



**Republic of Serbia**  
**Ministry of Environmental Protection**

# Implementation of the UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development

First national action plan for  
environmental education in context of  
sustainable development



# Strategy and Action Plan

- outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, Belgrade, October 2007.
- broadening the concept of environmental education.
- Joint Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Regional Ministerial Statement of the SEE Ministers.
- relevant stakeholders (Ministry of education, Institute for nature protection, Institute for improvement of education, chamber of commerce, NGOs etc.).
- Task Force for preparation of the First Framework Action Plan for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (2008-2011).



# Legal and strategic background

- Proceedings of the Johannesburg summit on SD;
- “Education for All”, Dakar Framework of Action, 2002;
- Declaration from the Fifth Ministerial Conference held in Kiev “EfE-2003”;
- Declaration from the Sixth Ministerial Conference held in Belgrade “EfE 2007”;
- “Joint Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development” adopted in Belgrade “EfE 2007”;
- National legal and strategic framework:
- Law on Environmental Protection (Official Gazette of the RS no. 135/04);
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- National Environmental Strategy (draft);
- National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods (draft);
- National Education Development Strategy;
- Other sectoral strategic documents (energy, waste, agriculture, etc.);
- Strategy for Economic Development;



# Basic goal of the Action Plan

- to create:
  - better living conditions
  - preparing the society to accept:
    - ✓ new philosophies of living,
    - ✓ ecological ethics,
    - ✓ the concept of sustainable development (integration into all aspects of life and work),
    - ✓ sustainable lifestyles and values,
    - ✓ building social capital,
    - ✓ economic development.



# Specific goals of the Action Plan

- effective implementation of EESD,
- educated Serbian population,
- administrative capacities built for the purpose of EESD,
- raising the teaching staff competence for introducing EESD,
- Institutionally strengthened local self-government,
- civil sector involvement in EESD,
- improved cooperation in the field of EESD at all levels (national and international).



# Concrete activities proposed by the Action Plan

## 1. Performance review

Referring to preparation of review analytical documents on the state of affaires, as well as to inclusion of EESD into national education reforms.

## 2. Capacity Building

Development of institutional capacities of relevant state and local administration, as well as raising awareness and improving professional skills among decision makers at all levels of the government.



### 3. Information and Communication System Development

Including creation of a web portal on EESD with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. This chapter also refers to recommendations for the integration of EESD principles into the work of existent education centers.

### 4. Incentives and Promotional Activities and Measures

Support to education, awareness raising and promotion activities undertaken by NGOs, universities, business and other interested counterparts. Support to high school and university students with respect to their professional improvement in environment and SD issues.



Support for preparation of relevant didactic material as well as for EESD related activities of NGOs and businesses.

5. Development of Program Activities and Recommendations

Setting up standards for teachers, students, curricula, education material and advanced training programs. Support to establishment of different networks of thematic education centers, eco-schools and professional improvement of journalists and various other professions. Special attention to education in the field of climate change and environment & health.





# National SD Strategy - Correlation

- Serbia strongly needs sustainable economic development;
- increase of the group of key economic indicators (GDP, employment, foreign trade, competitiveness and exports, investments, living standard of citizens);
- this will provide better state of the environment, preservation of natural resources and general social welfare;
- generating economic growth based primarily on factors such as:
  - ✓ knowledge,
  - ✓ information,
  - ✓ human capital,
  - ✓ education and
  - ✓ quality of links between the people and the institutions.



- Knowledge based economy is generated by people who, through their education, are made capable of :
  - creative and critical thinking,
  - resolving problems and cooperating and
  - who will be capable of:
    - ✓ creating a new economy,
    - ✓ a stable social system and
    - ✓ sustainable development,
    - ✓ adjust their capacities in line with the technological progress and global development trends.



