

## Third capacity building training for CSOs in the project "Know How 2 Act"

7. March 2014.

Third capacity building training for civil society organizations was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 as a part of the project " **Know How to Act**", in the Hotel "Jezero" at Bor Lake. Through an intensive four-day long work with the representatives of different organizations active in the field of environmental protection, the participants were engaged in advancing their knowledge in various fields related to environmental protection.

At the beginning of the training, member of the Research Forum of the European Movement in Serbia, Mrs. **Mladenka Ignjatić** presented the results of research analyzes, showing the capacity of local actors in the implementation of environmental policy. Participants analyzed the situation in their own



organizations and municipalities and compared the results. They pointed out that politics at the local level was not transparent enough and it was hard for them to obtain the data they needed. They have stated that the problem was in the practical implementation of the policy in the field, and not so much the lack of appropriate regulations. One of the proposals suggested by the CSO representatives after the first session was to form the Offices for Cooperation with Civil Society at the local level that would support the activities of organizations.

The rest of the day was devoted to the environmental policy of the EU as well as to the changes that will bring harmonization with the *acquis communautaire* under the Chapter 27. Mr. **Vladimir M. Pavlović**, coordinator of the Center for European Integration of the Belgrade Open School, stressed the need of making connections and essential understanding of the environmental policy, crucial in order to timely predict and follow the implications of the adoption of *acquis* in this area. Policy-making process is different for different policies especially for environmental policy. He drew attention to the level of involvement of institutions that were independent in policy making from governments of member states, and pointed out the necessity of its existence in order to evaluate policies properly.



Technical background of the accession process under the Chapter 27 was explained by Mrs. **Jovana Majkić**, Head of Unit for European Integration in the field of environment. She talked about the fact that this Chapter delves into the various spheres of society and that is the reason why the work in this Chapter is divided among many institutions. Explanatory screening in this section will be held in the fall of 2014 and will last for 5 days.

Only few chapters need screenings that lasts that long. Participants learned about the structure, composition and way of functioning of working groups in the area, as well as the fact that the most of the work and decision making is done on the level of working groups. *"The goal of this working group is to discuss the details in all the parts of this Chapter primarily due to highly developed institutional memory of the EU".*

On the second and third days focus was on practical exercises that will help participants in the designing, implementation and monitoring of environmental policies. Mrs. **Danijela Bozović** and Mr. **Mirko Popović** from Belgrade Open School introduced the participants with the advocacy process, instruments of influence in decision-making and the development of networks for practical policies. The importance of finding right allies in advocacy was emphasized, as well as the fact that the interested public is faced with a very short time for a public debate on the law concerning the protection of the environment. Therefore, it is necessary for CSOs to react on time and get involved in creation of draft laws in order to ensure time for possible changes. One of the suggestions made was the formulation of its policy proposals should be argumentative and that representatives of certain institutions could identify the idea behind it in order to provide the strongest starting position for the appropriate policy.



The fourth day was reserved for the legal issues in the field of environmental protection. Lawyer, Mr. **Sreten Đorđević**, spoke about the regulations and procedures which interested public could use in achieving its goals. He believes that there were a lot of misunderstanding regarding the range of influence of CSOs in the environment sector, as well as that in certain areas civil society is not up to the task when it comes to the implementation of regulations in the field of environmental protection mainly due to the lack of information. He drew the attention of participants to the most

common mistakes committed in the proceedings in which they find themselves, as well as the useful ideas you can use to get the necessary information.

Independent Consultant, Mrs. **Ivana Savić**, stated that issues of environment and sustainable development need attention, not only when it comes to standards, but also bearing in mind the laws related to the environment are based on human rights, which excludes the strictly sectorial approach to this topic. This right that is neither strictly individual, nor collective.

Know How 2 Act" project is implemented by the European Movement in Serbia and partners: the Belgrade Open School, the Center for development of civil society PROTECTA and the UNECOOP. Project is supported support by Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade within the program "Strengthening Civil Society".