## EASD Report on activities 2021-2022

**Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)** is a non-for-profit professional association focusing work on education, as well as the research and science (professional and participant science/citizen science) promotion, in the areas of sustainable development and environment, through the consultancy, expertise, innovation, capacity building, evidence-based advocacy, promotion of natural and culture values, equality and justice. http://ambassadors-env.com/en/.

Implements activities globally, in the region of South Eastern Europe and nationally (Serbia). Focus thematic issues are: — Sustainable Development Goals; — Education for sustainable development; — Sustainable Production and Consumption; — Science (Research and Citizen science and science promotion); — Nature and biodiversity; — Waste and chemicals, and — other working areas (Climate change issues, Sustainable tourism, Sustainable fashion and textile, Policy and governance, Resource efficiency, Plastic pollution, Circular economy, Water and sanitation, Air pollution, Eco-labeling, Energy-Environment nexus, Environmental rights and justice and security, EU accession and enlargement, Gender issues, Culture and art, Food and nutrition). We are "bridging" global and European scale environmental/climate change/ sustainable development issues in focus with sub-regional South Eastern Europe challenges, and vice versa. We are "walking through actions" thematic issues of concern, like waste and chemicals, biodiversity, climate change, circular economy concept, SDGs in practice.

We are independent group of professionals, i.e. experts at different level of carrier in various fields. EASD has special consultative status in UN ECOSOC; accredited in United Nations – UNEP (UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) NGO Focal Point; National Member of The Foundation for Environmental Education – FEE Serbia; Institutional Member of ACUNS – Academic Council on the United Nations System; IPEN network Participating Organization; European Environment Bureau Member – EEB, ECSA – European Citizen Science Association Member, Women Engaged in Common Future (WECF) member; Associate Member to ESDN Association. Projects we implement are available at http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/.

Note: We are pleased to inform you that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations at its substantive session, held on 18 June 2020, decided to take note of Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development's recent quadrennial report (20015-2018). Quadrennial report particularly highlighting EASD contribution to the work of the United Nations, including the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals.

## Some more facts about organization:

Organization is established in 2004 as association of citizens, and formally registered as association of professionals in 2012. At the end of 2022 legal representative remains **Aleksandra Mladenovic**, as the President. Organization is led by women. Council president (in kind): **Danko Aleksic**, from 2019.

Role model is Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, Honorable president and former Serbian Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

Staff: projects based (in the last few years vary from 1 to 6 – full time, and 2-9 part time).

Co-founders: Andjelka Mihajlov, Sandra Radunovic, Hristina Stevanovic-Carapina, Ana Pudja, Filip Jovanovic and Milica Petrovic

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, Uros Rakic and Milica Momcilovic.

Forum of Members have about 50 members, and Forum of Friends have more than 1000 members. Network of the Partners include about 50 institutions. EASD is coordinating-facilitating network of 148 Eco-Schools in Serbia.



## Main activities in 2021 and 2022 include:

Activity		EASD Thematic focus	FEE Thematic focus
Adaptation of the innovative interactive learning toolkit on climate change –	Serbia	Education for sustainable	Empower Climate Action
the Climate Box, 2020-2021		development;	
During 2013-2015, UNDP developed and piloted in Russia a new innovative		Climate change issues	
interactive learning toolkit on Climate Change –" Climate Box". The toolkit was			
developed by an interdisciplinary team of Russian experts including			
climatologists, geographers, biologists, economists, environmental experts,			
teachers and methodologists, and launched on UNFCCC 21st Conference of			
Parties (in Paris, 2015). Since 2016, the toolkit has been adapted, translated			
into national languages and piloted in 7 other countries of Eastern Europe and			
Central Asia. Since 2020, Serbia has joined the Climate Box project.			
The purpose of the project is to adapt the innovative interactive learning			
toolkit on climate change – the Climate Box into Serbian language.			
UNDP supported			
CLIMATE BOX in Serbian language			
http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2021/09/07/climate-box-is-available-in-			
serbian-language/			
ENV.net3: "ENV-net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western	Western	Sustainable Production	Empower Climate Action
Balkans and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda" – EuropeAid/154870/ACT/Multi;	Balkan+	and Consumption;	Reduce Environmental
EASD (Serbia) partners for project implementation are: 4X4X4 Balkan Bridges	Turkey / EU	Citizen science and	Pollution
from North Macedonia, European Environmental Bureau from Belgium,		science promotion;	
Advocacy Training and Resource Center, from Kosovo*, Green Home, from		Waste and chemicals,	
Montenegro, Lir Evolution, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, TEMA - the Turkish		Climate change issues,	
Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and Protection of		Policy and governance,	
Natural Habitats, from Turkey and Foundation Punto,Sud, from Italy. The		Circular economy	
project contributes to the improvement of environmental policy-making and		EU accession and	
implementation in compliance with the EU standards. To this end, the network		enlargement	

