

BiH ESAP 2030+

Bosnia and Herzegovina Environmental
Strategy and Action Plan 2030+



Webinar: **BENEFITS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICYMAKING: LEARNING FROM BIH AND ESTONIA**

March 8, 2021 / 09:00 - 11:30 (Central European Time) / Agenda

9:00-09:10

Introduction

Introduction to the topic, speakers, and an overview of the current state of environmentally orientated public participation processes in BiH.

Maja Maretić Tiro and Snežana Mišić Mihajlović

9:10-09:30

Presentation on the benefits and challenges of public participation

Why public participation matters and the benefits and challenges surrounding it.

Kaja Peterson, SEI Tallinn

9:30-10:10

Presentation on the BiH practice of civil society organizations participating in environmental matters

Case studies with examples of civil society organizations contributing to environmental policymaking in BiH. Discussion of the challenges and benefits of participation in decision-making from the civil society organization perspective.

Emina Veljović, Aarhus Centre Sarajevo and Viktor Bjelić, Center for Environment, Banja Luka

10:10-10:20

Break

10:20-10:40

Government experience of public participation and involvement in environmental policymaking: Estonia case study

Estonia as a case study, explaining how and when the public gets information and how the public is invited to participate. Identification of the challenges and benefits of public participation from the perspective of the Estonian governmental body.

Kaupo Heinma, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia

10:40-11:20

Panel discussion with Q&A

Open space for webinar participants to ask questions to speakers.

BiH lead experts, external experts and other participants

11:20-11:30

Closing remarks

Summary of key conclusions and messages.

Maja Maretić Tiro and Snežana Mišić Mihajlović

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Activity summary

The activity is designed to provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about effective public participation practices with an emphasis on environmental management. External experts will talk about why public participation is an important component of environmental policymaking. This will include examples of case studies from both BiH and Estonia. The BiH case study will explain the positive role of civil society organizations' participation in environmental policymaking, while the Estonia example will show a governmental view of the challenges and benefits of public participation from the perspective of an EU member state.

Moderators

Maja Maretić Tiro, Snežana Mišić Mihajlović

Panelists



Kaja Peterson has worked at SEI Tallinn since 1993. She is a senior researcher and, since 2000, is director of the Sustainable Development Programme. Her fields of interest and research include environmental policy, specifically environmental assessment issues such as the methods of impact assessment, environmental management, the process of public involvement, and the consideration of results of public involvement in decision-making. She has published several books, guidelines, and papers on these issues and is also a respected lecturer on these topics.



Emina Veljović is executive director of the Aarhus Centre Sarajevo. A bachelor of law and of legal studies, she also holds an MA with a focus on the environmental policies and laws in BiH. Emina is actively working on legal changes in BiH for small hydropower plants after a legal declaration of a moratorium on their construction.



Viktor Bjelić gained a BSc in Geography and Tourism at the University of Banja Luka. He is one of the founders of the Center for Environment (Young Researchers of Banja Luka) who for many years worked on various projects, programs, and activities, both professionally and through volunteer engagement. He founded and coordinates the Aarhus Centre Banja Luka and the network of Aarhus Centres in BiH. At the Center for Environment, Victor works as a project coordinator and vice president. He helped establish the Coalition for the Protection of the Rivers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Kaupo Heinma has an MSc in Natural Sciences (Environmental Management) from Tallinn University. He served as head of Estonia's Environmental Management Department from 2014–2018 and since November 2018 is deputy secretary general of environmental management, environmental technology, and international cooperation at the Ministry of the Environment, Estonia. Before working at the ministry, he was an environmental consultant at a private environmental consultation company.

Registration

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