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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
EXPERIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

PROFESSIONAL PAPER
UDC 719:502.4

STRATEŠKA PROCJENA UTJECAJA PLANA
I PROGRAMA NA OKOLIŠ
ISKUSTVA REPUBLIKE SRBIJE

STRUČNI ČLANAK
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FIG. 1 BUILT RESIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT IN CLOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF OIL REFINERY IN NOVI SAD
SL. 1. NASELJE IZGRAĐENO U NEPOSREDNOJ BLIZINI RAFINERIJE ULJA U NOVOM SADU

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT EXPERIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STRATEŠKA PROCJENA UTJECAJA PLANA I PROGRAMA NA OKOLIŠ ISKUSTVA REPUBLIKE SRBIJE

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF PLANS
URBAN PLANNING

INDIKATORI OKOLIŠA
SUDJELOVANJE JAVNOSTI
STRATEŠKA PROCJENA UTJECAJA PLANOVA
I PROGRAMA NA OKOLIŠ
URBANIZAM

The environmental protection policy is being carried out, among other things, through the suitable sectors plans and programs. The aim of this paper is to analyze our experience in application of the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment. We have paid special attention to its drawbacks, observed in preparation of strategic environmental impact assessment. The key for successful tackling of this task assumes common work of all entities, private, legal and professional.

Politika zaštite okoliša provodi se, među ostalim, i putem planova i programa koje su izradili odgovarajući sektori. Cilj ovog članka je analiza našeg iskustva u primjenjivanju Zakona o strateškoj procjeni utjecaja na okoliš. Posebnu smo pozornost pridali nedostacima koji su uočeni pri pripremi strateške procjene utjecaja na okoliš. Ključ uspješnog savladavanja ovog zadatka je zajedničko djelovanje svih privatnih, pravnih i profesionalnih subjekata uključenih u proces.

* Translated by Svetlana Bačkalić, Freelance Translator and Interpreter

INTRODUCTION

UVOD

When legal regulations of countries in transition are complied with directives and laws of the European Union countries, very similar principles are used, that is, very similar formulations of legal acts governing the area of environment protection are adopted. Significant changes in the legislation of the Republic of Serbia in the area of environment protection which occurred in the course of 2004 when four new laws were adopted (the Law on Environment Protection, the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution, the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment) have given rise to realistic needs related to the compliance of practice with new legal regulations in this area. In that respect and with an aim to assess possible impacts which plans and programmes may have on the environment, the law stipulates the preparation of strategic environmental impact assessments for some plans in the course of preparing urban and planning documentation. Since the applicable Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment defines methodology framework for the preparation thereof, there is general conclusion that this legally defined methodology should be used as an initial framework and there is no methodological "recipe" for the preparation of strategic environmental impact assessments. This approach has been accepted not only by the world's experts dealing with this issue, for example,

Sadler B., Therivel R., Partidario M.R., and others, but also by domestic experts such as B. Stojanović, N. Spasić and others. This is primarily due to the fact that strategic environmental assessments are made for plans and programmes of varying levels and scopes, for diverse purposes of space and because they involve complex system of participants and data which they deal with. Therefore, it is more useful to develop in practice a set of principles which will be applied within legally defined stages of preparation and deploy proposed problem solutions which have been noticed in practice so far. Well known methods, which have been used so far more in the world than in our country, as for example, identification methods, expertise, control lists and questionnaires, matrices, multi criteria analysis, SWOT analysis, ecological capacity analysis and the like, are recommendable in each of corresponding cases for certain stages of strategic assessment which are defined in the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment.

Strategic environmental assessments have mostly been prepared in a "bureaucratic" way without employing adequate methods and foremost without corresponding input data which would be processed by means of above methods. By emphasizing new methods at professional meetings, as well as by publishing papers illustrating practical examples of this problem, the quality of rendered document would be significantly improved. At the same time, the conclusion is that strategic environmental assessment cannot be written continuously from the beginning to the end but, it is necessary to re-examine in the whole work set up attitudes, i.e., mathematically speaking, the whole procedure should have iterative character until a solution is obtained which meets high quality requirements. For the purpose of relevant documents preparation as efficiently as possible, 11 typical examples have been analyzed and a series of principles, criteria, premises and solutions for observed problems is defined on the basis thereof.

