HUSZPO HRVATSKA UDRUGA STRUČNJAKA ZAŠTITE PRIRODE I OKOLIŠA

TREĆA REGIONALNA KONFERENCIJA O PROCJENI UTJECAJA NA OKOLIŠ
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STRENGTHENING CSO PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION MAKING

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EIA and SEA in Western Balkans and Turkey

1. COMMON CHALLENGES
2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING PARTICIPATION
3. PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

«Civil Society Acts for Environmentally Sound Socio Economic Development»

In-depth analyses on legislation and implementation:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey

Common issues in environmental decision making

- Lack of solid legal foundation
- Poor access to information
- Lack of capacity
  - public authorities
  - professional companies
  - civil society
- Poor quality assessments
- Short time frames for stakeholders
- Lack of public and media interest
- **INEFFECTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Common challenges in the region on public participation

- **Lack of capacity of the civil society**
  - Organizational capacity
  - Advocacy and policy development
  - Technical capacity to review and comment on reports
  - Monitoring EIA/SEA processes

- **Insufficient public access to information**
  - Information on project or program/plan
  - Access to reports and baseline/background information
  - Poor media coverage
  - Short timeframes
  - Aarhus Convention

Common challenges in the region on public participation

Consultation meetings

- Obstacles on participation
- Complex to understand
- No participation to screening phase
- Lack of understanding and mistrust
- Feedback on inclusion of views, concerns and recommendations
- Limited media coverage

Recommendations to improve participation and good practices

- **Strengthening legal obligation for public participation**

  - The Estonian Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2005:
  Dissemination of information through various means, with 14 days public consultations and public share of EIA program

- **Strengthening access to information**

  - SEA of the National Fisheries Strategic Plan in Hungary:
  All information generated during the SEA process disseminated transparently to all stakeholders from the planning stage

Recommendations to improve participation and good practices

- **Governmental reassurance**

  - Inclusion of local communities in Lake Mälaren in Sweden
  Compensation for landowners and designating Natura 2000 site at the same time

- **Demonstration of alternatives and economic benefits**

  - Inclusion of the public in decision making in Denmark:
  Savings and socio-environmental improvements for the Billund Airport Expansion

- **Inclusion of general public and media**

  - Public invitation to Hotel construction at Lake Site in Turkey:
  Recording of discussions gave way to conservation of the protected area

Recommendations to improve participation and good practices

- **Inclusion of local communities**

  - Counterbalancing impacts and improving local living in Brazil: Different satisfactory mitigation measures are implemented for two localities

- **Strengthening transparent decision making**

  - Development of the General Local Plan of Tirana Municipality in Albania Consultation resulted in green areas and corridors, public transportation and upgrades of the architectural heritage of the city

Capacity development for better public participation

- **Guidance documents and capacity building**

  -European Union

  -UNEP
    - Checklists for public and civil society
    - Model guidelines for content of good quality assessment reports
    - Training for civil society, public authorities and professional companies

  -CO-SEED project EIA and SEA checklists:
    - provide structure to CSOs to constructively engage in public consultations
    - identify eventual gaps in the reports to explore further

- **Examples of best practices:**

  «How Public Participation Improves Environmental Decision Making»

  https://co-seed.eu

Thank you.

Questions?