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**HORIZONTAL LEGISLATION IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CASE  
STUDY: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN  
MAKING A DECISION FOR WATER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**



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## INTRODUCTION



The European union horizontal environmental legislation covers various issues and regulations that have cross sector implications, and thus differs from other regulations.

Harmonization with EU legislation has the potential to bring a number of benefits to European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries, such as:

- health (reduction in illnesses),
- social (safeguarding cultural heritage and recreational opportunities),
- economic (e.g. eco-efficiency gains and attracting investment) and
- ecosystem (benefits to the environment without economic interest) and natural resources benefits.

## INTRODUCTION



Strengthening the capacity of students opens the possibility of creating new generations that will solve current and future development needs with the use of multidisciplinary approaches.



The students will be the key actors in environmental protection, in the future.

## INTRODUCTION



The overall goals of the project:

- ➡ to increase the public participation in the creation of water management documents by involving students in these processes and
- ➡ to create a permanent platform for cooperation in resolving water and environmental problems in the local community

## INTRODUCTION



The specific goals of the project:

- ➔ Empowering the student population to actively participate and to make decisions related to environmental protection and sustainable development, with a special emphasis on water management and
- ➔ Improving the dialogue and joint action of the key actors at the local level in order to solve the environmental issues.

## PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



Direct beneficiaries of the project are:

- ✦ Raising students' awareness of the need, importance and possibilities of their activities in the local community in the field of environmental protection, with a special emphasis on water management.
- ✦ Municipality of Mediana (Nis) in cooperation with the Association of Green Building (project leader), will encourage and develop cross sector cooperation in the field of environmental protection.



## PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



Direct beneficiaries of the project are:

- ✦ Local government: the project contributes to raising awareness of key actors in environmental protection at the local community level, especially among students as a social force.
- ✦ Student organizations of the University and faculties: the project provides an opportunity for further expansion of the initiative for the participation of students from other faculties in other working groups and the councils of city municipality and the City of Nis

## PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



Direct beneficiaries of the project are:

- ✦ Other civil society organizations dealing with environmental protection: the project provides them with the opportunity to solve the problems of the local community in the field of environmental protection, in partnership with other CSOs and students (as new actors).

The final user is the local community.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

Expected results:

- 1 The analysis of youth activism in social life, their attitude towards environmental protection and activism in water management.
- 2 Contribution to the improvement of the cross-sector cooperation in the field of environmental protection in the local community.
- 3 Improved student knowledge regarding the target faculties of ecology and environmental protection with a special emphasis on water management.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

Expected results:

- 4 Submitted initiative for the inclusion of students in working bodies for the environmental protection of city municipalities and the city of Nis through the "Green Chair" mechanism.
- 5 Encouragement to spread the initiative among students of other faculties, for their participation in the working authorities of city municipalities and the city.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Project Activities

Empirical research of the opinions and attitudes of students

Meetings with representatives of the local government

Organizing a program for strengthening the capacities of students from the mentioned faculties






The panel discussion "Social Participation of Students"

Preparing an initiative for student inclusion in the working bodies of city municipalities

The meeting with the representatives of student organizations

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

Empirical research of the opinions and attitudes of students of the faculties about their active participation in society

-  Defining the methodological framework,
-  Defining questionnaires and a survey,
-  Statistical data processing and their interpretation,
-  Report (narrative) with an analysis and
-  Result discussion and conclusion.



## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Meetings with representatives of the local government

The plan is to hold the meetings with other representatives of the local government in order to present the project and to send an invitation for participating in project activities.

The aim of the meetings is to emphasize the fact that readiness for challenges, lively critical thinking, academic engagement, intellectual potential and other characteristics related to students are the key to progress and success.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Organizing a program for strengthening the capacities of students from the faculties

There will be four workshops at each of the faculties, which will cover ten topics:

- 1 Civil participation; "Green Chair" mechanism; Youth policy and related concepts
- 2 Aarhus Convention; Horizontal legislation
- 3 Climate change; Air protection; Nature protection
- 4 Water protection and management; Waste management.



## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

### The panel discussion „Social Participation of Students“

The objectives of the panel discussion:

- Acquaint students with the work of the Mediana municipality Youth Office
- Present the youth with the possibilities for inclusion in activities related to environmental protection
- Support students in initiating their participation to create planned documents related to environmental protection by using the “Green Chair” mechanism
- Present the opportunities for youth engagement in the civil society organizations related to environmental protection

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Preparing an initiative for student inclusion of city municipalities through the “Green Chair” mechanism

The initiative will be prepared by the students – participants in the project, with their teaching assistants and professors, after the panel discussion, and they will send the proposed initiative to the city and city municipalities.





## EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

The meeting with the representatives of student organizations

The aims of the meeting are:

- ➔ Presentation of the project, its results and submitted initiative;
  
- ➔ Indicating the possibility of further expansion of the initiative for the participation of students from other faculties in other working bodies of city municipalities and the city.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring will be done on two different levels:

- 1<sup>st</sup>** level – through regular project team meetings
  
- 2<sup>st</sup>** level – through monthly project progress reports and through the final report.

## SUSTAINABILITY AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION



The sustainability of the project is confirmed by raising the awareness (students as a social force can improve the status of environment using new ideas) among the key actors in the environmental protection in the local community.

Cross-sector cooperation in the creation and implementation of public politics in the field of environmental protection ensures the sustainability of positive changes and contributes to the quality and better implementation of public policies.

## CONCLUSIONS



Student inclusion in the working bodies for the environmental protection of the city and municipalities increases the participation of young people in environmental protection and sustainable development.

Students will have an opportunity to propose the solutions through learning and open conversations for the benefit of the entire local community. Student engagement is crucial for creating a society in which we would all like to live.