PRESENTATION OF SOME BASIC PREMISES

PREGLED TEMELJNIH HIPOTEZA

- *Although all legal obligations have been very often adhered to with respect to the contents of strategic environmental assessments, pertinent areas are not dealt with in an adequate way.*

In most of the cases, the table of contents includes all items stipulated by the law but they are often "routinely" treated and identical text can be found in almost all examples elaborated by one professional organization.

Routine treatment of strategic environmental assessments makes them lose their meaning since valid environmental impact cannot be found in documents prepared in the above manner. This primarily refers to chapters dealing with environmental indicators, assessment of possible impacts with the description of protective measures, guidelines for the preparation of strategic environmental assessments at lower hierarchical levels, presentation and evaluation of alternative solutions and methodology used. Nevertheless, the analysis of concrete examples made by the same organization shows that in time certain elements of strategic environmental assessments are evaluated thus providing more comprehensive overview of important impacts. An example of above stated is consideration of increasing number of environmental indicators, as well as deploying more methods in analyzing gathered information.

- *Preparers rarely change the concept of strategic environmental assessments depending on the type and scope of the plan for which environmental impact is elaborated.*

Very often, the same methodology is used in preparing spatial plans and in zoning ordinances, as well as in spatial plans for special purposes (for example, natural reservations) and industrial zones as a direct consequence of routine making of these documents. For the purpose of providing high quality solutions, applied methods should be varied with reference to the type of and scope of plans. At the same time, it should not be confined only on the use of the present situation qualitative analysis. Such a way makes the document lose on its value as it does not give concrete information based on which it will be possible to derive consequential conclusions.

- *The emphasis should not be on the narrow professional field of the strategic environmental assessment's maker but all aspects of environmental impact should be elaborated adequately.*

In that respect, team work is very important, that is to say, experts and professional organizations should be involved in the preparation process. It cannot be expected from a person assigned with the task to "cover" all areas characteristic for a given plan however, the first and a very important step is to "recognize" this fact and include other colleagues in resolving distinctive issues. This, however, does not imply simple protocolar opinion request from professional organizations and competent public companies but active joint works in considering and resolving issues by deploying various techniques and methods typical for a given area and/or profession. Frequently, in the course of preparation, some "exacting" environmental data are delivered



by the investor and the preparer himself/herself without assistance of experts (for example, a technologist or a physicist) is not capable of evaluating validity of these pieces of information. The task of a person assigned to prepare strategic environmental assessment is not to do something alone but to evaluate the composition of a project team, coordinate the team's work and finally put received information into a unique document. Even at the very level of an organization making a document, it is frequently noticeable that there is an imbalance in the team members' coordination which can be illustrated by a simple example that a person assigned to prepare strategic environmental assessment receives from persons in charge of plan preparations ready made solutions without a possibility to change anything in a large number of case. This in the very start excludes any sort of alternative solutions analysis as they do not exist at all. In order to enable cooperation between all members of the team, the Law stipulates parallel preparation of plans and strategic environmental assessments.

- *Strategic environmental assessments usually include and present a small number of input data.*

The analysis of chosen examples has shown that only in the limited number of cases, often prepared by professional organizations from the territory of Belgrade, corresponding measurements have been made and/or certain number of data obtained by these measurements has been analyzed. It is a well known fact that in many towns in our country systematic measurements, which could be used as indicators of environmental conditions, have not been made so far. Also, preparing of majority strategic environmental assessments does not even involve targeted and/or one-time measurements lasting for one to three days. The analysis often takes into account average parameters from measurement points which are at a distance of as much as up to 50 kilometres from investigated areas. Although one-time measurements by no means present complete picture of environmental conditions since they represent