In order to promote quality of ESD necessary for market economy for transition countries:

- Bologna Declaration;
- Lisbon Convention;
- European Qualification Framework/NQF
- National Strategy on development of vocational education
- National Strategy on adult education;

Main objective:

*Creating the educational system that follows:*

- Market needs
- Labor market needs



## Social dimension of ESD

Taking into account implementation of the following documents and programs:

- Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- MDGs;
- Education for All;
- European Language Portfolio;
- National Action Plan for Children;
- National Youth Strategy;
- National Action Plan for Roma Education;
- Introduction of the new subject “Civic Education” (primary and secondary);
- Promotion of gender issues, human rights, social values through curricula of the following subjects: mother tongue, foreign languages, “the world around us”, “Guardians of Nature” etc.



- Secondary schools
- ✓ insufficiently incorporated into the teaching contents,
- ✓ environmental protection - biology, chemistry, ecology and environmental protection, disinfection and pest/rodent control, etc.
- ✓ educational curriculum of grammar schools - biology, chemistry, geography, physics + philosophy, sociology, constitution and civil rights etc.
- ✓ secondary professional schools - vocational profile of environmental sanitary technician (nursing schools), **profile titled environmental technician** (chemistry, non-metals and graphic industry).
- ✓ professional schools with experimental classes - bank officer profile. (learning about biodiversity and ecological and economic relevance of biodiversity protection )



# State of affairs in regular schooling system environmental education and education for sustainable development

- Primary schools
- ✓ *curricula and textbooks* (1-6<sup>th</sup> grade) - some objectives and principles of environment education and sustainable development education.
- ✓ “The world around us” und “Nature and society”, Civic and Health education, “Technology and informatics”,
- ✓ 2003/4., **optional subject has been implemented** for the first six grades of elementary schools, and it is also planned for this subject to exist in the seventh grade, as well.
- ✓ at 7th class biology curriculum consists of two parts: ecology- first semester and environmental protection- second semester



- *Strategy for the development of vocational education and training in Serbia (adopted by Government in 2006),*
- University
- ✓ large diversity of curricula and syllabuses,
- ✓ faculties of the Belgrade University - at 24 faculties, in the new syllabuses of the undergraduate studies, 10 have included special subjects in this area (or the subjects in which these contents are significantly represented).
- ✓ a total of 17 such subjects, out of which 12 compulsory ones and 5 at a student's choice.
- ✓ a great number of faculties (mainly nature sciences) have introduced environmental and sustainable development issues in programs of graduate studies.



# Training for Environmentally Aware Serbia (TREK project)

Identification of needs across all society sectors

Identification of stakeholders in environmental protection area

Assessment of education needs of identifies stakeholders

Creating training and education programs

Training of selected domestic educators and experts

Realizing of education programs for selected stakeholder groups

- \* Open University, Subotica
- \* Geneva University
- \* Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