foresees to contribute to both improved and intensified inter-action among actors (including environmental CSOs, media and policy-makers) and an overall more enabling technical and financial environment where these actors operate. The action sets out to strengthen the profile of ENV.net as the leading network and bridging actor in environmental policy-influencing in the WB and Turkey region (vis-à-vis EU). Further, it foresees introducing and initiating a discussion on the Circular Economy concept in the region, as well as intensifying climate change actions. The action also foresees a number of value-adding, cross-cutting elements such as inter-partner learning/exchange, networking, and thematic organisational support to third parties (i.e. local grass-root organisations, media). Finalized in March 2021

## Publications:

Environmental Communication: Media Archive Reports as a Participant Science Tool (Authors: A.Mihajlov, A.Mladenovic, F.Jovanovic), Abstract Book "Communicating in a 'Modern' Word", 6th International Conference on Communication and Management – ICCM 2021, page 31, Edited by Communication Institute of Greece (COMinG), ISBN: 978-618-81861-9-4 (2021)

Paper published: Andjelka Mihajlov, Aleksandra Mladenovic & Filip Jovanovic, Contribution to Environmental Communication: comparative analysis of two qualitative methods as the performance to European Union accession, in "Adapt to Survive. The role of social media, sharing and communication to ameliorate this world ", Conference Proceedings Book Edited by Margarita Kefalaki, Communication Institute of Greece (COMinG),Athens, p.57-66, 2021 ( ISSN: ISBN: 978-618-85622-3-3 ), Available at <u>https://coming.gr/wpcontent/uploads/2021/12/1\_1\_2021\_Adapt-to-survive\_Book\_confproceedings\_COMinG.pdf</u>

Country in transition (Serbia) case: Circular economy starts from waste management, Environmental Research & Technology, Vol. 4 (1), pp. 83-88, 2021

Information paper on Climate Change and Energy Information paper on Climate change and Floods Contributors to GUIDELINES ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY In more details at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/env-net/			
Energy Efficiency in Eco-schools (2018-2021) Through the Eco-schools Serbia network, series of workshops regarding raising awareness on energy efficiency, especially related measures that can be implemented in Eco-schools, at homes and wider in local communities, are organized. Participants are pre-school children and students from primary and secondary schools which are members of Eco-school network in Serbia. More at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/energy-efficiency-in-eco- schools/	Serbia	Sustainable Development Goals; Education for sustainable development; Climate change issues, Energy-Environment nexus	Empower Climate Action
ECO-SYSTEM program: Stable and strong" Green Chair "for greater influence on decision maker 2021 Together with network members and partners, implement this project as part of the ECO-SYSTEM program, implemented by Young Researchers of Serbia (MIS), Supported by Sweden (subgrant) More at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/eco-system-program-stable- and-strong-green-chair-for-greater-influence-on-decision-maker/	Serbia	Policy and governance, Environmental rights and justice and security, EU accession and enlargement, Gender issues	Empower Climate Action Protect Global Biodiversity Reduce Environmental Pollution
Sustainability of wastewater treatment methods from (Eco) schools in Serbia 10/21-02/22 The project will analyze the possibilities and requirements of sustainable sanitation and properties of wastewater from Eco-schools and other sources, map the problems that exist due to inadequate wastewater treatment in Eco- schools in rural communities and present the results of civic activism through Eco -schools in local communities, related to sustainable wastewater treatment. * supported by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, through support for civil society projects in the field environmental protection in 2021.	Serbia	Sustainable Development Goals; Education for sustainable development; Water and sanitation, Gender issues	Reduce Environmental Pollution

