



Republic of Serbia  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Environmental Protection

## The role of Aarhus centers in raising awareness about the Protocol on Water and Health in Serbia

**Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection**

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## Legal framework

- Serbia became Party to the Aarhus Convention by adopting the Law on Ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (“OG of RS”, No. 38/09);
- Serbia adopted the Strategy for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and related Action Plan (“OG of RS”, No. 103/11).



## Role of Aarhus Centers

- ▶ From 2010. Ministry signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the four Aarhus centers (Kragujevac, Subotica, Novi Sad and Nis).
- ▶ Aarhus Centres Network of Serbia was formed by signing a Memorandum of Understanding on July 10, 2013.



**AARHUS**SRB  
MREŽA ARHUS CENTARA SRBIJE

**AARHUS**  
ARHUS CENTAR

**AARHUS**SU  
ARHUS CENTAR SUBOTICA

**AARHUS**JIS  
ARHUS CENTAR JUŽNE I ISTOČNE SRBIJE



## NEW APPROACH TO WATER PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia – Department of Water Protection, in cooperation with the OSCE – Mission in the Republic of Serbia, with the support of Regional Chambers of commerce, local governments and Aarhus Centers in 2013 and 2014 implemented the project: "New approach to water protection in the Republic of Serbia".



- ▶ The representatives of the Aarhus Centres Network of Serbia were involved in preparation and implementation of roundtables in:

Zrenjanin  
Smederevo  
Cajetina  
Sabac  
Krusevac  
Piot  
Vranje  
Belgrade



## Promotion of PWH as a main tool for future sustainable implementation

Considering the fact that **WATER** is an essential natural resource and basic human right...

Promotion of PWH on local level has been seen as a useful tool for better participation of civil society in the further implementation step.

- ❖ **AIM:** to inform the interested public (civil society), stakeholders, business sector and local representatives about the provisions of the Protocol, its future implementation and the involvement of local representatives in decision making process.

## Promotion workshops in Serbia...

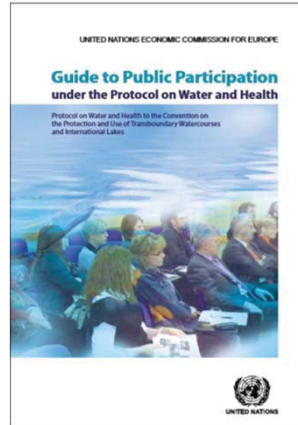


## Municipality of Kragujevac



## Lessons learnt through promotional workshops

- ❖ The PWH stressed the importance of involving the public in decision-making concerning water and health.
- ❖ Access to information and public participation were essential for building public awareness of issues related to water and health and for giving the public the opportunity to express its concerns.
- ❖ Political will at the national and local level was considered crucial to its success.
- ❖ This experience continued to be used in promoting other conventions on national level (THE PEP, Parma Declaration, ELC, etc.)
- ❖ This process created a shared vision and mutual understanding between all actors, institutions, NGO's, media..what is a key element for future effective cooperation processes.



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**