



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА  
Министарство  
заштите животне средине

---

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
Ministry of  
Environmental Protection

# Presentation of activities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection in topics related to gender equality

*Biljana Filipović Đušić,  
Ministry of Environmental Protection*

# Institutional framework in the Republic of Serbia

- The Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the RS (Deputy Prime Minister of the RS is the President of the CB)
- The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue
- Line ministries and bodies within their competencies
- International organizations and UN agencies (UN Women, OSCE,...)
- Civil society organisations



- **Organisational structure in the Ministry of Environmental Protection**
- Group for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Inclusion of Persons with Special Needs and Integration of Marginalised Social Groups in the Environmental Protection Process (formed in 2021 in the Department for Cooperation with Local Self-Government Units in the Environmental Management Sector)
- Internal Network – MEP Working Group for Gender Equality (which includes representatives of the Ministry's sectors, headed by Ivana Jokić, Secretary to the Ministry)
- **Organisational structure in local self-government units:**
- Persons responsible for environmental protection; members of municipal/city councils/councils for gender equality issues; persons in charge of gender equality issue

## Relevant legal and strategic framework

- In addition to prohibiting discrimination on any grounds, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia in Article 15 prescribes that the state shall ensure the equality of women and men and develop a policy of equal opportunities,
- The National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016-2020 with the Action Plan is a strategic document of the Republic of Serbia adopted with the aim of improving gender equality,
- The Law on Gender Equality was adopted in May 2021,
- The Law regulates obligations of public authorities, employers and other partners to mainstream the gender perspective in the field in which they operate.

# Gender equality in the field of environmental protection

## Article 42

- Environmental authorities provide equal opportunities for women and men in the natural resource management system and the right to be informed about the state of the environment. Different interests, needs and priorities of women and men are considered and taken into consideration when managing human resources.
- The Ministry responsible for environmental protection during the planning, management and implementation of environmental plans, projects and policies conducts the gender mainstreaming process.
- Local self-government units conduct the gender mainstreaming process during the planning, management and implementation of environmental plans, projects and policies.

# Gender and environment

The Ministry of Environmental Protection recognised the need to do better research, analysis and presentation of this topic to the public.

With the support of UN agencies and the OSCE, we have been working on:

- Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies,
- Educating on gender equality and the environment, and
- Advocating the creation of a favourable environment for women's environment-related activities



# Past activities

In the projects implemented together with UN agencies and the OSCE, we organised various activities that contributed to the collection of data on the gender perspective in environmental protection, building capacities of the representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and partner institutions, and improving cooperation with the organisations specialising in gender equality issues.

- ❖ We formed a Group for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Inclusion of Persons with Special Needs and Integration of Marginalised Social Groups in the Environmental Protection Process
- ❖ We created an internal GE network at the level of the Ministry
- ❖ We actively participated in the development of the Draft National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2021-2030 with the Proposed Action Plan for the period 2021-2023 (the PRG also includes the Ministry's representative)

## Past activities with the support of UN WOMEN in the field of climate change

- 2017-2018 – **Training Manual - Gender and Climate Change** was prepared within the project "Local Development Resistant to Climate Change"  
[https://inovacije.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Prirucnik-za-trening\\_Web\\_SRB.pdf](https://inovacije.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Prirucnik-za-trening_Web_SRB.pdf)
- Objective - Improving the understanding of gender aspects in the field of climate change which may be used as a source of information for the preparation of practical training courses, as well as a guide for mainstreaming the gender perspective in programmes and projects;
- A total of 9 events were organised (introductory Conference, 5 forums in 4 regions of Serbia, 2 special mentoring sessions, 2 general public events;

# Past activities with the support of UN WOMEN in the field of climate change

- End of 2019 - Draft report on the establishment of monitoring of gender sensitive reporting in the field of climate change, within which the **Proposed Framework for Monitoring Gender Sensitive Data in the Field of Climate Change** was prepared  
([2020-Gender sensitive monitoring framework \(klimatskepromene.rs\)](https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/));
- It was developed through the project "Establishing Transparency Framework for the Republic of Serbia" (implemented by the Ministry with the support of UNDP, and funded by the GEF);
- It provides guidelines concerning in which areas it is necessary to mainstream the gender dimension and environmental aspects. They include not only climate change policies, but also other relevant policy areas (a more detailed presentation of the past results will be presented below - Prof. Babović);

- It will be used for finalising the first Climate Change Gender Action Plan (GAP) for Serbia according to the guidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (also being prepared within the same project);
- The document is expected to be finalised in the coming period and the plan is to continue collecting gender sensitive data per defined areas;
- As a continuation of activities for GAP preparation - the first proposal of the Reviewed Report on Gender and Climate Change is being drafted;
- It is based on the aforementioned Monitoring Framework and additionally provides recommendations for improving records, additional research and important actions that may help the transition to a low-carbon and green economy takes place in a gender equal manner;

# UNECE support in past activities

27/11/2020

Training for MEP  
representatives

28/01/2021

Webinar on gender  
mainstreaming

Methods and toolkits  
for gender  
mainstreaming in  
environmental  
policies

Cooperation with  
local authorities

2

Thematic workshops

# UNECE support

- On the 1st UNECE training, the following was presented:  
Basic information on gender equality, equal gender participation at all levels, institutional and legal aspects at the international level, as well as the importance of the link between the environment and gender equality.
- On the 2nd training, data and indicators showing the link between gender and climate change were presented in two specific national programmes: the National Waste Prevention Programme for the period 2020-2025 and the Roadmap for Circular Economy in Serbia.
- Manual “**How to Mainstream Gender in Environmental Policy**” was created as part of UNECE support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Obligations of local authorities in the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality

- Local self-government units have a very important role in the implementation of the requirements under Chapter 27. Success in the implementation of the requirements under Chapter 27 largely depends on local level capabilities and capacities.

### Obligations of local authorities in the implementation of the Law on GE:

1. Within their competences, to ensure gender equality and the achievement of equal opportunities
2. To encourage the proportionate and direct participation of women in the decision-making process in all areas of public life and at all levels.

There is no unique register of data on the representation of men and women in local governing bodies.

# Cooperation with municipalities and cities

- By organising this thematic workshop, with the support of the UNECE Gender Equality Team, we continue to work on gender mainstreaming in environmental policies by initiating cooperation with the representatives of cities and municipalities, SCTM and Regional Development Agencies,
- Objective: Providing information on basic knowledge on gender aspects in water, energy, circular economy, climate change, waste and chemical management sectors...



## Local level competences

- Horizontal legislation (impact assessment, strategic impact assessment)
- Air quality (monitoring, drafting plans, licensing)
- Waste management (plans, licensing, implementation)
- Water management (drinking water supply, wastewater collection and treatment, licensing, implementation)
- Industrial pollution control (licensing, crisis planning)
- Noise (noise protection plans)
- Nature protection (procedure for assessing plans/projects admissibility)

# Capacity development measures

- It is necessary to significantly build capacities and provide prior information to LSGUs and institutions on the need to introduce a gender analysis in environmental policies
- Close cooperation between municipalities – there is a need for regional solutions and the exchange of experience

## Follow-up activities

- Further participation in drafting the proposal of the National Gender Equality Strategy, i.e. after its adoption, participation in the implementation of established measures and activities within the scope of the Ministry of Environmental Protection;
- Further gender mainstreaming activities in planning, managing and implementing environmental plans, projects and policies;



**Thank you for your attention**

[biljana.filipovic@ekologija.gov.rs](mailto:biljana.filipovic@ekologija.gov.rs)