Publication: Plan for improving sanitation and wastewater treatment in Eco-			
schools (in Serbian) , 2022			
More details at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/sustainability-of-			
wastewater-treatment-methods-from-eco-schools-in-serbia/			
WatSanPlan (Water and Sanitation Safety Planning in the Balkan Region:	Western	Education for sustainable	Reduce Environmental
Albania, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia ).2020-2022	Balkan	development;	Pollution
WatSanPlan (Water and Sanitation Safety Planning in the Balkan Region:		Water and sanitation, Air	
Albania, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia ). In cooperation with WECF,		pollution,	
EASD is promoting WSSP in Serbia, through extension and revision of the		Gender issues	
WSSP compendium, WSSP educational materials & concepts, improve			
qualification of teachers and students in a Serbian community, conduct media			
campaign to motivate citizens to measure nitrate levels in water on their own,			
conduct relevant analysis and publication of results.			
Publication: Water and Sanitation Safety Plan Compendium Chapter , in			
Serbian, 2021/22			
More at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/watsanplan/			
Gender and Chemicals 2020-2022	Global	Sustainable Development	Reduce Environmental
In 2020 IPEN decided to create a few an online course on IPEN's learning		Goals;	Pollution
platform on a specific topic agreed, within IPEN Gender and Chemicals Project.		Education for sustainable	
Based on expertise, EASD is chosen to develop and prepare webinar course		development;	
"Fostering female leadership: training women to address chemicals and waste		Waste and chemicals	
in the public setting".		Policy and governance,	
More at: <a href="http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/gender-and-chemicals/">http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/gender-and-chemicals/</a>		Environmental rights and	
		justice and security	
New EASD online course in English and Serbian – FOSTERING FEMALE		Gender issues	
LEADERSHIP: TRAINING WOMEN TO ADDRESS CHEMICALS AND WASTE IN THE			
PUBLIC SETTING			
http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2021/11/27/new-easd-online-course-in-			
english-and-serbian-fostering-female-leadership-training-women-to-address-			
chemicals-and-waste-in-the-public-setting/			
IPEN global plastics monitoring project 2020-2022	Global	Chemicals, Waste	Reduce Environmental
		Plastic pollution	Pollution

The aim of the IPEN global plastics monitoring project is to raise awareness locally and globally about hazardous chemicals in recycled plastics used for consumer products. The project targeted recycled plastic pellets of high- density polyethylene (HDPE) sold from small-scale, local operations, since this is one of the most commonly used material for consumer products. These have been analyzed for UV stabilizers, Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca BDE) and PCBs. Publication: WIDESPREAD CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF RECYCLED PLASTIC PELLETS GLOBALLY, IPEN Study, EASD Contributors, Dec.2021 More details at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/ipen-global-plastics- monitoring-project/ <b>EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession 2019-2022</b> EASD is a member, participating organization in the project EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA) in the Western Balkans and Turkey seeks to be a major driver of reform and development in environmental governance through compliance with the EU environmental acquis (WG7). The programme builds on the results of the RENA and ECRAN programmes by furthering the regional cooperation and strengthening the administrative capacities of the beneficiaries. Regional cooperation provides the framework for sharing knowledge, expertise and good practices, and for addressing common environmental problems in a more sustainable and efficient way. The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the implementation of the EU environmental acquis in the Western Balkans and Turkey in areas relevant for addressing trans-boundary environmental issues. http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/eu-environment-partnership- programme-for-accession/	EU, Western Balkan	Policy and governance, EU accession and enlargement	Protect Global Biodiversity Reduce Environmental Pollution
Forest – our lifelong teacher (Erasmus+), Duration of activity / project:2022- 2023 ForLife is a joint project of three partners: Doves, Slovenia (project leader), Jump (Italy) and Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Serbia), under the Erasmus+ Program. EC Project Number: 2021-1-SI01-KA210-SCH-000031290 National Project ID: KA210-SCH-2/21	EU	Education for sustainable development; Nature and biodiversity; Climate change issues, Culture	Empower Climate Action Protect Global Biodiversity