FIG. 2 LARGE MANUFACTURING COMPLEX FOR NITROGEN PESTICIDES AS A LONG STANDING THREAT IN NOVI SAD
SL. 2. VELIKI TVORNIČKI SKLOP ZA PROIZVODNJU NITROGENSKIH PESTICIDA KAO DUGOGODIŠNJA PRIJETNJA OKOLIŠU U NOVOM SADU

momentary situation in a relevant season at certain atmospheric influences and the like, they are very important because they often provide valid data of, for example, the quality of soil and water. Data gathered in the above manner provide solid grounds for further work. Often, financial costs are underlined relevant to the collection of necessary data, but this problem can be resolved by inclusion of costs in the overall price specified for rendering strategic environmental assessments to be borne by the investor. The placement of seven automatic stations for monitoring the quality of ambient air in Vojvodina can be emphasized as an excellent example of global cooperation between the Provincial Secretariat for Environment Protection and Sustainable Growth and the European Environment Information and Observation Network. Data obtained from automatic stations will be primarily used for the assessment of the population's exposure and health impact evaluation, then as the basis for strategic planning and work of inspection services, as well as for predicting and estimating trends in air quality assessments. The network is comprised of seven stations which are equipped with the state of the art devices, analyzers for measuring basic and specific air pollutant concentrations (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylenes, ozone and PM₁₀), as well as with sensors for measuring meteorological parameters (wind direction and speed, air temperature and humidity, atmospheric pressure and solar radiation intensity). Configuration of each station is designed in such a way to monitor pollution which is characteristic for the site at which it is located and two stations are placed within protected natural resources zones and they serve as referent, i.e., base stations.

- *Very often, not only insufficient number but also inadequate indicators are chosen.*

As a consequence of scarce collected data, there is a choice of inadequate number and type of environmental indicators. Thus, for example, human health, as one of the most important environmental parameters, is very rarely taken into account within strategic environmental assessments. However, it can be concluded that this practice has changed in time and by deploying new methodologies in the preparation of strategic environmental assessments many adequate indicators are introduced.

- *Often, plans with different hierarchical levels, i.e., strategic environmental assessments thereof, are prepared identically.*

The above statement is always accompanied by the question whether in situations when the preparation of municipal spatial plans co-

incides with the preparation of towns' master plans, strategic environmental assessment should be made for each of the plans separately or one strategic environmental assessment could refer to both plans. The concrete answer to this question has not yet been given. With reference to this question, two approaches can be distinguished. The first approach assumes that strategic environmental assessments, particularly those of a higher rank, should not overly elaborate impacts of concrete companies which present environmental hazards with their activities. The other approach is that irrespective of their level strategic environmental assessments should collect as many data as possible about potential environmental hazards. After the analysis of selected examples, it can be concluded that strategic environmental assessments containing detailed analyses of every potential environmental hazard are much clearer and more valuable as they specify the real purpose of these documents. They show actual picture at the terrain and fully justify objectives of strategic environmental assessments which have been set in advance. Concrete data are available in these documents and there are no many circumlocutions or opportunities left for wrong assessments.

- *In majority of cases public participation is not implemented adequately.*

Public participation can be accomplished through various interest groups such as: local population, professional public, business sectors, nongovernmental organizations and administrative authorities. Based on the analysis of selected examples, it can be concluded that in the majority of cases there were no or less than five remarks within public inspection of strategic environmental assessments. Most often, the reason for that is local population's failure to get informed, and/or insufficient knowledge of citizens about possibilities to lodge complaints during public inspection. This situation is characteristic not only when strategic environmental assessments are concerned but also in the procedures of public inspection of planning documentation. Resolving this problem is possible in cooperation with neighbourhood communities which could raise awareness and interest for relevant topics of their citizens by means of written notifications. These concrete written notifications should, in addition to basic data about public investigation, provide explanations of citizens' rights in simple "popular" language which will even more contribute to their education. This type of communication is not impossible since citizen get informed about many other events in this way. Business sectors are frequently informed about the procedure of public investigation and most often their complaints involve denial of

information gathered by the elaborator in relation to harmful effects of facilities owned by them. In order to interpret these complaints, professional organizations can provide important assistance and their arbitration can generate answers to submitted complaints.

