrade).

<sup>1</sup> Participation at the UN and other important international meetings is the subject of external financial support, and non-funded participation organization consider if achievable.



EASD already addresses the issue of environmental infrastructure as the condition for sustainable development. **Infrastructure is a prerequisite for advances across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, addressing inequality and ensuring environmental sustainability.** Infrastructure is addressed directly through SDG 9, which commits the international community to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Moreover, “investments in sustainable infrastructure are recognized as a **major cross-cutting driver that can contribute to achieving all the SDGs**”.

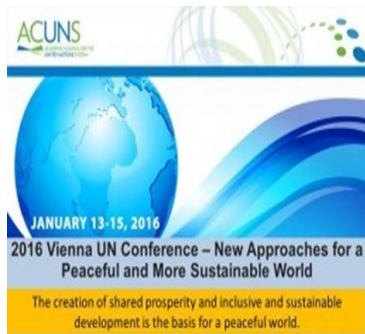
*EASD is Knowledge Partner with CEE for ESD for transforming education for children and youth.* EASD participated at the international Conference ‘ESD for transforming Education for Children and Youth’ by **sharing our experience in Tetra Pak Eco Package Project as the tool for ESD in practice.** The Conference discussed the outcomes of Goal 4 from the ESDG Conference specifically focusing on good practice examples highlighting innovative strategies and methodologies in pedagogy and curriculum in both formal and non-formal settings to engage children and youth.



The deliberations from this conference further enhance cooperation and action around Goal 4.7. (SDG). **The International Conference was organized at Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad, India in September 2016.**

EASD participated in **research** related to **WASTE AS THE CROSSCUTTING ISSUE OF SDGs**, presented at ISWA 2016 WORLD CONGRESS, September 2016, Novi Sad, Serbia.

EASD organized an event “Education for Sustainability” in partnership with EU Info Centre in Belgrade within the campaign “Europe for Green Serbia”, promoting the idea that by participating in YRE and Eco-Schools programmes the quality of the environment could be improved not only in schools but also in the wider communities. Young Reporters from Serbia presented their entries and they talked about different subjects.



EASD participated at **2017 Vienna UN Conference – Implementing the 2030 Agenda**, organized by ACUNS and hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). EASD (Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development) honorable president participated at session related to **science and technology: innovative Solutions to challenges in the 21st century**.

At the beginning of 2017, FEE (Federation for Environmental Education), and EASD as the FEE Serbia, were proud to partner with UNWTO during the whole year of 2017 and to **participate to the international year of sustainable tourism for development**. The United Nations 70th General Assembly has designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (A/RES/70/193). This was a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the contribution of sustainable tourism to development among public and private sector decision-makers and the public, while mobilizing all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change. In the context of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Year aimed to support a change in policies, business practices and consumer behavior towards a more sustainable tourism sector than could contribute to the SDGs.

**1st meeting of the intersessional process for considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, took place in Brasilia, Brazil, 7 - 9 February 2017;** Registration for participation approved; However, as non-funded participant we could not be present there – but we did follow outcomes.

EASD representative, executive director, participated on February 13-14, 2017 in **Mercury Initial Assessment in the Republic of Serbia Workshop**. EASD is NGO Focal point for SAICM.

In February 2017 EASD participated at **2017 Young Reporters for the Environment National Operators Meeting (NOM)** in Guimarães, Portugal. <https://ambassadors-env.com/blog/2017/02/25/ucestvovali-smo-na-sastanku-nacionalnih-operatera-medunarodnog-programa-mladi-eko-reporteri-u-gimaraisu/>





Green Key National Operators from 39 countries (among them EASD from Serbia) as well as Green Key's corporate partners participated in the **Green Key National Operator Meeting** on 27-30 March 2017 in Athens. During the National Operator Meeting Green Key International presented the planned activities to celebrate the **IY2017 and encouraged all members to join the celebration in their countries all over the world.** Green Key is actively participating in the IY2017 both through the daily work of the program, but also through activities that will be specifically dedicated to the IY2017 this year. EASD President participated at this meeting. EASD is National Operator for Green Key in Serbia. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/04/06/athens-2017-green-key-national-operator-meeting-dedicated-to-the-international-year-of-sustainable-tourism-for-development/>

As ECOSOC Accredited NGOs we submitted statement for the event **“16th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)”**. The Committee of Experts on Public Administration held its sixteenth session at the United Nations in New York from 24 to 28 April 2017. Its theme was “Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: leadership, action and means”. A key message of the session was that government and public institutions have the leading role to implement the SDGs and pursue policies to leave no one behind.



**“Make Mercury History” - EASD participated at Minamata COP1 in Geneva.** The first meeting of the **Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP1)** was held from **24 to 29 September 2017 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.** The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties had multiple objectives, including procedural, political and celebratory. COP1, as a milestone in the Minamata journey, provided a unique opportunity to raise global awareness of the Convention, in particular at a high level, and to focus attention on the far-reaching impacts that the successful implementation of the Convention will achieve. It was an historic opportunity to celebrate the Convention and the achievements to date and to provide motivation and momentum to all as they take the next steps towards full implementation.

**Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD), as [accredited organization](#), participated as the Observer.**

EASD representative participated at IPEN Preparatory Meeting, Regional Meeting, Opening Ceremony, Thematic Session focus discussions on mercury as relevant to Land, MIA (Minamata Convention Initial Assessment) Clinics (where countries with UNEP, UNDP and UNIDO and partners showcase their MIA work, including lessons learned), as well as some Showcase Events and Knowledge Labs. Also, EASD representative at Minamata COP1 communicate with official delegation of Serbia.

A “**Hg-week**” (“**Mercury**” week) coincided with COP1 and physically has its main hub in Geneva starting on Friday, 22 September and ending Thursday 28 September 2017. It featured a series of awareness raising events around the issue of Mercury. The objective of the “Hg-week” was to reach out to participants at COP1, as well as the public, students, and other experts and stakeholders interested in the field of chemicals and health.

**We participated in the survey 18.10.2017:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved the concept for the SAICM project on Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the SAICM. As an output of the project, a knowledge management platform will be developed in line with the needs identified in the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance. Results of the survey will be used by the SAICM secretariat to gather baseline information and assess stakeholder needs in the design of the future platform.

**EASD participated: Summit to Plan the End of Amalgam in Europe 2017– November 20-21, Berlin**

<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/11/20/easd-participate-summit-to-plan-the-end-of-amalgam-in-europe-2017-november-20-21-berlin/>







**The International POPs Elimination Network regional meeting for Central and Eastern Europe** was organized in period from 16-20 th October by Arnika, in Prague. There were around 20 participants from, Montenegro, Belarus, Slovakia, Check Republic, Netherlands, Hungary, Bulgaria and Serbia. Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD), as IPEN Participating Organization, participated and covered all topics especially related to dioxins, waste management of POPs but also Mercury waste.

**EASD participated at 2017 Blue Flag National Operator Meeting**  
The Blue Flag NOM 2017 was held **in Netanya, Israel on October 23-24, 2017**, organised by EcoOcean, NO from the host country. Great official opening ceremony was held on the beach, with children of Netanya holding flags of countries participated. Attention was at programme activities and developments.