**Project Objectives**

Optional school subject



# **Training for Environmentally Conscious Serbia first preliminary report**

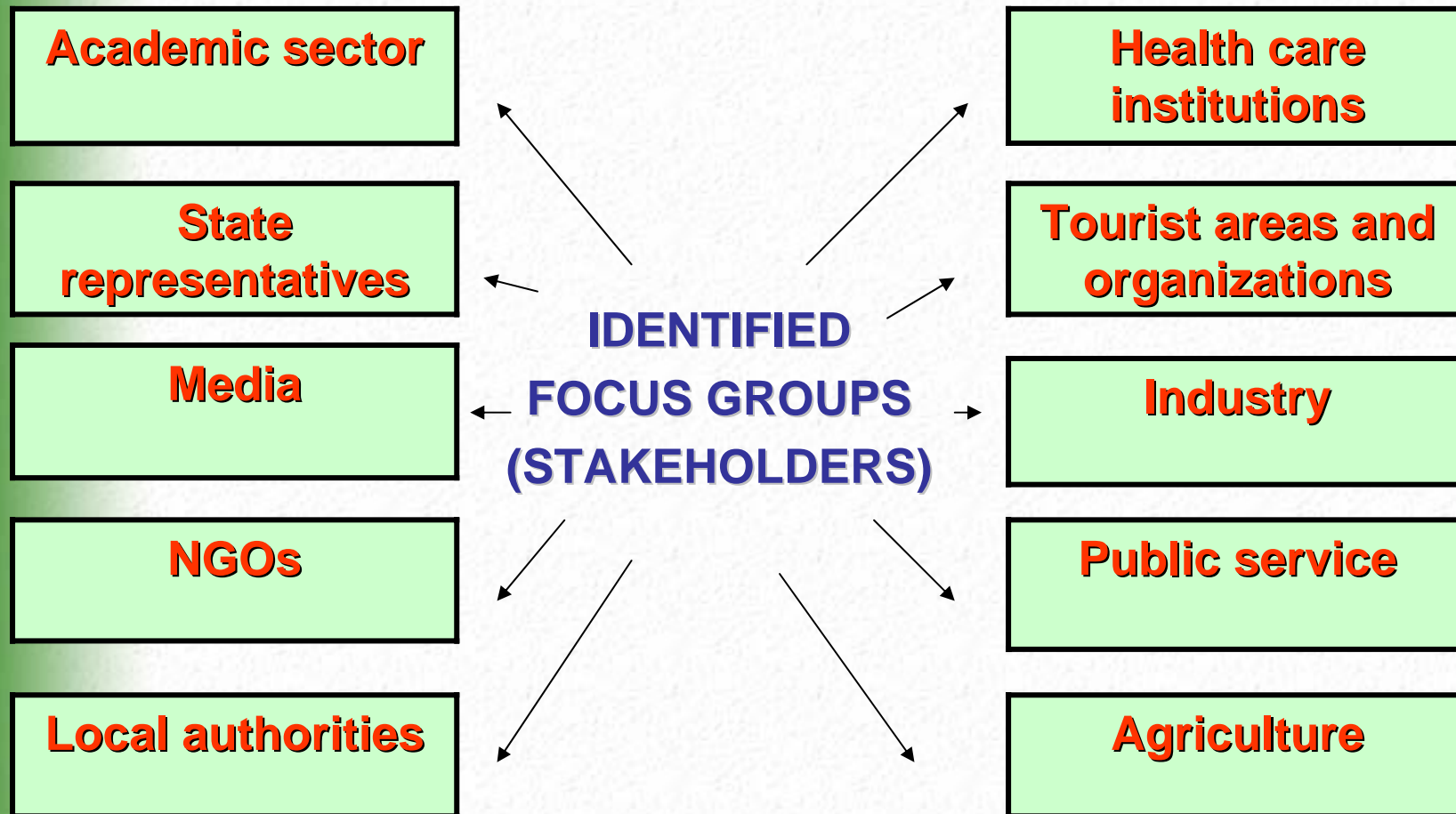
**In the first phase of project there has been conducted a survey  
across numerous municipalities in Serbia.**