- *Project implementation on the public land is often uncertain.*

Taking into considerations the fact that the majority of "positive" interventions which are anticipated in strategic environmental assessments refer to public surfaces, a very small portion of practical realization of these projects imposes an important problem. A typical example of this problem concerns protective belts along various infrastructural corridors. The resolution of this problem is possible by putting a condition to implement protective corridors together with infrastructural directions. Unfortunately, in our country, this problem has been made banal by means of traffic route's rank decrease through various "documents", for example, in case of a highway in order to enable the construction of commercial and residential buildings along its way instead of a protective belt. Thus we have a paradox and instead of the protective belt we "arrange" commercial and residential buildings and in so doing breach basic principles of sustainable growth.

- *Irrespective of the cross border impact analysis, when strategic environmental assessments are made, legal provision defining spatial scope of a plan is often interpreted in a strictly "legalistic" way.*

As a consequence, in some of the examples, serious environmental hazards are not taken into account although they are in close proximity of an area for which this document has been prepared. An example for that is the exclusion of the pharmaceutical factory "Galenika" from the strategic environmental assessment made for illegally constructed residential settlement in its close neighbourhood. Thus, in the same document, we talk about cross border impacts on the one hand and neglect environmental hazards which are very close to the processed area on the other hand.

- *The control of the situation at the terrain carried out by the Inspection represents the weakest link in the overall procedure of spatial planning.*

Fines which should be paid by polluters are very often insufficiently non-encouraging and legal proceedings against polluters are in many cases ruled in favour of polluters by their experienced legal representatives. This is the reason why we have a lot of problems nowadays such as wild dumps, inadequate control of equipment built in large manufacturing complexes and lack of control in the

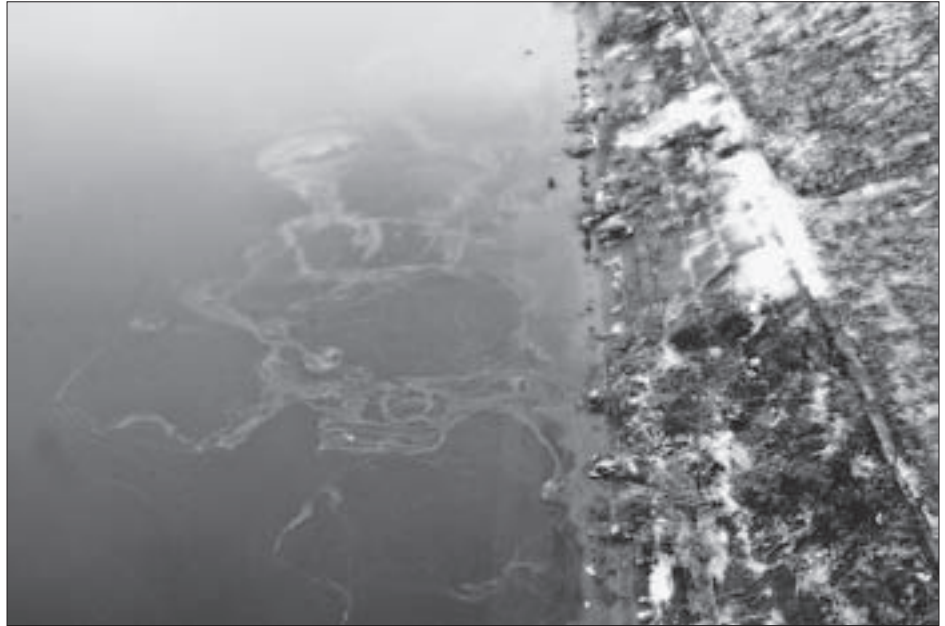


FIG. 3 DIRECT POLLUTION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF MANUFACTURING COMPLEX FOR NITROGEN PESTICIDES
SL. 3. NEPOSREDNO ZAGAĐENJE U BLIZINI TVORNIČKOG SKLOPA ZA PROIZVODNJU NITROGENSKIH PESTICIDA

