

Activity important milestones in 2017, global and international level

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

Activity important milestones in 2017: global and international level

Several important milestones marked the past year.

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

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

EASD representative Aleksandra Mladenovic, executive director, participate on February 13-14, 2017 on **Mercury Initial Assessment in the Republic of Serbia Workshop**. EASD is NGO Focal point for SAICM. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/02/14/mercury-initial-assessment-in->

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the-republic-of-serbia-workshop-we-participate/



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. This year Green Key National Operator Meeting is dedicated to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. 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. One of them will be a best practice competition that will highlight the contribution Green Key awarded sites are making to the sustainable development of their destinations. EASD President Aleksandra Mladenovic 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/>



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As ECOSOC Accredited NGOs **we submit 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.

<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/05/14/as-ecosoc-accredited-ngos-we-submit-statement-for-the-event-16th-session-of-the-committee-of-experts-on-public-administration-cepa/>

“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 has multiple objectives, including procedural, political and celebratory. COP1, as a milestone in the Minamata journey, provides 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 is 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. To note that MIA for Serbia is under development. Also, EASD representative at Minamata COP1 communicate with official delegation of Serbia.

A **“Hg-week” (“Mercury” week)** coincide with COP1 and physically have 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” is 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.

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We participate 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 participate: 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, Netherland, Hungarian, Bulgaria and Serbia. Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD), as IPEN Participating Organization (represented by Hristina Stevanovic Carapina) cover all topics especially related to dioxins, waste management of POPs but also Mercury waste.



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EASD participate 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 host country. Great official opening ceremony was 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 is presented and discussed. Presentation about **FEE and the Sustainable Development Goals** was delivered. Blue Flag 30th anniversary celebration and Best practices session was very interesting, in particular Malcolm Powell's a birthday celebration story: The European Blue Flag transitioning to the International Blue Flag in 2001. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/10/29/easd-participate-at-2017-blue-flag-national-operator-meeting/>



Environmental Ambassadors representative Aleksandra Mladenovic President participate at UNEA3, with focus to Science for Green Solutions (Nairobi, Kenya Dec 2017) Science, Policy and Business Forum – UN Environment consist of roundtable and interactive thematic discussions between leading scientists, policymakers, and leaders of private sector and civil society. It provides 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.



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<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/>



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

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 interested was Panel **on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development**. Conference was attended by representatives from government and non-government sectors, international organizations, scientific and educational institutions.

Conference participants (about 100 registered participants) were united 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. Key role should have educational institutions to prepare and implement multidisciplinary programs tailored to different educational institutions and different age categories. Education on climate change requires professionals who will work with young people, so young people will be prepared to make 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 responsive to nature. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/06/08/climate-change-education-for-sustainable-development/>



The Conference awarded prizes for the best Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE), who took part in the competition, **“Saving resources, do not throw, recycle!”** The competition is organized in the framework of the FEE International Young Reporters for the Environment, implemented in Serbia by a professional association “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” with RECAN Foundation support.

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Civil Society Forum in Trieste, 11-12 July 2017 - we (EASD) participate
Civil Society Forum in Trieste, 11-12 July 2017 is organised linked to the 4th intergovernmental Summit of Western Balkans and EU countries and it bring together representatives of civil society organisations with the objective of providing a platform for their impact on the so-called Berlin Process.

EASD participation is focused to environment and climate change issues, as well as innovation, youth and regional cooperation. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2017/07/26/civil-society-forum-in-trieste-11-12-july-2017-we-easd-participate/>

Green Startups (UNDP) – EASD representative success!
<http://ambassadors-env.com/blog/2017/09/29/ambasadorka-osvojila-drugo-mesto-na-konkursu-za-zelenu-ideju/>



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



EASD participated (teleconference) in the dialogue with the head of UN Environment on 21 March 2017, from 16:30 – 17:30 (Nairobi time). It was a first open dialogue between the Head of UN Environment, Erik Solheim and major groups and stakeholders of civil society.

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/>



Initiative: End mercury use in dentistry by 2022, civil society challenge European Union

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

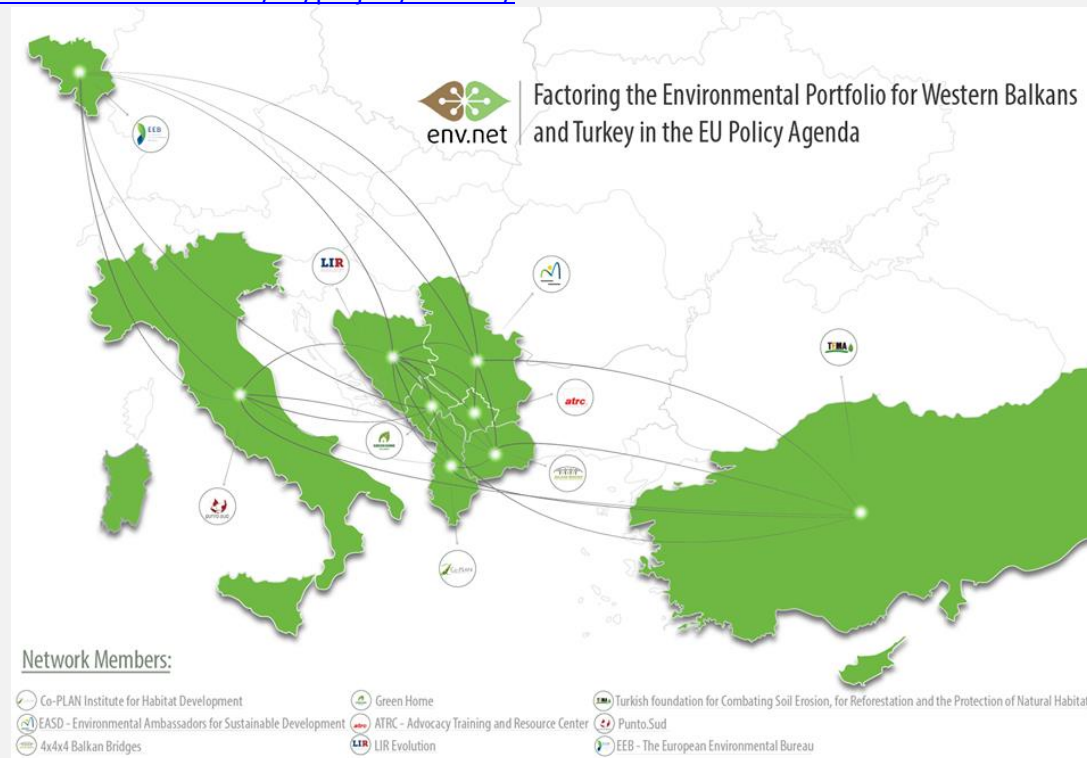
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December 2017: **ENV.net regional network** is supported by the European Commission through the programme for Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations. After 5 years of activity, the ENV-net today, counts for a member in each Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance country (**EASD is Member from Serbia**), this includes two newly joined organizations from Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina which co-operate with the network since 2016. The network is supported by partners in 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/>



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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).

President and organization representative is Mrs Aleksandra Mladenovic, MSc in biology. Other key persons (2017) include: Milena Tabasevic - MSc in biology (until December) , President of the Council - Dunja Prokic - PhD in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineer, Filip Jovanovic - Economist, Environmental Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Hristina Stevanovic Carapina, PhD in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Ambassador for Sustainable Development, 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.