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Analysing national climate strategies in the CEE region

Climate change is clearly a top priority issue among environmental matters today. Considering the size of the threat, the capacities devoted to the issue, as well as the interconnectedness of environmental and development issues what is happening in the field of climate change is largely decisive for the state of environment.

Unfortunately there are many attempts nowadays to make climate change a separate sector and seek technological solutions for the mitigation and adaptation challenges. However, as experience shows, such approach does not lead to long term solutions, but instead expand the problem and transfer environmental pressure to other fields. There are already signs that climate change actions lead to ecosystem degradation, which in turn further deteriorates also the climate problem.

As being parties of the Kyoto protocol, EU Member States are obliged to develop their national programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation. CEEweb has compiled a questionnaire about these strategies in order to assess CEE governments' approach to climate change. Our goal with this survey is to draw EU and national decision makers' attention to the critical points and deficiencies in current climate change policies and thus prevent adopting further false "solutions". Eventually our aim is to work for a sufficient and holistic climate policy both in national and EU level.

The following Questionnaire is filled in for Republic of Serbia, where there is no adopted National Climate Strategies Document, yet. It is in plan for 2011. But some principles in this issue could be found in the recently adopted *National Sustainable Development Strategy*. So, answers to the questions in this Questionnaire are based on that document, and as well as on the researches which our organization, the International Scientific Forum "Danube – River of Cooperation" made in the last five years. Some of them are published and included in the Bibliography of used documents and articles for answering the questions of the Questionnaire:

1. NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, Adopted by the Government of Republic of Serbia on May 9th 2008, available in Serbian language on <http://www.prsp.sr.gov.yu/attachment/attachment/Strategija%20odrzivog%20razvoja.doc?id=497>

2. The International Scientific Forum's "DRC" mutual project with Slovak partners "*Institutional Capacity Building in Area of Climate Change in Serbia and Montenegro in its preparation for Future Membership in European Union*". As a result a Brochure titled Guidebook through the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Serbian language was issued (ISBN 86-82825-09-0, COBISS.SR-ID 132082444). Attached is a power point presentation about the project.

Questions regarding National Climate Strategies

Questions answered regarding documents, other than National Climate Strategy, which is not adopted and there is no available draft on it:

1. As a principle, does the Strategy identify the **constant economic growth** in terms of growing energy and material use as a main driver of climate change?

yes	X	no	
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1.1. If yes, does it propose the decrease of demands, namely, the use of energy and material under a certain carrying capacity?

yes	X	no	
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1.2. Does it aim to change the drivers for the growing use of energy and material, namely, the structure of production and consumption?

yes	X	no	
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2. Does the strategy focus on the whole scale of **environmental pressures**?

yes	X	no	
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2.1. Emissions

2.1.1. Does it propose that the emission of CO₂ should decrease under a certain limit?

yes	X	no	
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2.1.2. Does it propose that the emission of other greenhouse gases should decrease under a certain limit?

yes	X	no	
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If yes, for which greenhouse gases?

Calculations of CO₂ emissions are based on fuel consumption data from individual sectors of national economy

From the point of view of calculation of total CO₂ emissions, the most important sector is energy and industry

Preliminary estimate of CO₂ emissions in Serbia and Montenegro is cca 62 million tCO₂/year from fossil fuels (44 million tCO₂ from lignit)

2.1.3. Does it propose that the emission of other polluting compounds (e.g. toxic materials) should decrease under a certain limit?

yes	X	no	
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2.2. Excessive use of **natural resources**

2.2.1. Does the Strategy estimate a sum of the use of natural resources?

yes		no	X
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If yes, are externalities included?

yes		no	
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2.2.2. Does the Strategy assign the realistic price of natural resources (e.g. tax or quota on greenhouse gases and natural resources)?

yes		no	X
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If yes, how?