**Compliance with EU Wastewater Directive** and crosscutting issue between this and EU Bathing water Directive was presented and discussed. Presentation about **FEE and the Sustainable Development Goals** was delivered.

**Environmental Ambassadors representative President participated at UNEA3, with focus to Science for Green Solutions (Nairobi, Kenya Dec 2017)** Science, Policy and Business Forum – UN Environment consisted of roundtable and interactive thematic discussions between leading scientists, policymakers, and leaders of private sector and civil society. It provided unique opportunities to promote solutions driven by science to address our planetary challenges and build the alliances necessary to implement them and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/10/05/environmental-ambassadors-messages-in-advance-to-unea3-and-science-for-green-solutions-27-november-6-december-2017-nairobi-kenya/>

<http://ambassadors-env.com/blog/2017/11/30/ambasadori-odrzivog-razvoja-na-unea3-dogadajima-u-najrobiju-kenija> <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/12/01/easd-participate-at-unea3-nairobi-nov-dec-2017/>



EASD team, **from January 1, 2018 will follow activities through SDGs lenses:** <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/01/06/easd-activities-related-sdgs/>. The goal of this activities categorization is EASD strategic planning of activities in future. It is also lesson learned after EASD representative participation at UNEA3 in Nairobi. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/12/01/easd-participate-at-unea3-nairobi-nov-dec-2017/>



Outreach is, in accordance to evidence of number of EASD activities/projects/news linked in 2018 with relevant SDG:

SDGs in focus	Moderate involvements related SDGs	Very low involvements related SDGs
SD GOAL 4- Quality Education	SD GOAL 13 – Climate Action	SDG1
SD GOAL 12 – Sustainable Consumption and Production	SD GOAL 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities	SDG2
SD GOAL 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	SD GOAL 14 – Life below Water	SDG8
SD GOAL 15 – Life on Land (Chemicals and Waste, Nature)	SD GOAL 3 – Good Health and Well-Being	SDG9
ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW	SD GOAL 5 – Gender Equality	SDG10
	SD GOAL 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	SDG16
	SD GOAL 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	

**The 2018 Vienna UN Conference** was organized by ACUNS in January 2018 for the diplomatic community, civil society, NGOs, academics, business, and challenges linked to SDG 5: ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.’

EASD Honorable President participated on January 10, 2018, at Opening Session and Session on Empowering Female Leaders. She is ACUNS Expert; EASD is Institutional ACUNS member. **Participants shared best practices and explored potential future collaborations in this multi-stakeholder forum, while spotlighting the International Gender Champions – Vienna initiative.**

In the spirit of SDG 17 (specifically, Target 17.17: ‘Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships’) an intriguing mix of international stakeholders participated in the 2018 Vienna UN Conference.





EASD participated at the **6th UN CEE regional meeting on Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management**, Lodz, Poland, 19-21 February 2018.

SAICM implementation was on the agenda, as well as perspectives on the future and identification of regional priorities towards and beyond 2020. Also, focus was on SAICM and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

From Serbia, beside the Governmental Representative from Ministry of Environment, CSOs participants include EASD and AlHem representatives. Prior to UN SAICM meeting, on February 18, EASD representative participated on IPEN preparatory meeting.

To note, that EASD participated at previous meeting in Skopje, in the capacity of SAICM NGO Focal Point for country.

<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/02/19/6th-un-regional-meeting-on-saicom-poland-february-2018-we-participate/>

We participated in May 2018: **Consultations of the Committee with NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC regarding the evolving relationship between the NGOs and the United Nations.** The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), holds consultations with organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC to discuss questions of interest to the Committee or to the organizations relating to the relationship between the NGOs and the United Nations in line with paragraph 61 (a) of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. The ground-breaking consultations were in the form of written submissions and an interactive hearing ( in New York on 22 June 2018). As part of the consultation process all NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC were invited to submit their contributions and views on four key questions ahead of the hearing.

Foundation for Environmental Education activities: General Assembly and Green Key NOM <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/09/30/fee-busy-september-2018-general-assembly-and-green-key-nom/> . Also participated at Blue Flag NOM in Greece: EASD participate <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/10/22/blue-flag-nom-in-greece-easd-participate/>

In the setting of the national Library in Riga, the President of Latvia Raimonds Vējonis launched our two-day 2018 General Assembly (GA). Members from across our FEE global network joined together as the President talked about the need for sustainability and finding solutions to excess consumption.

We participated - ESDN Conference 2018, “**Stakeholder-Policy Cooperation in the Age of the SDGs: What new approaches are required to be successful?**”, Vienna (Austria), 1-2 October, 2018. It was organized by the ESDN in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism as an official event of the incoming Austrian EU Presidency. The Conference brought together policymakers and experts from different stakeholder groups from all over Europe.

EASD Honorable President participates on this event.  
<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/10/03/the-esdn-conference-2018-we-participate/>



UN Environment and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, are convening a [Ministerial conference on “Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe” taking place on 4-5 December 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia.](#)

Conference is bringing together all relevant stakeholders – [EASD participated as UNEP/UNEA accredited NGO](#) .

At the end of the first day, it was the **meeting of participating NGOs**, in order to finalize text for intervention within the Plenary.



We were so proud when **Mr Michael Stanley-Jones**, Secretary, United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, UN Environment, in his speech related Innovative Solutions to Sustainable Textiles and Fashion in South East and Southern Europe, noted as **“One example may be cited to illustrate one innovative solution. • Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, the UNEP accredited organization based in Serbia, and their 2018 activity of textile upcycling – collecting used textiles/clothing, donated to schools for the disabled, where they are refashioned into new products, is a model of one promising innovation”**.

**Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors / EASD) continue preparation for Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (4UNEA in 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya)!**



## 2. Environment and Natural Resources; Climate action; Advancing policy integration; Advancing science/technology/innovation integration; Environmental Security and Justice

### *Connecting regions: participation at 10th International Convention on Environment and Development (X CONVENCION INTERNACIONAL SOBRE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO) in Havana, Cuba, July 2015*

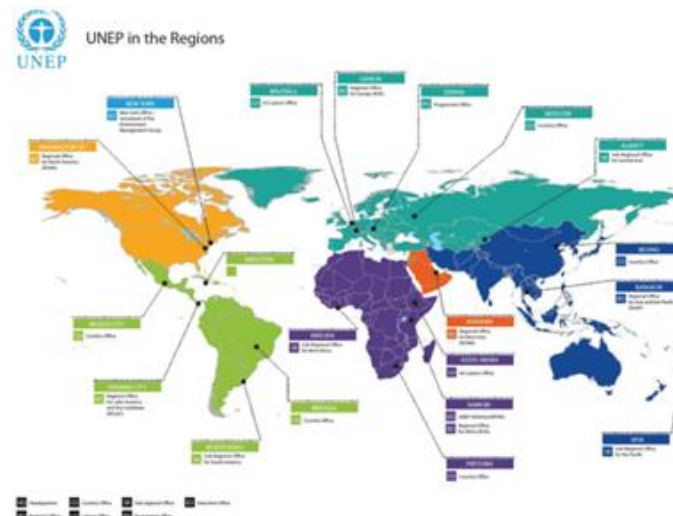
2015 year's Convention emphatically **promotes cooperation among countries, exchange of experiences, sustainable practices, and knowledge transfer**, in order to cope with the urgent necessity of creating a new concept for development: integral development agenda that is flexible enough to meet the requirements, priorities and particularities of every country and region around the world.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Convention was organized around several events. **Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development** research presentation was on the agenda of the **7<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**. Paper “**Scoping the future trends in natural resources availability using selected indicators as measures of progress: the links with interests and values**”

(authors: Andjelka MIHAJLOV, Danko ALEKSIC, Filip JOVANOVIC, Khumo Sakgabe JOVANOVIC, Aleksandra MLADENOVIC, Dunja PROKIC and Milena TABASEVIC).

