

Invitation to First ENV.net Regional Conference



The environmental challenges, EU enlargement and public participation – the role of media on advocating environmental issues!

Hotel Drim, Struga
October 21st – 22nd, 2016

Location: Hotel Drim, Kej Boris Kidric 51, 6330 Struga, Macedonia

Invitation to the conference

The ENV.net project

The project “Development of the ENV.net in West Balkan and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration” started on December 1st 2012 and shall run until December 2016.

It is implemented by **punto.sud** (Italy) as leading organization; **Advocacy Training & Resource Center – ATRC** (Kosovo), **Co-PLAN**, **Institute for Habitat Development** (Albania), **Environment Ambassadors for Sustainable Development – EASD** (Serbia), **TEMA** (Turkey), **European Environmental Bureau – EEB** (Belgium), **4x4x4 Balkan Bridges Skopje** (Republic of Macedonia) as implementing partners.

The project purpose is to achieve a greater commitment and capacity of the ENV.net partners to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes in the environment sector through analysis, monitoring and advocacy and in welcoming the standards of the environment *acquis*.

The project strategy is expected to consolidate the ENV.net role in fostering the state-civil society dialogue at national and regional levels, in analysing and monitoring the on-going process reforms and finally at providing actual opportunities to give citizens and CSOs a voice in the environmental reform process and in the integration with the EU.

The project developed a [website](#), including a [blog](#), and a [Facebook page](#).

With regard to this project, in order to complement it, the ENV.net sees the need to organize a conference for strengthening regional cooperation in environmental field among representatives of institutional bodies, media representatives and Civil Society Organizations of all Western Balkan Countries.

Objective of the conference

Creation of an open space of debate where Civil Society Organisations, Public Institutions and Media may experience the benefit on how good dialogue may positively influence public sector reform processes in the environment sector.

Regional cooperation and coordination on specific environmental issues between public institutions, media and CSOs from the region have been strengthened through the creation of a dedicated space of debate on joint regional environmental issues and possible actions.

Expected results of the conference

- Non-formal cooperation and coordination between public institution, media and CSOs from the region has been strengthened

- Environmental Issues of mutual interest of parties present in the conference have been identified and raised

-The awareness of media on their importance in the field of monitoring and reporting of environmental issues of people’s interest is raised

The conference will be delivered in English in an interactive way through Power Point presentations that will be integrated by questions & answers, group works and open discussions among participants, to bring out difficulties and best practices and to highlight the main concepts.

Participants

The conference welcomes representatives of institutional bodies, media representatives and Civil Society Organizations as well as ENV.net project partners and regional representatives of EU Delegations. The conference will be delivered in Macedonian, but there is going to be simultaneous translation in English and Albanian languages.

General information

The conference will be delivered by [ENV.net staff](#) and also supported by local institutions and CSOs. It will be held on **21-22 October 2016** at **Hotel Drim, Struga**, Macedonia starting from 09:00-16:00 the first day and until lunch time the second day. The detailed agenda is attached to this invitation. Coffee breaks and lunches during the conference will be offered by ENV.net during the 2 days. Travel and accommodation costs are also to be covered by the ENV.net project.

Please RSVP your participation to:

For Albania: teida_shehi@co-plan.org

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For Kosovo: vjosa@advocacy-center.org

For Serbia: env.net.easd@gmail.com

For Macedonia: 4x4x4bb@gmail.com

For Turkey: rita.guler@tema.org.tr

For Italy: e.puddu@puntosud.org

For Belgium: richard.filcak@eeb.org

Working Conference Agenda

Day one:	20th October 2016 (Thursday)
	<p>Arrival of the participants Dinner</p>
Time	Content
Day two:	21st October 2016 (Friday)
09:00 -09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 -09:45	
09:45 -10:00	<p>Official opening / Welcoming & Introduction: Dushko Hristov, 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges Skopje Short presentation of ENV.net project: Mr. Federico Bastia, President - Fondazione punto.sud</p> <p>Civil society and the EU enlargement – learning from the past, heading for the future – EU Delegation in Skopje Representative - Mr. Nicola Bertolini (tbc)</p>
10:00-11:15	<p>Morning session 1: (Plenary session) Moderator: Ms. Sonja Damchevska, ENV.net Macedonia</p> <p>Civil society and the media – Approaches and experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can civil society better represent citizen's interests and drive the environmental reform agenda through more effective advocacy, monitoring and activism?</i> • <i>And again, do the media fulfil their "public service" role?</i> • <i>How successful are the CSOs and the media in providing useful and reliable data, and objective news and information on environment to the general public?</i> <p>Interview with ENV.net Sub-grantees from the Balkan Region and Turkey</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
11:15 -11:45	Coffee break
11:45 -13:00	<p>Morning session 2: (Plenary session) Moderator Mr. Richard Filcak, European Environmental Bureau</p> <p>Brussels, member states and accession countries perspectives:</p> <p>Key speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Dragan Sekulovski, Director of the Association of Journalist of Macedonia (tbc)</p> <p>Ms. Tamara Steger, CEU Budapest (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants in this session are journalists and "green" CSOs representatives with working experience with the media, from the EU, the Balkan Region and Turkey <p>Questions and discussion</p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch break