use of pesticides. In line with above stated, according to the Law on Environment Protection, crucial changes in the plant's operations are assessed by competent authorities which occurs in practice very rarely as the term "crucial" changes is very vague. The same Law stipulates the obligation of owners of existing plants which potentially jeopardize the environment to obtain corresponding integrated permits until 2015. In the period of next six years, the same companies will considerably endanger the environment and this will in turn aggravate its recovery to a large extent. Even in cases when the plan anticipates the plant's demolition or reconstruction, integrated permits will not be obtained if the investor does not instigate the procedure. The fact that a single integrated permit has not been issued so far both at the territory of Vojvodina and at the territory of the whole country indicates that the implementation of elements from strategic environmental assessment proceeds very slowly. Transitional provisions of the Law on Integrated Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution stipulate that the Government of the Republic of Serbia will enact the Programme for Compliance of Certain Economic Branches with this Law, which has not been done so far. Therefore, there are no corresponding applications for issuing permits for existing plants. Undoubtedly, all legal measures will affect the environment but their effects will be substantially delayed mostly due to the complexity of procedures associated with obtaining necessary documentation and the lack of dialog among services in charge of their enforcement.

- *There are no systemic solutions for environmental problems.*

Due to the obvious lack of systemic solutions, serious environmental problems occur and they cannot be resolved simply by means of a corresponding strategic environmental assessment. This is, for example, in case of disposal and treatment of toxic wastes which have not been resolved in our country yet. An example concerning the construction of illegal buildings under the existing and planned long distance power lines is very important since some of the Town's decisions prevent their legalization whereas actual impact of these infrastructural directions on the population living there has not been assessed anywhere. This problem can hardly be resolved by means of strategic environmental assessment as initiatives and actions are required at all levels starting from the Government.

CONCLUSION

ZAKLJUČAK

The adoption of four systemic environmental laws has made a significant step forward in this area. However, during the enforcement of these laws, numerous problems and uncertainties have arisen and they entail systemic resolution, as well. The key for successful tackling of this task assumes common work of all entities, private, legal and professional. This will involve not only the procedure of making strategic environmental assessments but also overall work on environmental protection, from the national strategy all through to the supervising inspections after integrated permits have been issued. Since the whole process of environment protection is very complex, and since the large portion of natural potentials has already been exhausted, we should not wait for someone else to resolve this problem but, based on lessons learned so far, we should work on environment protection even more efficiently. In so doing, we should always bear in mind that unfortunately we do not have any other space in which we could live except our environment.

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SOURCE

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ILLUSTRATION SOURCES

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FIG. 1.-3. Foto: Branko Vujkov, Novi Sad, 2008.

SAŽETAK

SUMMARY

STRATEŠKA PROCJENA UTJECAJA PLANA I PROGRAMA NA OKOLIŠ

ISKUSTVA REPUBLIKE SRBIJE

Kada se zakonske odredbe zemalja u tranziciji usklade s propisima i zakonima zemalja Europske Unije, koriste se vrlo slični principi, odnosno, primjenjuju se vrlo slične formulacije zakonskih akata na polju zaštite okoliša. Značajne promjene u zakonodavstvu Republike Srbije na polju zaštite okoliša, koje su se dogodile tijekom 2004. godine kada su usvojena četiri nova zakona, dovele su do realnih potreba usklađivanja prakse s novim zakonskim odredbama na tom području. Budući da mjerodavan Zakon o strateskoj procjeni utjecaja na okoliš definiše metodološki okvir za njegovu pripremu, općenito se vjeruje da bi se ta pravno definirana metodologija trebala koristiti kao početni okvir, te da ne postoji metodološki 'recept' za pripremu strateske procjene utjecaja na okoliš. Korisnije je u praksi razviti sustav principa koji će biti primijenjen unutar pravno definirane razine pripreme i razviti rješenja za probleme koji su se do sada uočili u praksi. U svrhu najefikasnije moguće pripreme relevantne dokumentacije, provedena je analiza na jedanaest tipičnih primjera te je definiran niz principa, kriterija i rješenja za uočene probleme na temelju istih primjera.