### *Waste and health: evidence and needs*

Among about 20 international experts and practitioners, EASD hon.president participated as a Temporary Advisor to WHO. Held in UN campus in Bonn, Germany, WHO-Regional Office for Europe-European Centre for Environment and Health hosted technical meeting addressing waste and health in the context of European Environment and Health Process (EHP), with a view to identify priorities and formulate policy goals to be considered at the **Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health**.



*EASD contributed to the 3rd UNECE EPR for Serbia.* On March 26th, 2014, the United Nation Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organized the meeting with representatives of NGOs from Serbia. NGOs working in environmental-related projects talked with the **Environmental Performance Review (EPR)**. Representative from *Environmental Ambassadors* gave a brief presentation of ENV.net project.

***EASD organized UNEP WED event: 12th Regional Conference “Environment to Europe”.*** The Twelfth Regional Conference was held in Belgrade on June 6, 2016 – traditionally as the main UNEP WED event in the country. This year Conference focus is **Climate Change and Sustainability of Resources**. As this conference is supported by UNEP, as one of the official events to celebrate World Environment Day, we advocate and promote message that globally, **environmental crime rise and it is the strong need to “reverse” performance in order to achieve sustainable growth and development.**

The (12<sup>th</sup>) Regional Conference “Environment to Europe – EnE16-ENV.net” traditionally, this Conference was organized by professional association “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia. Conference was UNEP WED event, supporting EU Integration process through project “Development of the ENV.net in West Balkans and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration”.

EnE16-ENV-net was opened with introductory speeches by Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Deputy Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Professor from Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade and member of the Government of the Republic of Serbia Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, responsible for specific sectors of Chapter 27 and Hon. President from Environmental Ambassador for Sustainable Development and member of the Government of the Republic of Serbia Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, responsible for specific sectors of Chapter 27. Conference was attended by representatives from government and non-government sectors, international organizations, scientific institutions and business associations.

Conference participants (about 170 registered participants) were unanimous in that: we have respectable experts in the field of environment and climate change (both those with experience, and young professionals – who faces difficulties in finding employment in their profession). As the EU accession is a significant priority for Serbia, the chapter related to the environment and climate change (Chapter 27) will become increasingly important in the process that introduces European standards in the country. Profession and experience should be the guarantor for the “right” solution to this path. Public participation in decision-making on issues relevant to the environment is one of the pillars of sustainability solutions. Appropriate environmental education is an important factor for the performance of the process of sustainable growth and development. Participants in the discussion have tried to provide answers to questions on how to be more effective in environmental protection and responsible to nature. [More information EnE16-ENV.net Zbornik radova/Proceedings of papers](#)

Key messages from Conference:



1. Conference in continuity shows that **we have respectable experts in the field of environment and climate change** (both those with experience and young professionals – who have difficulties to find the job in the profession),
  2. As the EU accession is a significant priority for Serbia, **the chapter related to the environment and climate change (Chapter 27) will be more and more important in the process of achieving EU standards**. Knowledge and experience should be the guarantee for the “right” solution to this path towards EU environmental values
  3. This conference contributes to the **improvement of citizens’ influence on the process of reform in the environment sector** in support of the EU accession. Participation of the public in decision-making on issues relevant to the environment is one of the pillars of sustainability solutions
  4. **Adequate education for environment and sustainable development**, is an important factor in the performance of the process of sustainable growth and development
- At the Conference we heard the voice of young people – the winning article at the international competition “[YRE](#)”.
5. As this conference is supported by UNEP, as one of the official events to celebrate World Environment Day, we advocate and promote message that globally, **environmental crime rise and it is the strong need to “reverse” performance in order to achieve sustainable growth and development**

<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2016/06/05/wed-messages-from-serbia-12th-regional-conference-environment-to-europe/>

<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2016/06/11/report-from-ene16-env-net-belgrade-serbia/>

[EASD promoted sustainable tourism](#) ([GREEN KEY eco labeling](#)) and **organic food consumerism** (On June 5), and [“Bicycling” promotion](#) by [ECO-SCHOOLS children](#) (June 4), merging with [Eco-Package](#) exhibition.

EASD organized UNEP WED event: **13th Regional Conference “Environment to Europe”**. Traditionally, this Conference was organized by professional association “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia. Especially interesting was the Panel on **Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development**. Conference was attended by representatives of government and non-government sectors, international organizations, scientific and educational institutions. Conference participants (about 100 registered participants) were unanimous in: education on climate change is very important in order to be able to mitigate the consequences of climate change and to adapt to them. Educational institutions should have key role in preparing and implementing multidisciplinary programs tailored to different educational institutions and different age categories.

Education on climate change requires professionals who will work with young people to prepare them for making the right decisions in the future. Participants in the discussion have tried to provide answers to questions on how to be more effective in environmental protection and responsible to nature. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/06/08/climate-change-education-for-sustainable-development/>



The Fourteenth Regional Conference "Environment to Europe – EnE18", was held on June 5th 2018 in Belgrade (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia). Conference is UN WED (World Environmental Day) and ESDW (European Sustainable Development Week) event. On the World Environment Day 2018, the UN is expected to give emphasis on the fact that individual actions to preserve the nature can actually help in sustaining a green environment and to understand why forests are important. Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development in partnership with Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia organized The Fourteenth Regional Conference "Environment to Europe – EnE18". Thematic area this year is **Nature protection – Nature-Responsive Development**

Nature protection is highly ranked on the list of priorities of the United Nations (Sustainable Development Goal 15 and UN Decade on Biodiversity by 2020), the EU (NATURA 2000) and all countries that strive to preserve natural values, biodiversity, geodiversity have to develop with responsibility to nature. The goal of the UN Decade on Biodiversity is to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and to promote its overall vision of living in harmony with nature. UN SDG 15 refers to the protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable ecosystems use, sustainable forests management, combating desertification and preventing land degradation and biodiversity loss. In response to the threat to nature and biodiversity, the EU has formed a wide European network of protected natural areas, known as NATURA 2000. It covers over 18% of the EU territory, ensuring long-term survival of the most valuable and threatened species and habitats in Europe. Candidate countries and potential candidates for membership in the EU are facing a great challenge to protect nature and implement a development responsive to nature.

The aim of the EnE18 Conference was to highlight the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development in the context of the protection of nature. The Conference was an opportunity for representatives of state institutions, professional,

consultative, educational and scientific institutions, managers of protected areas, civil sector, to present current topics in the field of nature protection.