- 2.2.3. Does the Strategy aim to minimize the waste of material and energy through closed cycles in the production and consumption?

yes	X	no	
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2.3. Taking **land from nature**

- 2.3.1. Does it aim to stop further degradation of habitats?

yes	X	no	
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- 2.3.2. Does it propose that the cover and coherence of natural or semi-natural habitats should not decrease?

yes		no	X
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- 2.3.3. Does it propose that rehabilitation or reconstruction of degraded ecosystems is needed?

yes	X	no	
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- 2.3.4. Does it propose, that the structure of landscape as a whole should be diversified, to strengthen natural interactions and ecosystem services including climate regulation?

yes	X	no	
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- 2.3.5. Which of the following sectoral provisions are included in the Strategy? (please underline)

conservation

- maintaining heterogenic structure of habitats, with different stages of succession
- fighting against invasive species
- ensuring permeability of the landscape to allow connectivity of the habitats and to enable species migration
- establishing green corridors
- reconsidering and, if needed, enlarging the area of protected land and Natura 2000 in the light of climate change

forestry

- increasing the forested area
- close to nature forest management

agriculture

- supporting traditional agriculture (meadows, pastures)
- enhancing heterogeneity of agricultural landscape (small parcel size, balks, hedges, alleys) to increase connectivity of habitats
- taking steps against expansion of intensive agriculture and large monocultures which cause the isolation of habitats
- supporting environment-friendly methods
- supporting soil- and water-friendly technologies adjusted to the attributes of the site
- supporting extensive and ecological farming
- using locally adapted breeds

2.4 Does the Strategy recognize that beside direct ones, there are many **by-pass (indirect) pressures** leading to climate change, the identifying of which requires a coherent system-thinking (e.g. excessive use of fertilizers, through the formation of nitrogen oxides)?

yes	X	no	
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2.5 Does the Strategy count with **virtual pressure**? (pressure brought on the environment by imported products or natural resources)

yes		no	X
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3. Does the Strategy aim to **raise public awareness** about the climate change, pressures, drivers and responses in a holistic manner?

yes	X	no	
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4. Does the Strategy aim to satisfy the future needs of energy with **renewable energy sources**?

yes	X	no	
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4.1. Does it prefer sources which are not depletable (solar and wind energy)?

yes	X	no	
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4.2. Does it prefer biomass including biofuels?

yes	X	no	
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4.3. Does it aim to protect forests and other natural or semi-natural ecosystems from the land use change due to the growing need for biomass?

yes		no	X
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4.4. Does the Strategy determine the possible locations and maximum areas of biomass plantations?

yes		no	X
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5. Is the Strategy part of a **coherent environmental policy** with holistic approach? Does the Strategy propose to integrate the policy of climate change in the following policies? (if yes, please underline)

- agri-environmental and forest-environmental programmes
- Water Framework Directive activities
- rural development
- regional development plans
- authority permissions
- energy policy

5.1. Has a permanent consultation body on climate policy been proposed, for the synthesis of knowledge, development of adaptation strategies, and sectoral integration?

yes	X	no	
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5.2. Does the Strategy aim to support scientific research on the ecological aspects of climate change?

yes	X	no	
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6. Does the strategy propose a **monitoring system** to detect ecological changes due to climate change?

yes	X	no	
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6.1. Does it aim to integrate this monitoring system into existing national and international monitoring networks?

yes	X	no	
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Current stage of obtaining input data for emission inventories in Serbia

- Legislation frame for collection of data related to air pollution
- Register of emissions and sources of air pollution/National emission information system
- Statistical findings and reporting of data in Serbia and Montenegro
- Established institutions collect and provide data due to keeping records, statistical reporting, international statistics

Main national institutions engaged in this process:

- Statistical Office
- Air protection authorities (regional, district and municipal administration bodies),
- Hydrometeorological Institute and individual Ministries,
- obtaining input data directly from the source operators

Co-operation

- local consultants for important sources
- specialists for individual sectors (energy, industry, transport, refinery, agriculture....)
- Institutes, research and prognostic workers, private organisations.....

6.2. What are the indicators?

National emission information system

- System for collection and recording of air pollution sources data - information database
- stationary sources of pollution
- data separation by thermal output and selected technologies
- using of CO2 emission factor by type of fuel and technology (advantage)

Statistical findings (Statistical Office):

- fuel consumption for electricity and heat generation,
- fuel enrichment processes,
- amount of electricity and heat production,
- sales and distribution of fuels, etc.
- results of these findings are used for energy balance calculation as well as for the international statistics.
- Results of energy statistics can be used for GHG emission inventories (Statistical yearbooks, Energetics publications...)
- Other statistical data and administrative information which are collected by ministries and central state bodies -consumption of fuels, electricity and heat,
- Usage of average CO2 emission factor only (disadvantage)
- Usage of unofficial data(other sources) – enhance of uncertainty, double-counting....

Input data from the source operators

- impossible to obtain data from all sources
- from important large sources only
- need additional data from other sources
- usage of CO2 specific emission factors by type technology (advantage)

CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.