

On December 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 session of National convent's "Environment" Working group was held in Paraćin within the „KnowHow2Act“ project, on the issue of "Action local energy planning – high expectations and moderate results“.



To date progress within the local energy planning field, as well as examples of successful practice in certain municipalities were the topics discussed by: Dimitrije Lilić, Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection; Miodrag Gluščević Standing conference of cities and municipalities; Nikola Vujović, Municipality of Vrbas' Office for Energy Management and Goran Vasić, ECOREC. Working group's internal expert was Aleksandar Macura, EU energy and climate change policy expert. Vladimir Janković of UNECOOP was the moderator of the session..

Session began with analysis of the legislative and strategic framework referring to the Energy field as well as potential changes that can be expected. There was an emphasis on the concept of energy balance and on the creation of regulations which prescribe energy balance content, types of data, deadlines and the process of data distribution as well as other elements necessary for the preparation and monitoring of energy balance creation. The importance of proper and comprehensive data collection was stressed, with the purpose of precise analysis of the starting position, during the creation and implementation of further strategic and operating plans.

As **Milan Gluščević** stated, primary problem with the issue of energy planning system in Serbia is the fact that the system itself is based on optimism of few individuals. He advocates awareness augmentation of citizens and politicians on the importance of the topic, through constant activities and education of all interested. Moreover, energy needs active data update on the state level is very important.

Working group internal expert **Aleksandar Macura**, spoke about the unbeatable importance of energy and unjustified neglect of it. He pointed out necessity of dealing with the issue from economic standpoint especially in the context of poverty. Population of Serbia, globally, possesses all the symptoms of energy deficient/poor population. Ambitious efforts citizens are making towards heating their spaces are failing to reach the adequate level. This is a significant problem having in mind very low energy efficiency of appliances used in that process. Macura supported SKGO activities and possibilities for constant consultations and collaboration offered by the organization. In this manner, the idea of the creation of resource centre provides a possibility for local government representatives to connect with those

municipalities that have efficiently succeeded in setting their Energy plans as well as realizing activities in accordance with efficient and sustainable development.

**Nikola Vujović**, Municipality of Vrbas' Office for energy management representative introduced all present with the successful practice of Municipality of Vrbas and system solution they have implemented in the municipality. With the “Uključi znanje promeni stanje” action they have created a comprehensive campaign for raising awareness and knowledge on the topics of energy. There were trainings held on Project management, Business process management, training for ISO 50001 and many other activities that have straightened professional capacities in the municipality.

**Goran Vasić**, ECOREC, dealt with questions of the ways economic sector can support energy sector and noted once again the urgency of the issue and that it needs to be given more attention. Through presentation of ECOREC and its activities, he called for a synergy of present capacities, for the utilization of waste within local communities that generate it and look for its disposal, which will lead to several benefits for many participants, starting from the state, local communities to entire population.

**Vladimir Janković**, UNECOOP, presented the concept of biomass and the contribution it can have on local energy development. There is a need for the substitution of energy sources in public facilities as well as public lands operation. In order to effectively conduct the activities there should be a proper engagement of domestic resources, subsidized device purchase and a strong connection between the Energy and Agriculture.

European Movement in Serbia in collaboration with Belgrade Open School, Civil Society Development Centre PROTECTA and UNECOOP, with the support of Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade, is implementing a project KnowHow2Act („Znam kako da delujem“) with a goal to improve and increase participation of civil society in the process of decision making in the field of local environmental protection in the EU integration process. An important segment of the project is realization of sessions of National convent's “Environment” Working group.