Traditionally, within the Conference every year we have a significant number of participants from Serbia and abroad, the participation of over 150 authors and co-authors of papers published in the CD Proceedings of the Conference, as well as participants without paper.

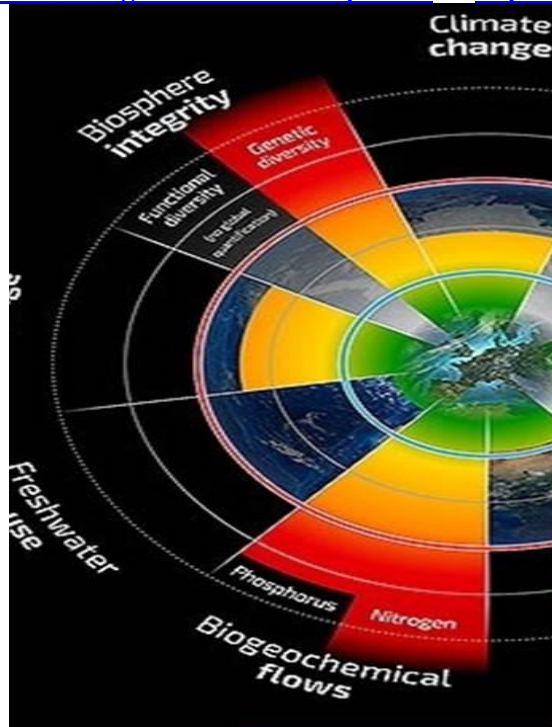
Moments from the Conference:

[Otvaranje / Opening](#)

[Panel o zaštiti prirode / Panel on Nature Protection](#)

[UNEP nagrade / UNEP@WED](#)

[YRE awards/ Nagrade Mladih ekoreportera](#) & <https://www.facebook.com/mladierekoreporteri/>



Četrnaesta regionalna konferencija EnE18  
The Fourteenth Regional Conference - EnE18



Životna sredina ka Evropi

*Environment to Europe*

Beograd, 5. jun 2018.

*Belgrade, Serbia, June 5, 2018*

**Zaštita prirode – Razvoj  
odgovoran prema prirodi  
Nature protection - Nature-  
Responsive Development**

### 3. Building partnerships; Raising awareness on emerging issues; Working with civil society and non-state actors

EASD participated at **European Green week and ESDW events!**

The ESDW is a European-wide initiative aiming at stimulating and increasing the visibility of activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development.

The European Sustainable Development Week ensures that European citizens can take an active part in shaping the concept of sustainability in a bottom up approach. I am delighted that so many projects can be regarded as Best-Practice models and contribute to our common, sustainable future.'

More than 1500 initiatives in 18 countries have been registered as part of the ESDW (**THE ELEVENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENT TO EUROPE – ENE15 – ENV.NET is one of the registered events**)



As the organisation with ECOSOC consultative status, EASD in October 2015 had some meetings of the broad spectrum of the work of the UN in Vienna. EASD representatives participated in the Interactive Human Rights Tour and briefing on human rights for children. We support “Your actions count – be responsible traveler”

The UNEP Regional Office for Europe, in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Environmental Bureau, organized a **multi-stakeholders meeting on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**, combined with the yearly UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders on 12-13 November 2015 in Brussels, Belgium. EASD participated.



The consultation workshop “**Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessment in the Sava River Basin – Lessons learned and further steps**”, was held in Belgrade, on 29 January 2016. The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), and hosted by the Directorate for Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of the Republic of Serbia. At the workshop the results of the nexus assessment and other recent achievements in framework of the ISRBC, as well as follow-up projects and activities, were presented to the national authorities and the civil society. EASD participated.

EASD provided input on the first draft of the ‘**Global Review of Mercury Monitoring Networks**’. We suggested to add visualized layer of locations “of burning of fossil fuel “ and “small scale mining” (or to make a reference if already exists at global scale). The review is being developed within the framework of the project “**Development of a Plan for Global Monitoring of Human Exposure to and Environmental Concentrations of Mercury**”, funded by the Global Environment Facility. It seeks to compile and synthesize available information on existing mercury monitoring networks, including (i) air monitoring, (ii) human biomonitoring, and (iii) biota monitoring. It also seeks to highlight gaps in the coverage and scope of the monitoring networks. Thus the report aims to provide a baseline for future activities, including the promotion of further coordination and cooperation between the various networks. The draft review will be submitted by UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in response to the first call for information of the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC 7), which, among others, invited stakeholders to submit to the interim secretariat information on existing monitoring programmes and how they can contribute to an overall monitoring approach, including availability of baseline information.



As the member of ENV.net network (<http://www.env-net.org/about-us/the-network/>) **EASD performed following activities under ENV.net 2** (EuropeAid/132438/C/ACT/Multi – 2012/306-642 and 2014/351-610 (2012-2016)) **phase:**

### **Partnership and FPA meetings**

- The first partnership meeting of the second phase of the project was organized in March 2015, in Milan, Italy. Partners discussed about the new phase of the project, duties and new specific responsibilities in the next two years of the project.
- ENV.net partnership meeting and FPA interim meetings were organised January 25-28, 2016, in Brussels, Belgium.
- Within the project “Development of ENV.net in the Western Balkans and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration“, ENV.net team organized a regional conference titled “The environmental challenges, EU enlargement and public participation – the role of media on advocating environmental issues! ” held 21-22 October, 2016, in Struga, FYR of Macedonia. Monitoring of key selected topics/pieces of national environmental legislation with regard to approximation to EU acquis

### **2. EASD is monitoring legislations in Serbia on selected topics: horizontal legislation, water management, waste management and climate change.**

### **3. Developing a common ENV.net communication strategy**

Bi-monthly bulletins were prepared on specific topics:

- Citizens are informed about findings from the monitoring exercise (via national meetings, interactive platform, ENV.net website, social networks and monthly newsletter).
- Bi-monthly bulletins were prepared on specific topics:
- Contribution to the 2015 Global Climate Agreement, March 31, 2015
- Contribution to the Global Chemical management, May 31, 2015
- Proposed changes to three important documents in the environmental sector (in Serbia), July 31, 2015
- Post-screening document for Chapter 27 sent to the European Commission, September 30, 2015
- EU Progress Report 2015 on Environmental and Climate Change for Serbia, November 30, 2015
- COP21: A new commitment for Serbia, *January 31, 2016*
- New Amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Waste Management and the Law on Nature Protection, *March 31, 2016*
- Contribution of CSOs to 2016 Serbia Progress Report, *May 31, 2016*



- 2016 Progress Report for Serbia, *November 30, 2016*

#### 4. **Preparation of ENV.net common position papers and active contribution to country progress report**

EASD prepared the chapter in the first ENV.net position paper on the subject: Managements of Chemicals in Serbia (HOW IS THE ENVIRONMENT “performing” IN THE WESTERN BALKAN AND TURKEY?).

Previous Progress Reports for Chapter 27 (period 2011-2014) for Serbia were analyzed. EASD contribution to progress reports for 2015 was prepared and sent.