**So far processed data:**

- **1300 examinees;**
- **Questionary contained 36 questions;**



# Training for Environmentally Conscious Serbia first preliminary report



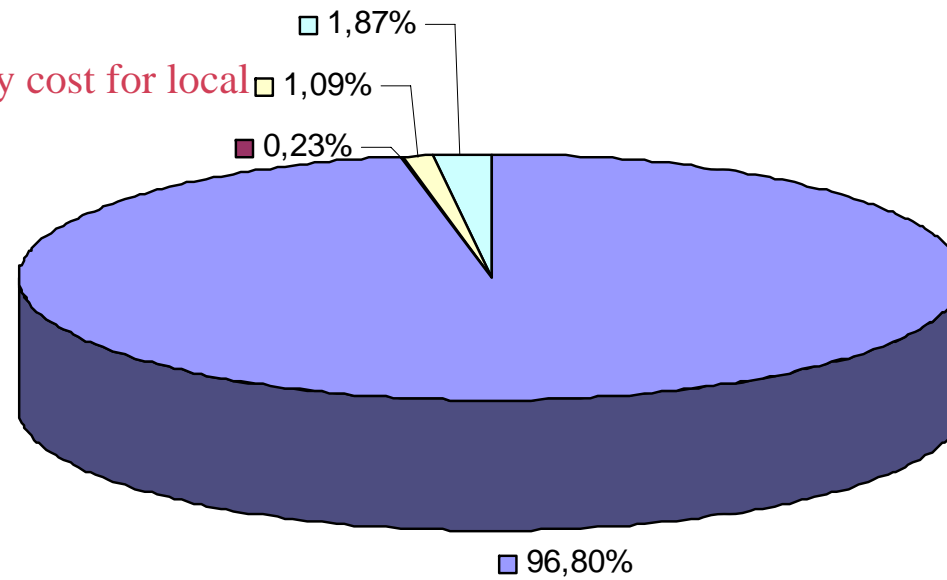
## Benefits of environmental protection

Overall social development

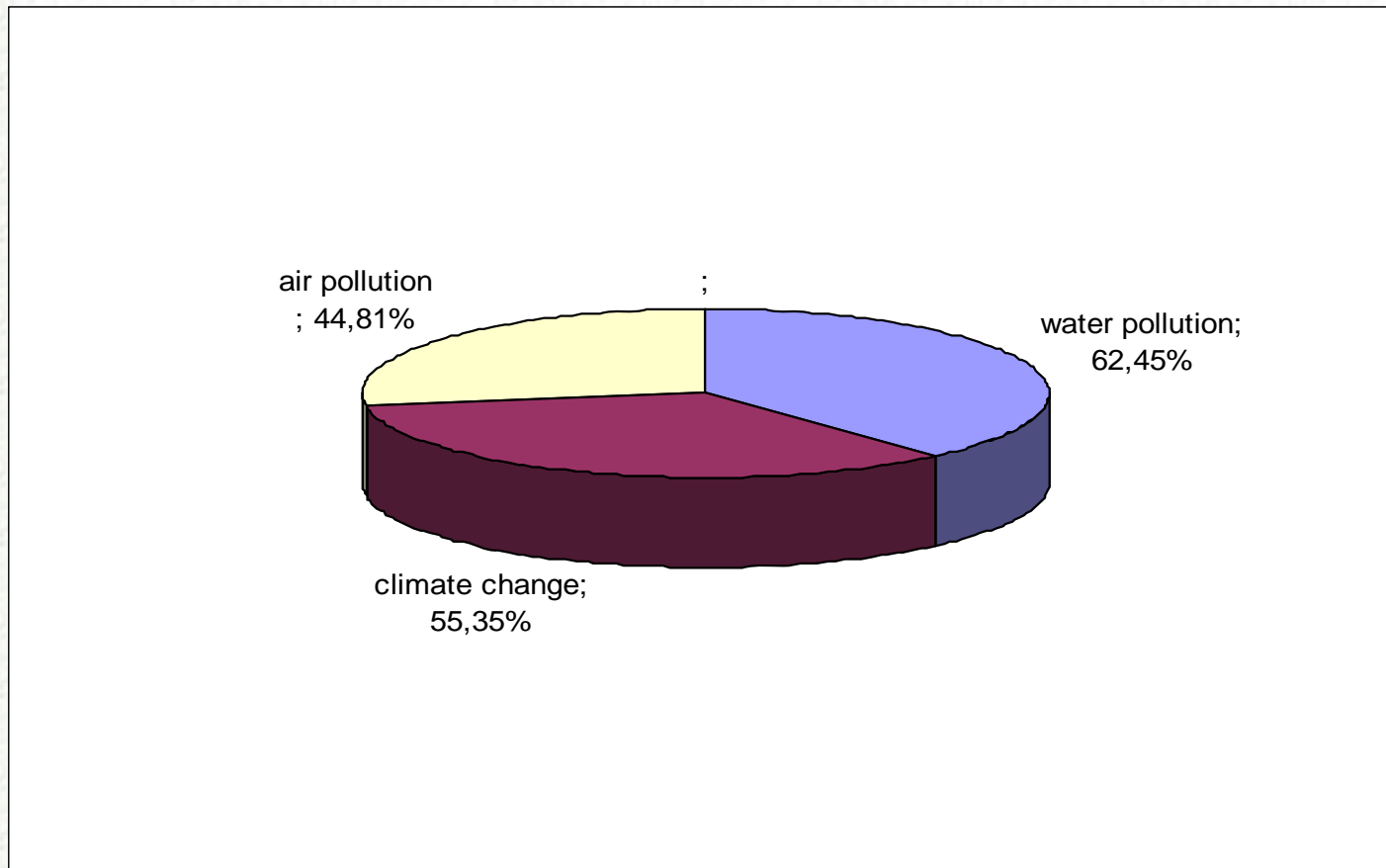
