

## Round Table

### **“Lost in Translation: From transposition to the execution of the *acquis communautaire* in Serbian environmental policy”**

The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, 22 Makedonska street, July 14, 2014  
Belgrade, 11:00 AM

*The final event in the project “Know how to act”, “Lost in Translation: From transposition to the execution of the *acquis commuautaire* in Serbian environmental policy” will take place on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the office of Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in Belgrade.*

Participants will discuss the challenges of public policy and legal implementation in the area of environmental policy as a part of Serbia’s accession negotiations with the EU. The adoption and amendment of national legal provisions, aiming to harmonize national law with the *acquis communautaire*, is followed by both inefficient implementation (in terms of providing institutional framework and financial resources necessary for the implementation of a law,) and inefficient execution (in terms of providing a strong monitoring system and sanctions to ensure that the law is respected).

Weak national, regional, and local policies, poor implementation of said policies in practice, an insufficient capacity to enforce laws among all levels of public administration, as well as a failure to recognize the importance of environmental policy in public discourse, make law and policy implementation practically impossible.

The implementation of the *acquis communautaire* poses a challenge to regional authorities, local communities, and economic institutions due to its scope, complexity, and direct impact on public policies in other areas. Keeping this in mind, transparent, responsible, and inclusive environmental policy design, as well as the adoption and implementation of effective law, is the only approach that will maximize the use of limited resources, accomplish the goals of EU policies, and make legal implementation in the field of environmental policy sustainable.

Improvement of adoption procedures and implementation of environmental policies is possible only when all relevant actors, both at the national and local level, receive important information and get involved in the process.

*The round table is organized as a part of the project “Know how to act”, supported by the Royal Norwegian embassy. The project is a part of the program “Strengthening Civil Society Organizations”, and it is implemented by the Belgrade Open School and the Center for Civil Society Development, PROTECTA, and UNECOOP.*