EASD prepared the second ENV.net position paper for the common publication: “Western Balkan and Turkey facing Climate Change Effects”. EASD position paper title was: “Climate Change Policy in Serbia”. Available at <http://www.env-net.org/about-us/env-net-publications/>

In previous phase EASD prepared publication *ENV.net Monitoring tool for CSOs in candidate and potential candidate countries: Chapter 27* ([http://www.env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/toolkit01\\_G\\_PRINT.pdf](http://www.env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/toolkit01_G_PRINT.pdf))

#### 5. **Organisation of the simultaneous awareness events involving citizens on specific International environmental days**

The first Social Event was organised by EASD on **World Water Day** on March 22, 2015 at Ada Ciganlija, Belgrade, Serbia. In the first part of the event, Association of Lifeguards had a short presentation of the security measures that need to be taken into account on the beach in case of the emergency. They showed to the public their security equipment and explained the procedures for dealing with emergency situations. In the second part, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia led the participants to field visit to the habitat of some specific bird and fungi species. Interesting short presentations on the history and characteristics of Ada Ciganlija were followed by the presentations on particular species that live there. Special focus was on the importance of water as their habitat. About 60 participants actively participated at this event. Another 140 people were involved in organisation or were just watching the event (teachers, parents and other citizens, and about 20 were staff (EASD team, lifeguard, field guide etc.)).

The second Social Event was organised on the **World Environment Day** on June 7, 2015. in Gornji Milanovac, Serbia. The objective of this event was promotion of the environmental values in Gornji Milanovac Municipality and promotion of the need for a healthy lifestyle, especially among school children. Participants were school children (and their teachers and parents) from 15 schools from the Moravicki District (municipalities of Gornji Milanovac, Cacak and Ivanjica). 45 students participated in the competitive part of the cycling event, monitored by 1-2 teachers and a professional from the Auto-Moto Association of Serbia. Event was secured by Red Cross volunteers and local Ambulance.

An event, with the theme “Go wild for life”, was organised on the World Environment Day, June 4, 2016, in the Municipality of Gornji Milanovac, Serbia. About 70 participants from were involved in this event.

**6. Round tables/conferences organised in order to bring together CSOs and local/national authorities and discuss about findings of ENV.net monitoring exercise**

On June 5, 2015, Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, together with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, organized the regional conference EnE15/ENV.net with the theme: “Horizontal legislation: Methods, Standards and Tools toward EU Environmental Values“. About 150 authors and co-authors of scientific papers (published in the form of the Conference Proceedings CD), participated at the EnE 15/ENV.net Conference. The Conference was an opportunity for institutions, organizations and experts to present their research and exchange viewpoints regarding methods, standards and tools toward EU environmental values and challenges on the road to EU. Conference was the UNEP WED event, supporting EU Integration process through ENV.net project.

On October 28, 2015, in Media Centre, Belgrade, ENV.net team Serbia organized the Seminar for media, this event was co-financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. This round table/seminar was organised with the idea to highlight that environmental reporting in Serbia is not sufficiently present in media. Conclusion was that there should be more environmental news, and they should be of the better quality, reporting on the important issues constantly, not just when accidents happen. There were 25 participants at the seminar, mostly journalists and other CSO representatives.

EnE16/ENV.net regional conference “Climate Change and Sustainability of Resources” was organised on June 6., 2016 by Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Belgrade. About 170 participants registered for this event. The major conclusion was that as the EU accession is a significant priority for Serbia, so will the chapter relating to the environment and climate change (Chapter 27) will be increasingly important in the process that in Serbia we reach European standards.

**7. Financial support to grassroots organisations to support awareness raising events involving citizens, organisation of round tables with other CSOs and national/local authorities.**

Procedure for award of financial support to third parties identified at the end of February 2015. Sub-grantee procedure was done as a direct award and selection was based on the high rank in the previous call (the organisation - SFERA scored third place in the first call

for proposals, but funding was available only for two sub-grants), and based on the theme they proposed which was in our focus - cooperation with media. Title of the subproject was GREEN WEB - Action for Sustainable Future.

Sub-grantee organisation - SFERA finished their four-month project Green Web in April 2016. Final workshop was held on March 10, 2016 in UNS, Belgrade.

8. **Organisation of one training session on project management, monitoring and advocacy on the approximation process to the environmental acquis**

Training session: “CSO Participation in Accession Process”, was organised on April 8, 2016 in Hotel Majestic, Belgrade. About 25 participants were present. The main conclusions of the meeting were that the environment is not a priority for the Republic of Serbia and therefore the environmental civil society organizations face a problem with securing the funds for their activities. Another conclusion was that stronger civil society can be achieved through more intense sharing of opinions and initiatives (for example, initiatives related Post-screening document implementation). Evaluation form was used to evaluate the success of the training session.

**We participate: Regional Conference: „Sustainability of the FPAs” , Brussels**

Regional Conference: „Sustainability of the FPAs” was held in Brussels, in January 26-27, 2016. At the conference, all projects from the IPA Beneficiaries EuropeAid/133642/C/SER/Multi we presented, with a particular focus on the future plans of networks, and their sustainability, as well as sustainability of their outcomes. [ENV.net](http://env.net), as one of 18 projects that was present, showed the future plans for development and sustainability of their network. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2016/02/05/we-participate-regional-conference-sustainability-of-the-fpas-brussels/>

EASD participated at **the First High Level Ministerial Panel on Responding to Climate and Environmental Challenges in South East Europe**, Podgorica, Montenegro. The ministers, together with other international partners **and representatives of the civil society organisations (with EASD representative participated at event)** discussed the state of climate and environment in SEE and reviewed the state of ongoing regional cooperation in this field. The focus was on the advantages and shortcomings of the current initiatives. **In a joint declaration titled “The Podgorica Initiative”, adopted at the meeting, the ministers supported a regional approach to environmental and climate change issues and commended the cooperation with the RCC which has supported the establishment of the Regional Working Group on Environment.** <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2016/04/02/easd-participated-at-the-first-high-level-ministerial-panel-on-responding-to-climate-and-environmental-challenges-in-south-east-europe/>

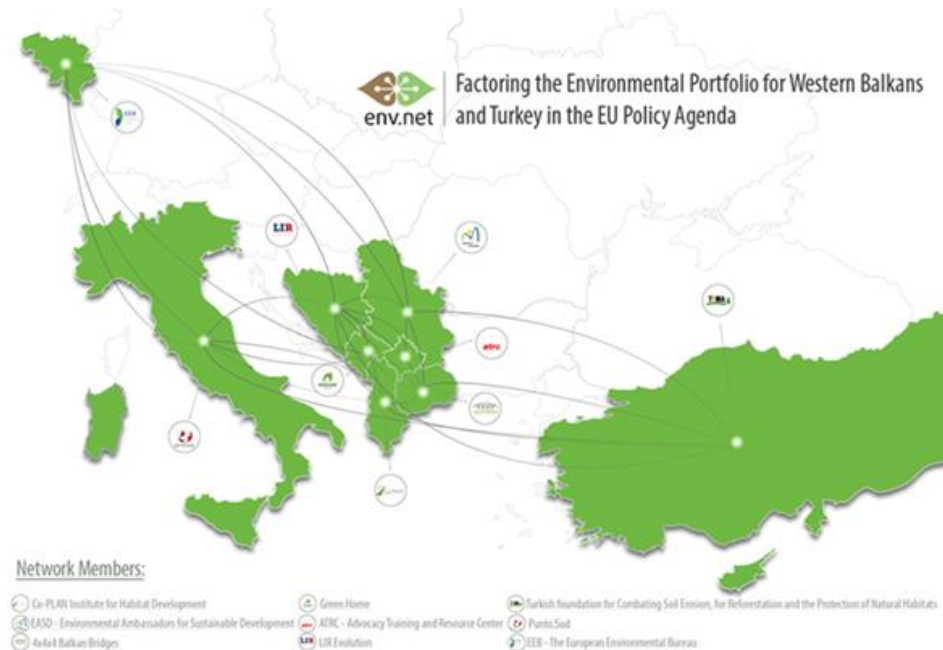


**Networking with Eco-Schools in Slovenia (EU) , September 2017 -** <http://ambassadors-env.com/blog/2017/09/18/sastanak-ekoskolskih-koordinatora-u-sloveniji-lasko/>