Don't know

Unnecessary cost for local  
community

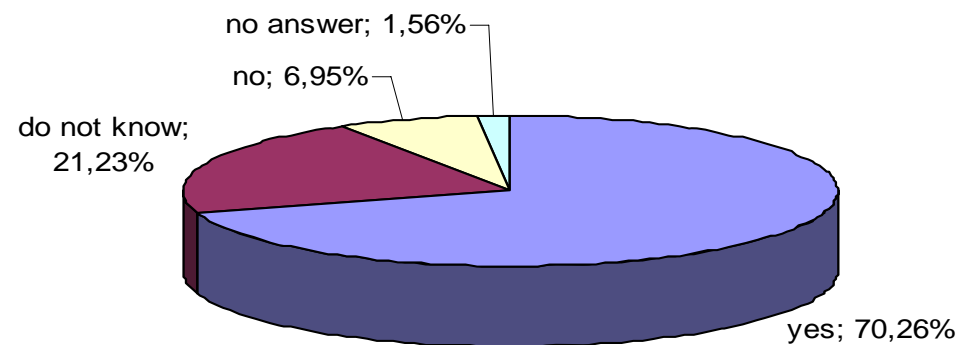
No answer



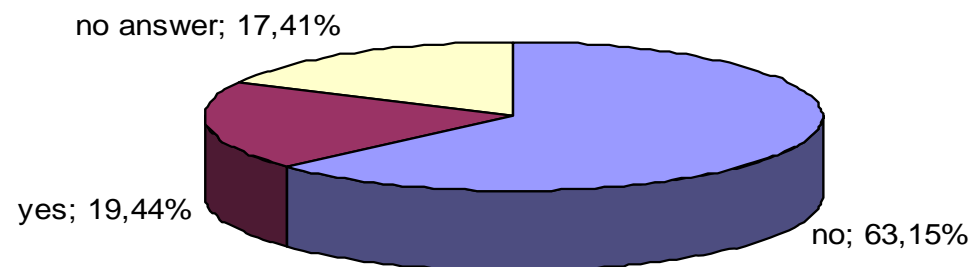
## Most important environmental threats



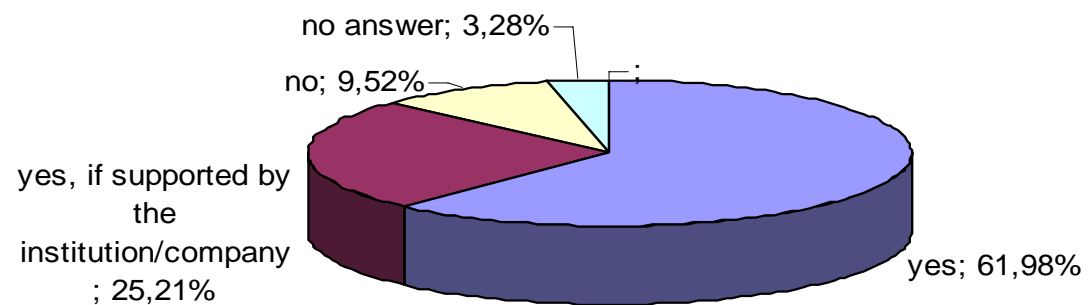
## Readiness for volunteer environmental engagement