Project title: Forest – our lifelong teacher One of the priorities of EASD focus is education on importance of biodiversity protection, which is implemented mainly through the Eco-schools Serbia network. In the period 2017-2020, under the project The Great Plant Hunt biodiversity topic is introduced in Eco-schools Serbia network and started with implementation of the nature-based solutions concept. From February 2022, EASD started to implement within Eco-schools Serbia network an Erasmus+ project ForLife , with leading partner from Slovenia, and another partner from Italy. This project is directly connected to nature-based solution concept, by using positive examples from nature, regarding promotion of protection, restoration or management of natural and semi-natural ecosystems and in the same time creation of novel ecosystems in urban and sub-urban areas where Eco-schools belong to. More details at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/forest-our-lifelong- teacher-erasmus/			
ENVIRONMENT TO EUROPE – EnE, from 2005 This project/process present different phases towards European values, as well as globally values promoted through Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Started to raise awareness of the importance of the UNECE Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Belgrade 2007 Conference, and further continuously is mobilizing interesting parties in Serbia and Region to catalyze environmental and sustainable development. Within "Environment to Europe" Process, EASD actively participate and organize different supporting activities in different related thematic areas, like sustainable consumption and production, efficient resource use, chemicals, eco-consumers protection, participation at global, EC, regional and with papers at different conferences, etc. Regional cohesion projects supported Environment to Europe process. In more details at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/environment-to- europe-ene/	Serbia, South East European Region	Education for sustainable development; Science (Research and Citizen science and science promotion); EU accession and enlargement	Empower Climate Action Protect Global Biodiversity Reduce Environmental Pollution
<b>Eco-Schools,</b> from 2013 Global wide criteria for Eco-schools are implementing in Serbian schools.	Serbia	Education for sustainable development;	Empower Climate Action Protect Global Biodiversity

Project is acknowledged by Ministry of education, science and technological development. National operator in Serbia is EASD, facilitating national Eco-Schools network. The total number of Eco-schools in Serbia in 2022 is 148 educational institutions from all levels. <u>http://ambassadors-env.com/project/eko-skole-otvoren-poziv-skolama-da-se-prijave/; http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/eco-schools-call-for-schools-to-participate/</u> ; http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/eco-schools-steps/			Reduce Environmental Pollution
Blue Flag, from 2011 The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognized voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained. National operator in Serbia is EASD. More at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/blue-flag-open-call-for- beaches-and-marines-for-2013/	Serbia	Sustainable Development Goals; Education for sustainable development; Sustainable tourism, Eco-labeling Culture	Empower Climate Action Protect Global Biodiversity Reduce Environmental Pollution
Green Key, from 2013 Green Key is presently the largest global eco-label for accommodation and has a national administration center (in Serbia this is organization "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development") in each participating country. The total number of Green Key (GK) certified hotels in Serbia in 2022 is two: IN hotel in Belgrade and Hotel Rtanj at Kopaonik Mt. Green Key is an independent Programme recognized and supported by the World Tourism Organization and UNEP. More at: http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/green-key/ Additional UN/global scale activities	Serbia	Education for sustainable development; Sustainable Production and Consumption; Eco-labeling Culture Food and nutrition	Empower Climate Action Protect Global Biodiversity Reduce Environmental Pollution

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD) started in 2020 with more focused engagement and activities in the thematic issue of plastic pollution.

We found important UNEP initiative to beat plastic pollution, as well as designing out plastic pollution.