**EASD become the Member of the Western Balkans Youth Cooperation Platform!** <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/08/24/easd-become-the-member-of-the-western-balkans-youth-cooperation-platform/>

**ENV.net 3<sup>rd</sup> phase!** December 2017: **ENV.net regional network** is supported by the European Commission through the programme for Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations. After 5 years of activity, the ENV-net counts for a member in each Instrument for Pre- accession Assistance country (**EASD is Member from Serbia**) since 2016 (with partners from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina added later). The network is supported by partners from Italy – punto.sud and Belgium – European Environmental Bureau – EEB, both bringing to the network experience and best practices from two EU member states, as well as the possibility to align with similar ongoing initiatives within the EU.

More about ENV.net 3 : **ENV-net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western Balkans and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda.** <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/02/02/env-net-3-env-net-factoring-the-environmental-portfolio-for-western-balkans-and-turkey-in-the-eu-policy-agenda/> <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/env-net/>



### Why ENV-net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western Balkans and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda?

Recent natural occurrences such as repeated massive floods, and the EU accession obligations the Western Balkans and Turkey region must fulfil, highlight the immediacy of action required in the field of climate change and environmental protection.

For it to be effective, such action requires a solid pan-regional commitment in monitoring, advocating and awareness raising in home countries and engagement in policy- discussions at EU level. It also requires well-established and qualified civil society and media actors to generate positive pressure on the relevant institutions, and keep the citizens informed in a way that is accessible and actionable.

Studies show that, despite efforts made in this regard, the Western Balkan and Turkey region faces a number of challenges impeding progress, such as: limited local buy-in of the reforms, conflicting legislation, lack of a critical mass that can monitor developments and exert pressure on policy-makers, weak dialogue with institutions, poor understanding and coverage of climate change and environmental news, and very sparse resonance with current EU environment-related discussions such as circular economy aspects.

In response to these needs, ENV-net, as a proven regional network and advocacy actor, in the forthcoming three years will work on improving evidence-based policy-making and policy-influencing on climate change and environmental legislation in each of the ENV.net partner countries.

The network focus will be to generate region-representative evidence-supported input to contribute to EU discussions on matters of climate change and environment, and to explore and introduce to the region new inter-related aspects such as circular economy.

In the process, the network foresees to also technically and financially support civil society organisations and media in each of the network partner countries, to better understand and work on these issues.

The action is supported by the European Commission through the programme for Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations

ENV.net3 – kick off meeting in Tirana <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/02/17/env-net3-kick-off-meeting-in-tirana/>

Guest lectures made at two Universities in Serbia: “Circular economy is concept and process, and still not full circle” <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/05/23/guest-lectures-made-at-two-universities-in-serbia-circular-economy-is-concept-and-process-and-still-not-full-circle/>

ENV.net Initiative: to update National Strategy on Sustainable Development by applying Circular Economy concept <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/10/14/env-net-initiative-to-update-national-strategy-on-sustainable-development-by-applying-circular-economy-concept/>

The first regional conference on circular economy, Belgrade, November 2018: Agenda <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/06/30/the-first-regional-conference-on-circular-economy-belgrade-november-2018-agenda/>

To report: The first Regional Conference on Circular Economy was success <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/12/07/to-report-the-first-regional-conference-on-circular-economy-was-success/>

## ENV.net3

### 1.1. Legislation monitoring

EASD continued to monitor activities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, in the framework of the EU accession process and the opening of Chapter 27.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has conducted a series of consultations with civil society organizations, faculties, institutes, business sector, and local self-governments in order to prepare better for the negotiating position for Chapter 27. EASD participated in preparatory meetings held in Belgrade in November, regarding participation of Serbian delegates at UN CBD COP14, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, and UNFCCC COP 24, held in Katowice, Poland.

During the meetings it was stressed those transitional periods will be proposed for directives in the field of water management, industrial pollution, air protection and waste management, in order to allow Serbia to have enough time to adjust, after entering the EU. The most demanding areas will be wastewater treatment and water quality, waste management and recycling, and 60% of the expected funds will be



required for the regulation of these areas. The status of Negotiating Position - Implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive in Serbia was presented and discussed. In the area of waste management, specific implementation plans for the Landfill Directive, the main aspects of the DSIP for the Landfill Directive, as well as the status of implementation of the Directive, cost estimates and financing of regional infrastructure have been presented and discussed. In the field of nature protection, a technical adaptation of document related to the Habitat and Bird Directives was presented and discussed.

## 1.2. Monthly News-letter (Environmental News)

EASD continues to contribute to the issues of Env.net Newsletters. All published issues are posted on EASD web site: <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/env-net/>

## 1.3. Advocacy campaigns

### 1.3.1. ENV.net launching Circular economy concept in Eco-schools in Serbia

On October 8, 2018, EASD organized the big thematic conference for Eco-schools coordinators, with the topic Circular economy. Eco schools are not familiar with this concept, even they are deeply involved in practical work partially based on circular economy in their institution, by using different raw materials to continue their life as some useful item. The main material re-used in Eco-schools is textile, but also Tetra Pak, so we launched new cycle of Eco-package project in Eco-schools with the name: Circular Economy based on Tetra Pak example. Through creative art, Eco-schools in Serbia will show the meaning of Circular economy used beverage carton ("Tetra Pak"). During this conference, Call for creative arts has been opened and we expected a huge number of works to receive.

The Eco-schools conference was held in Gornji Milanovac municipality, with participation of more than 100 Eco-schools coordinators and schools principals. Prof. Andjelka Mihajlov, national expert, presented model Circular economy and how Eco-schools and local communities can participate. Mrs. Radmila Jokic, teacher from the Eco-school for children with disabilities, "Vuk Karadzic", Sombor, presented their work based on re-used different materials, especially "Silent book" produced from re-used textile.