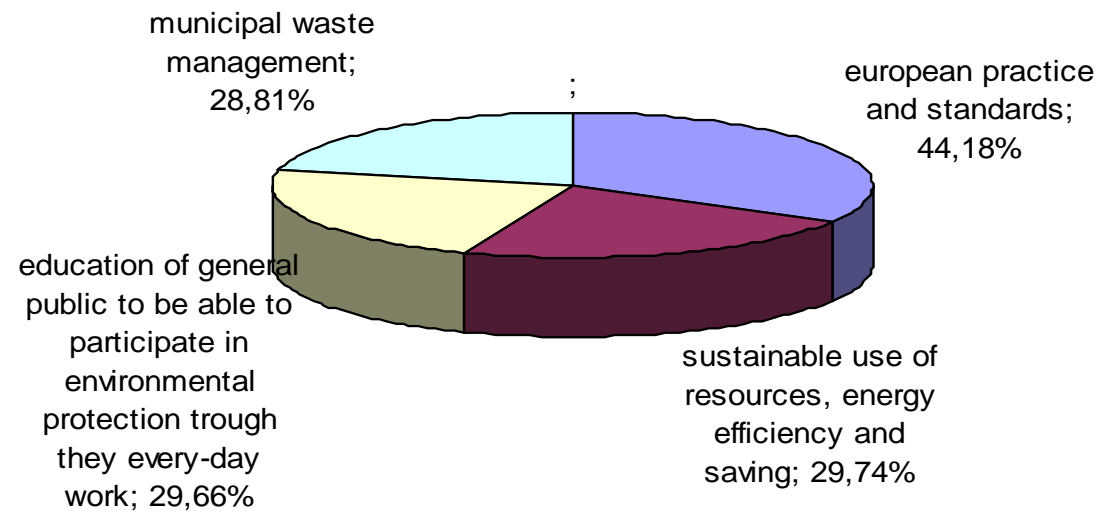
## Participation in environmental education programs in last 5 years



## Interest to continue participation in environmental awareness raising



## Subjects of interest



- *The Green Pack – Serbia*
- ✓ The Green Pack, a multi-medium environmental education curriculum kit to teach children about environmental protection and sustainable development.
- *Reforms of school plans and programs*
- ✓ New Plans and programs based on ecology, environmental protection and SD for eight grade of primary school (Initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning) – comprehensive and multisectoral approach;
- ✓ Introduction of the third option in mandatory menu of subjects in primary and secondary schools “Guardians of Nature” – undergoing reforms of plans and programs in line with EESD Action Plan;



## UNDP-MESP System Project for EESD

### Aims:

- To promote sustainable development and increase capacity of decision makers, journalists, teachers, students and general public to understand environmental sustainability;
- Enabling Framework for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development established within the MESP;

### Results:

- ✓ better formulation and implementation of environmental policies;
- ✓ an increase in public participation;
- ✓ a viable educational framework for future generations;



- Framework programme for training the decision makers;
- Framework programme aiming at improving reporting on environmental issues in media;
- Curricula for primary/secondary school subject on Sustainable Development completed;
- Framework programme for awareness raising among general public;
- Sets of training seminars/courses for target groups conducted;
- Sets of awareness raising and education materials for target groups developed;
- The project is to be supervised and advised by the National Working Group for ESD Strategy Implementation;



## More information

[www.ekoplan.gov.rs/education](http://www.ekoplan.gov.rs/education)

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