EASD started with analysis, participation in global studies and relevant national/local surveys and initiatives related plastic in products and in waste. EASD activities include activities in: Science and Research (for better Governance and regulation) – A circular economy for plastic, Education and

2022	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, is about to start
	- EASD is participating
	EEB Board Meeting, November 2022, Brussels
	EASD at more international meetings in August, September, October2022
	Participated at webinar Priorities, needs, challenges and barriers to end plastic pollution at national level; and existing information that
	might assist policymakers
	Recap: 6 Key Tasks at COP27
	EASD support a Call on governments related transparency requirements on chemicals in plastics to support the effectiveness of the
	(future) Plastic Treaty
	EASD signed manifesto calling for an EU ban of PFAS
	50 Years of Environmental Policy: The People's Environment Narrative
	Happening at UNEP: OEWG1- Science-Policy Panel and pre-event webinar on Lessons learned for the Science-policy panel on
	chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution
	Second Carpathian ESD Seminar
	Erasmus+ mobility in Serbia ForLife
	EASD is at <u>World Water Week</u> ( Stockholm 2022)
	4th Meeting of the Intersessional Process for Considering SAICM and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020,
	Bucharest 2022
	Follow up on NDC for Serbia (Praćenje kretanja u sprovođenju nacionalno određenih kontribucija (Nationally Determined
	<u>Contribution- NDC) u vezi klimatskih promena</u> )
	Call to action for a tomorrow without toxics
	EEB 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – "Boosting the Deal for a Greener Europe in Turbulent Times"
	Integrated chemicals and waste management approach and SAICM beyond 2020
	Study visit to Grenoble - the Green Capital of Europe
_	UNEP@50 and World Environment Day
	Menstrual hygiene day 2022
	Biodiversity protection and nature-based solutions in focus of EASD activities
	EASD more focused to activities against plastic pollution
	BE CONNECTED WITH THE REGIONAL UNECE FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
	The first national meeting on the ForLife project "Forest - our lifelong teacher" was held in Forestry school in Kraljevo

	UNEP Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, February 2022
	Climate Pact for Serbia: Snapshot targeted rehearsal of country's obligations in climate action
	New EASD online course in English and Serbian - FOSTERING FEMALE LEADERSHIP: TRAINING WOMEN TO ADDRESS CHEMICALS AND
	WASTE IN THE PUBLIC SETTING
	Invitation to civil society organizations to take part in the Regional consultation meeting for the United Nations Environment Assembly
	(UNEA 5)
	"Citizen science" - definition in 2021 UNECE Document
	Further on the road to UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50, and Stockholm+50
	TRAINING FOR STUDENTS – ALEKSANDROVAC, OCTOBER 22, 2021
	Satellite-like activity in Serbia (and region): Serious of "Seminars for Climate and Environment Ambassadors"
	Sustainability of wastewater treatment methods from (Eco) schools in Serbia
	EASD participated at <u>Mercury releases from Coal Combustion Area Meeting</u> - 28 September 2021
	EASD representative participated at UNDP organized Meeting: "SERBIA'S CLIMATE TALKS - on the way to Glasgow", September 22, 2021
	EASD representative participated at UN organized Meeting: STRENGTHENING DATA AND INDICATOR FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING
	AND REPORTING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF AGENDA 2030, September 21, 2021
	In advance of UNEA 5.2: EASD participated in the International Consultation for Major Groups & Stakeholders
	CLIMATE BOX is available in Serbian language!
	Environmental Communication: Media Archive Reports as a Participant Science Tool
	Training for trainers on water safety and sanitation
	EASD and European Climate Pact Ambassador participate at ACUNS Annual Meeting
	WED EnE21 Event
	2021 Biodiversity Day
	Information paper on Climate Change and Energy
	Information paper on Climate Change and Floods
	Virtually we are in Nairobi: participating at The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, the fifth meeting of the Open-Ended
	Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Science-Policy Forum and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.1)
	EASD continuing to follow SAICM Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation, 4 February
2021	2021, 8th meeting
2021	EASD participated at Chemicals Watch Global Chemicals Management Towards 2020 and Beyond, 19-20 January 2021
	2021 - ENV.net3 project final steps - infographics with documents developed by EASD



With a **year in review - 2021 & 2022**, EASD is **looking at the next period with a new challenge** - entering into as a Partner in the Horizon project augMentor (Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation). EASD, as a professional organization, is determined to continue its activities in the field of education, research, analysis and scientific communication, related to the environment, climate change and sustainable development. Prepared in April 2022, and undated on December 25, 2022