### 1.3.2. ENV.net Initiative: to update National Strategy on Sustainable Development by applying Circular Economy concept

*Meeting of National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) Working Group for Chapter 27.*

From the beginning of the ENV.net 3 project phase, EASD continuously realized advocacy campaign on circular economy, in a few directions. In order to reach decision makers, we agreed that the best way is to initiate joint activity with the National Convention on the European Union and

its working group for Chapter 27. In April 2018 we organized meeting with CEKOR, CSO which is in charge for the Chapter 27 under the National Convention on the EU, where we agreed concept and joint appearance regarding launching advocacy campaign on circular economy. On October 12, 2018, Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, together with CEKOR, presented initiative to the National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) Working Group for Chapter 27, regarding need that National Strategy on Sustainable Development should be updated, by applying Circular Economy concept. The meeting was held in EU info center, in Belgrade.

ENV.net Thematic Advisor Prof. Dr. Andjelka Mihajlov presented ENV.net research related to Circular Economy, emphasized what are the main directions in circular economy concept developed in EU and which are possibilities of Serbia to follow requirements in terms of fulfilling Chapter 27 requirements.

Strategic approach and strategic planning at the national level in the field of circular economy in Serbia are still at the very beginning. However, it is necessary to take this concept into consideration, due to the fact that it has to be present in many chapters and run by many authorities. Even in the European Union circular economy is well developed and legislative completed mainly in the field of waste management. Compared to the OECD indicators and indicators of the EU in the field of circular economy, in Serbia there is still no exact and quantitative data, except qualitative and descriptive. Therefore, the initiative of the NGO sector through the EU National Convention represents an opportunity for civil society to act proactively, taking into account that requirements regarding circular economy will soon be on the agenda when the position paper of chapter 27 are concerned. New/updated Strategy for waste management, which is under preparation and planned to be adopted soon, will certainly be an opportunity for fulfilling this requirement, but this strategy will include a segment which refers only to waste. The question is how to deal with other circular economy segments and what is the plan how to include them in strategic documents at the national level?

Some of the conclusions of the EU National Convention meeting refer that citizens have obligation to participate in decision making process regarding development policies, which will ensure inclusive, equal, democratic and sustainable state and economy development.

Having in mind that EU has already adopted legislation related to waste management and circular economy, it is recommended to monitor activities of the Ministry for Environmental Protection and their achievements in updating of National strategy on waste management, as well as in adopting other related legislation.

It is necessary to support all initiatives that will bring Serbia closer to the realization of the concept of circular economy; it has been supported the initiative to propose to the relevant Ministry for Environmental Protection to adopt innovated National Strategy for sustainable use of natural resources, which will include, together with National Strategy for Waste management, all relevant strategic areas regarding circular economy.

### 1.3.3. Participation at Science Festival in Belgrade, with topic on circular economy

EASD participated at the biggest Science Festival that was held in Belgrade, on November 29 and 30, at the premises of Belgrade Fair. The Festival was an opportunity to present what is happening when we recycle used beverage carton, namely Tetra Pak, and to show that secondary raw material can become useful material to produce new thing. Participants were students from schools around Serbia and during the Festival more than 30.000 participants had opportunity to try a little bit science in practice. More than 100 exhibitors presented their scientific work,

including business sector, universities, NGOs, schools. EASD volunteers executed more than 20 practical workshops, during two Festival days, promoting recycling, circular economy and ENV.net project. This participation in the Festival was EASD contribution to the advocacy campaign on practical meaning of circular economy.

#### 1.4. Conference on CE 2018

The first regional conference on circular economy was held in Belgrade, November 25-27, 2018, in partnership with Serbian Chamber of Commerce (Terazije 23), which provided facilities and conference hall. Partners arrived on November 25 and during the evening Steering Committee meeting were organized, with the purpose to discuss ongoing progress of the project. The First Conference day was on Monday, November 26, in the period from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to the Agenda, it was planned that partners' time for presentation should be in the morning, before lunch, while afternoon session should be reserved for panel, Davos type, with about 5 participants from relevant sectors from Serbia and/or abroad (EEB representative?) that deal with circular economy issues. Next day, on Tuesday November 27, it was planned to organize site-visit to some small factory which systematized its production in accordance with circular economy principle. It is agreed that the best example would be a small factory "Feplo", which produces waterproof building block. They agreed to host our partners in their factory.

Partners were invited to prepare presentation, up to 15 minutes, as well as to prepare summary regarding current state of circular economy in their respective countries. This would serve as basic to monitor activities performed during the project env.net implementation. Every year, in terms of preparation for the next CE conferences, this basic regional report will be updated, by the end of project period.

Contribution by EASD to the Minutes of the ENVnet Regional Conference on Circular economy, November 2018, Belgrade, Serbia

At the beginning, as the host, EASD President Aleksandra Mladenovic, welcomed participants to Belgrade and expressed her gratitude to the Eco-Schools (for nice bags for participants) and to Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

Representative of EU Delegation in Serbia Antoine Avignon addressed the Conference with main messages: - circular economy as the topic is "taking steam", pointing out sustainability of economy through circular economy concept; - there is a need for concrete activities; -in Western Balkan in most conferences there is a lot of enthusiasm; private sector has a lot of innovative ideas and it is important to think about private sector.

In introductory address, Rodion Gjoka, representative of the Lead Partner Co-PLAN, Albania, thanked to Serbian Chamber of Commerce and EASD for hosting and organizing the Conference. He underlined that ENV.net is introducing circular economy concept in region. He noted that ENV.net has draft methodology for mapping the state of art, asking for comments.

On behalf of Serbian Chamber of Commerce (SCC), Isabel Airas informed on existence of Unit for Circular Economy in SCC and noted possibilities for future cooperation with EASD.

Mr. Miroslav Tadic, from UNDP Serbia (presentation available) presented circular communities and circular economy relation with climate smart development. Special attention in presentation was dedicated to circular economy from climate change mitigation perspective in Serbia and links with Paris Agreement, highlighting UNDP Serbia ongoing project

Mrs. Natasa Djereg, from NGO CEKOR from Subotica, Serbia, spoke about climate action as incentive of circular economy, pointing out needs of decarbonization of energy sector, Regional Energy Community Treaty and external costs for energy production, as well as moral/ethics when revise National Spatial Plan.

Conference continued with ENV.net Partners presentations.

On behalf of Punto.sud - Italy, Eleonora Puddu expressed proudness of Punto.sud on ENV.net network (to note that Punto.sud was Lead Partner for 6 years in ENV.net 1 and ENV.net2 projects). She presented assessment methodology and ENV.net challenges in four dimensions of circular economy concept: economic, institution, social and environment. She also presented example of mapping matrix, expressing expectation that at Conference we should discuss it, change it or adjust it. She posed the question on ENV.net future focus: circular economy in general OR circular economy related to Chapter 27.

Conference is followed by presentations (presentations available):

Albania, Co-PLAN, Rodion Gjoka

Bosnia and Herzegovina, LIR, Medina Garic

FYR Macedonia, Sonja Damchevska

Montenegro, Milica Kandic

Turkey, İlge Kivilcim

Serbia, EASD, Andjelka Mihajlov

Conference was followed by the Panel on Circular Economy, chaired by respective journalist Milica Momcilovic. Panelist were: Maja Krunic (Serbian Environmental Protection Agency/Ministry of Environmental Protection, presentation available), Richard Filcak (EEB, Brussels – ENV.net Partner organization; presentation available), Jelena Kiš (Ball Packaging Europe), Isabel Airas (Serbian Chamber of Commerce), Radmila Jokić (teacher from Eco-school from the City of Sombor) and Zoran Jakovljevic (GIZ Serbia).