- *Iako su se poštovala sve zakonske odredbe u pogledu sadržaja strateske procjene okoliša, relevantna područja nisu na prikladan način obrađena* – U većini slučajeva sadržaj sadrži stavke određene zakonom no one su često 'rutinski' obrađene te se gotovo u svim primjerima mogu pronaći isti tekstovi koje je razradila jedna profesionalna organizacija.
- *Koncept strateske procjene okoliša rijetko se mijenja s obzirom na tip i opseg plana za koji se određuje utjecaj na okoliš* – Vrlo često se kao neposredna posljedica rutinskog sastavljanja ovih dokumenata ista metodologija koristi u pripremanju prostornih planova ili u zoniranju, kao i u prostornim planovima za posebne namjene (na primjer, prirodni rezervati) i industrijske predjele. Radi iznalazjenja kvalitetnijih rješenja, primijenjene metode bi se morale razlikovati prema tipu i opsegu planova.
- *Naglasak ne bi trebao biti na usko definiranom profesionalnom području onoga tko izrađuje stratesku procjenu okoliša već bi svi aspekti utjecaja na*

okoliš trebali biti adekvatno razrađeni – Stoga je timski rad izuzetno važan, što bi značilo da bi stručnjaci i profesionalne organizacije trebale biti uključene u postupak pripreme. Međutim, ne može se očekivati od jedne zadužene osobe da pokrije sva područja svojstvena određenom planu. Prvi i najvažniji korak u prepoznavanju ove činjenice jest uključivanje ostalih kolega u rješavanje specifičnih pitanja.

- *Strateska procjena okoliša uglavnom sadrži i predstavlja mali broj ulaznih podataka* – Analiza odabranih primjera pokazala je da su odgovarajuće mjere učinjene samo u ograničenom broju slučajeva, često u pripremi profesionalnih organizacija s područja Beograda, i/ili da se analizirao određeni broj podataka dobivenih mjerenjima. Poznato je da se u mnogim gradovima u našoj državi još do sada nisu provela sustavna mjerenja koja se mogu koristiti kao indikatori procjene okoliša. Isto tako, pripreme za većinu strateskih procjena okoliša čak niti ne sadrže ciljana i/ili jednokratna mjerenja u trajanju od jednog do tri dana.
- *Često se odabire ne samo nedovoljan broj nego i neadekvatni indikatori* – Kao posljedica slabo prikupljenih podataka, nastaje neadekvatan broj i tip indikatora okoliša. Tako se, primjerice, zdravlje ljudi, kao jedan od najvažnijih parametara okoliša, vrlo rijetko uzima u obzir u okviru strateskih procjena okoliša.
- *Planovi koji se po hijerarhiji nalaze na različitim stupnjevima često imaju identičnu pripremu* – Ova tvrdnja je uvijek popraćena pitanjem bi li se, u slučajevima kada se priprema gradskih prostornih planova podudara s pripremom generalnog plana, trebala izraditi strateska procjena okoliša za svaki od planova ili jedna primjenjiva na oba plana.
- *U većini slučajeva se sudjelovanje javnih subjekata ne provodi adekvatno* – Javna participacija se može postići s nekoliko interesnih grupa poput lokalnih ljudi, profesionalne javnosti, poslovnog sektora, nevladinih organizacija i administrativnih tijela. Temeljem analize odabranih primjera, može se zaključiti da je u većini slučajeva izrečeno manje od pet ili niti jedna opaska uslijed javnog uvida u

strateske procjene okoliša. Najčešći razlog za to je neinformiranost lokalne populacije i/ili nedovoljno poznavanje građana o mogućnostima ulaganja prigovora tijekom javnog uvida.

