

## Activity important milestones in 2016 – beginning 2017, global and international level

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February 2017

### Basic information about organization

**“Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “ (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)** is non-government 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) 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.

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD) implement activities globally, in the region of South Eastern Europe and nationally (Serbia).

Executive director and organization representative is Mrs Aleksandra Mladenovic, MSc in biology. Other key persons (2017) include: Milena Tabasevic -MSc in biology, Dunja Prokic - PhD in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineer, Filip Jovanovic - Economist, Environmental Ambassador for Sustainable Development, President of the Council - Hristina Stevanovic Carapina, PhD in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Executive director - Natasa Zugic-Drakulic, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Biomonitoring - Department of Geology, Engineer of Geology, Milica Momcilovic – journalist / expert. Organization Honorable President 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.

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Several important milestones marked the past year.

### A. Global and international level

The start of 2016 has marked the beginning of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. This Agenda will harness the momentum and commitment to work collectively towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs).

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

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



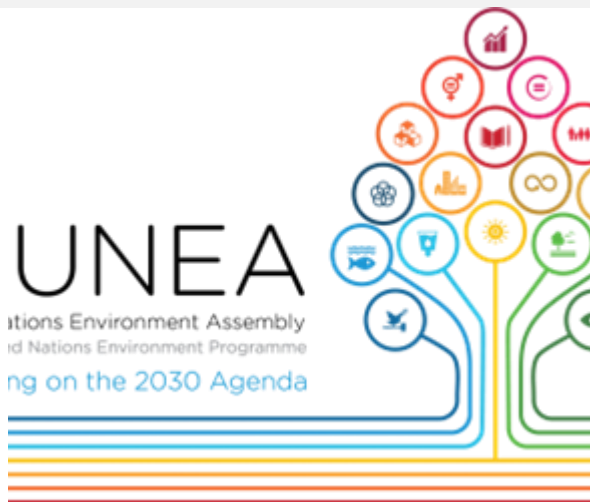
EASD participate at **2016 Vienna UN Conference** (Vienna, January 13-15, 2016): **sustainable development is the basis for a peaceful world**. Participants, institutions, diplomats, and academics discussed, in interactive sessions, the challenges and how the UN system and the international community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

EASD participate 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 **science and technology: innovative**

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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.



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

### Solutions to challenges in the 21st century.



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 are 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 keep eye on Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (OECPR) and Preparatory meeting for the 2nd Session of UNEA, February 2016 – we registered our representative to participate.



<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.

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time) President develop this course as the part of her lecture at the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) held in Braunwald, Switzerland and Bratislava, Slovakia.

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

EASD already is addressing 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 participate 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 is being organized at Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad, India in September 2016.**



EASD participate in **research** related **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, we can improve the quality of the environment, not only in schools but also in the wider communities. Young Reporters from Serbia presented their entries and they talked about different subjects.

At the beginning of 2017, FEE (Federation for Environmental Education), and EASD as the FEE Serbia, are proud to partner with UNWTO during the whole year of 2017 and 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 is a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the contribution of sustainable tourism to development among public and private sector decision-makers and the public,

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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 aims to support a change in policies, business practices and consumer behavior towards a more sustainable tourism sector than can contribute to the SDGs.

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



EASD participated at the First High Level Ministerial Panel on Responding to **Climate and Environmental Challenges in South East Europe** (April 2016, Montenegro). To note that SEE region is vulnerable to climate change and that its water, energy, food and security of critical infrastructure is threatened by an increase in extreme events such as the catastrophic floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia in 2014. 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.

**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 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.**

EASD participated at WHO meeting: **Waste, health, sustainability: what way forward?** in Bonn, October 2016. The meeting convenes experts and representatives from Member States of WHO Regional Office for Europe, to discuss the policy orientations on waste and health that can be identified and proposed in view of the 6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, taking place in 2017.

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

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.

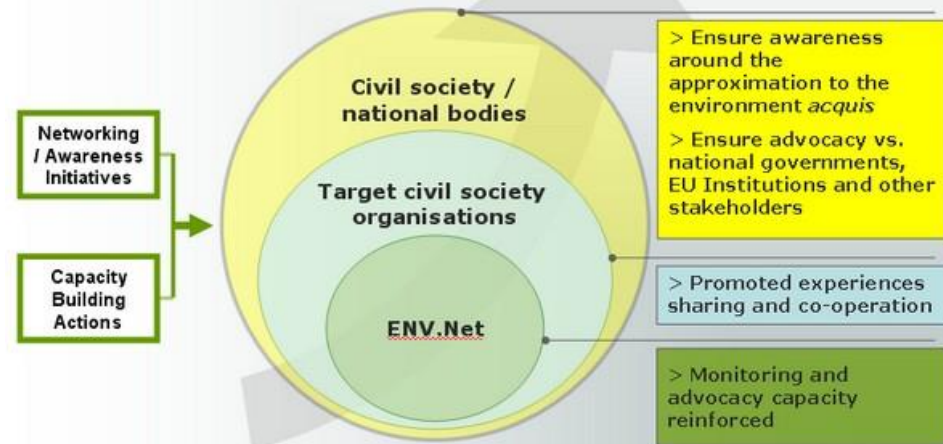
The consultation workshop “**Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessment in the Sava River Basin – Lessons learned and further steps**”, was held in Belgrade, on 29 January 2016. The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), and hosted by the Republic 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 present to the national authorities and the civil society. EASD participated.

EASD provided our input on the first draft of the ‘**Global Review of Mercury Monitoring Networks**’. We suggest 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.

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### Objective: Citizens have a voice and influence public sector reform processes in the environment sector



As the member of ENV.net network (<http://www.env-net.org/about-us/the-network/>) EASD performed following activities:

#### Partnership and FPA meetings

- 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 is organizing 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

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

#### 1. Developing a common ENV.net communication strategy

Citizens are informed about findings from the monitoring exercise (via national meetings, interactive platform, ENV.net website, social networks and monthly newsletter).

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Bi-monthly bulletins were prepared on specific topics:

- 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*

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

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))

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

The simultaneous 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.

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

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.

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

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.

### **6. 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 providing 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.