Questions to Panelists were:

1. In your opinion, what are the main challenges/obstacles to introduce circular economy concept into national economy?
2. What is your experience regarding circular economy topic?
3. Is there any doubt regarding sustainability of this concept?
4. Is there any differences regarding implementation of this concept in developed and developing countries/countries in transition?
5. How to engage community and citizens to follow circular economy concept and implement it in everyday life?
6. if any other question?

Panelist main messages were:



Maja Kronic: developing circular economy concept in practice faces a lot of challenges. She pointed out importance of: knowledge and education, financial sources, consumption patterns, and coordination of all activities and sectors.

Richard Filcak: EU market is a single market. It is a challenge for industry to survive in the strong EU regulated environment. Circular economy concept is complex but presents clear signal for future businesses. It is important to reshape economy and to think “out of box”. Cooperative networks are important. It is important to put research, development, education, technology, awareness raising, innovation and all other dimensions of circular economy concept under one umbrella. Country national policy could support development towards circular economy.

Jelena Kiš: Corporate sustainability is important. It is also important that region is connected. Cans are good examples for recycling potential and contributing to circular economy concept in practice; in packaging new business model/s should be developed – it is the need for appropriate knowledge, innovative approaches and appropriate corporate strategies. Particular interest of circular economy is its segment related to waste and packaging managements.

Isabel Airas: Underlined the importance of sustainable production and cooperation on different levels. As the example she explained Climate KIC Project, and how this is supporting circular economy concept. She also gave SCC Circular Economy Academia for companies as the good tool in helping to transition towards circular economy, i.e. appropriate and relevant education is very important.

Radmila Jokic: Presented circular economy in practice within activities of Serbian Eco-Schools (used textile upcycling). She underlined “responsible entrepreneurship” as the key words for circular economy concept in practice.

Zoran Jakovljevic: In particular, he addressed difficulties in waste management practice influencing possible achievements in circular economy, noted some positive developments regarding packaging, e-waste and agriculture waste. He briefly presented previous activities in development of strategy for circular economy in waste management in Serbia.

There were 4 intervention and questions from participants.

During the Conference small video has been prepared as interviews with all partners, who answered the question: “What is the “state-of-the-art” regarding circular economy in their respective countries?”. The video is available on ENV.net google drive.

For the purpose of Conference, as participants package, following materials were prepared: Aluminum bottle for water with ENV.net logo, Notebook and pencil with “Eco-sign”, with ENV.net logo, Special pencil with small seeds of aromatic plants (that can be planted) with ENV.net logo, and special bags produced from re-used textile, as a result of big Inspiring world campaign which EASD organized during the summer 2018 among Eco-schools in Serbia. Two Eco-schools for children with disabilities, one from Sombor and another from Umka, Belgrade, produced those bags together with children, based on CE concept for re-using. Every bag is a unique and can serve in order to avoid using of plastic bags. This was result of big advocacy campaign we launched this year in order to introduce CE concept in Eco-schools in Serbia, and will be continue in next year. EASD also printed roll-up of ENV.net project, and promo-desk that will serve for all promo-activities, because it is branded by ENV.net logo.

## 1.5. Project Management and Monitoring

During the previous period, EASD participated in skype meeting with all partners. Financial report has been prepared and submitted. The post from Conference on the internet portal of national media is on the following link:

<http://www.rts.rs/page/magazine/ci/story/2520/nauka/3361247/koncept-cirkularne-ekonomije-u-srbiji-u-pocetnoj-fazi-primene.html>

### 1.6. Sub-granting scheme

Call for projects for local NGOs was announced on EASD web site, from November 29 to December 17, 2018. So far, 5 projects were submitted in local language (Serbian), as stated in the Call. Summaries of all projects have been submitted in English. Procedure for evaluation of projects has been postponed, due to holidays and New Year celebration and was finalized by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Call was restrictive in terms that potential applicants had to be register within the municipality/city where there is at least on Eco-school and for applicants that had previous experience with Eco-schools in their Cities/Municipalities (stated as advantage). The reason for restrictive call was that EASD wants to strengthen Eco-schools to accept concept of circular economy and to become “ambassadors” who will continually work in applying concept of circular economy in their local communities.

The organizations that submitted proposals are: 1. Eko-nec, City of Kragujevac, 2. Planeta, City of Sombor, 3. Protecta, City of Nis, 4. Sfera, City of Belgrade and 5. Zlatiborski krug, from Cajetina municipality.

Case study - Textile and fashion within circular economy concept



### More about organization



**Role Model:** Organization **Honorable President and Co-Founder** is **Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov**, Environmental Ambassador for Sustainable Development; PhD in Technical Sciences, Chemical Engineer. She has been acknowledged by **UNEP in 2006 as the environmental leader of Western Balkan**. Has a prominent role in leading the Reform Agenda of Serbia in Environmental Sector; **she has been Serbian Minister for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment from 2002 to 2004**. Dr Andjelka Mihajlov, among others, was the head of Country (Yugoslavia) Delegation at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, and 10 years later in Rio+20, she was the member of the Serbian delegation, as advisor. She is University Professor, with research references in environmental engineering, environment governance and policy, waste management, material science and chemical engineering thermodynamics, among others. Her core values for organization are excellence: in all teaching, training, research, expertise and educational, including listening activities. In 2003 she initiated Regional environmental Cohesion as the tool for Sustainable Development, with values confirming and reconfirming until now.

**Founders are:** Andjelka Mihajlov, Sandra Radunovic, Hristina Stevanovic-Carapina, Ana Pudja, Filip Jovanovic and Milica Petrovic.

Organisation of work, as at the beginning of 2015 was: Legal representative is MSc Aleksandra Mladenovic, executive director (Previous Legal representatives were: Prof dr Natasa Zugic Drakulic, executive director, January 2014 – March 2015, and Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, until January 2014). President of the Council was Prof dr Hristina Stevanović Čarapina.



**At the end of 2018 legal representative remains Aleksandra Mladenovic, but now as the President.**

EASD is organization lead by women and presence of women experts within the team should be noted.

**Honorable members are:** Sandra Radunovic, Hristina Stevanovic-Carapina, Ana Pudja, Filip Jovanovic, Milica Petrovic, Danko Aleksic, Natasa Zugic Drakulic, Predrag Simonovic, Zora Dajic Stevanovic, Petar Marinkovic, Milena Tabasevic and Uros Rakic.

Statute (<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/about/statute/>) and organization financial health (<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/about/financial-repor/>) are posted on web.

And – to see who we are:







FORUM OF MEMBERS



FORUM OF FRIENDS

According to Council Decision, EASD opened 2 Clubs: **Forum of Members (FoM)**: – members and former members and persons worked/working in EASD projects, and **Forum of Friends (FoF)**: – persons participated in EASD activities, as well as persons connected through social networks (evidence are the numbers). FoM have **44 members**, and FoF have **1034 members**, from SEE region mainly. Network of the Partners include **about 50 institutions**. EASD is coordinating network of **113 Eco-Schools in Serbia**.