- *Provedba projekata na javnom tlu je često neizvjesna* – Uzevši u obzir činjenicu da se većina 'pozitivnih' intervencija predviđenih strateskim procjenama okoliša odnose na javne površine, važan problem predstavlja vrlo mali dio praktične realizacije tih projekata. Tipičan primjer ovog problema se tiče zaštitnih pojaseva uz razne prometne koridore.
- *Neovisno od analiza pograničnih utjecaja, pri izradi strateskih procjena okoliša zakonska odredba koja definiše prostorni opseg plana često se interpretira na strogo 'zakonski' način* – Kao posljedica toga, u pojedinim se primjerima ne misli o rizicima po okoliš iako se nalaze u blizini područja za koje je dokument izrađen.
- *Regulacija stanja na terenu koju obavlja inspekcija najslabija je karika u cjelokupnom prostornom planiranju* – Globe koje trebaju platiti zagađivači su često nedovoljno poticajne, a zakonski postupak protiv zagađivača u mnogim slučajevima završava po njih pozitivno zbog iskusnog pravnog zastupništva. To je razlog zbog kojeg danas postoje problemi poput divljih odlagališta, neadekvatne regulacije opreme u velikim proizvodnim kompleksima i nedostatak kontrole u korištenju pesticida.
- *Ne postoje sustavna rješenja problema vezanih za zaštitu okoliša* – Zbog evidentnog nedostatka prikladnih rješenja, pojavljuju se ozbiljni problemi zaštite okoliša koji se ne mogu jednostavno riješiti odgovarajućim strateskim procjenama okoliša. To je, primjerice, slučaj sa zbrinjavanjem i obradom toksičnog otpada koji se u našoj zemlji još nije riješio. Usvajanjem četiri sustavna zakona o zaštiti okoliša postignut je značajan pozitivan korak u ovom području. Budući da je cijeli proces zaštite okoliša vrlo složen, te da se velik dio prirodnih resursa već iscrpio, ne bismo trebali čekati da netko drugi riješi taj problem nego bismo trebali na temelju dosad naučenih lekcija, imati na umu da, nažalost, nemao drugog prostora za život osim svoje okoline.

BILJANA VRBAŠKI
SLOBODAN KRNETIN

BIOGRAPHIES

BIOGRAFIJE

BILJANA VRBAŠKI, Dipl.Eng.Arch., M.Sc. Graduated from the Faculty of Technical Sciences of Novi Sad – Architecture Department in 2001. Achieved Master's degree 2005. Started Doctoral degree in 2008. She published over 10 papers and managed over 15 scientific-research projects. Since 2001 works in Urban Planning, Development and Research Centre Novi Sad as urban planner.

SLOBODAN KRNETIN, Ph.D., associate professor at the Faculty of Technical Sciences of Novi Sad. Specific scientific fields he deals with are Environmental protection in civil engineering, and Fire protection. He published over 90 papers and managed over 30 scientific-research projects.

Mr.sc. **BILJANA VRBAŠKI**, dipl.ing.arh. Diplomirala je 2001. na Fakultetu tehničkih nauka u Novom Sadu, Odsjek za arhitekturu, a magistrirala 2005. Započela je doktorski studij na istom fakultetu 2008. Objavila je više od 10 članaka. Vodila je preko 15 stručno-znanstvenih projekata. Od 2001. zaposlena je kao urbanistica na Zavodu za urbanizam u Novom Sadu.

Dr.sc. **SLOBODAN KRNETIN**, izvanredni profesor na Fakultetu tehničkih nauka u Novom Sadu. Specifična znanstvena područja kojima se bavi su zaštita okoliša u graditeljstvu i zaštita od požara. Objavio je više od devedeset članaka te vodio preko trideset stručno-znanstvenih projekata.