

“The role of NGOs in Contributing to Sustainable Transport Policies”

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Center for Environment

- * Established in 1999;
- * Seven program areas: Waste, Transport, Energy and Climate Change, Genetically Modified Organisms, Biodiversity and Protected Areas, International Financial Institutions and Sustainable Communities;
- * Working on transport issues since 2002;
- * Implemented several projects on transport (promotion of sustainable transport, promotion of bicycle as a mean of transportation etc.);
- * Ongoing campaigns – “Two wheels are enough”, “Leave my bicycle alone”, “European Mobility Week” (National Coordinators);
- * Documentary movies (most recent “Speed Of Life”)
- * Members of: European Mobility Week initiative and Transport & Environment association.



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Campaigns

Two Wheels are Enough

- * Continuously organizing promotional bike rides thru the city of Banja Luka;
- * Involvements in developing strategic plans for cycling infrastructure development and following implementation of strategic plans;
- * Working on national traffic safety legislation;
- * Continuous work with media.



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Campaigns

Leave My Bicycle Alone

- * Reaction to decision of City Government to move cyclists from the only recreational zone in Banja Luka;
- * Pushing for finding solution thru dialog for more than a year;
- * Non-formal group consisted from governmental representatives, NGO sector and experts created after Round table organized by CFE within project supported by European Commission.



European Mobility Week

- * 2002 Started in Bosnia and Herzegovina (National Coordinator: Ministry for spatial planning, civil engineering and ecology of Republic of Srpska);
- * 2002 – 2008 Center for Environment (CFE) continuously organized events;
- * 2008 - Present CFE National Coordinators for EMW.



Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- * A small number of NGO's dealing with environmental and transport issues;
- * NGO's work and capacities should be improved in order to be recognized as strong and reliable partners for Governments and other stakeholders;
- * NGO sector should play an important role in raising awareness of citizens regarding new policies development in order to enable them to react on it and to influence its changes and improvements;
- * Governments should realize that NGO should be included in policy development

in order to help citizens to accept those policies and to ensure successful implementation.

Opportunities

- * Government-NGO partnership is growing;
- * EU integrations is a positive process that supports greater attention to environmental and sustainable development issues.



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Role of NGOs

What we should do?

- to articulate needs of people respecting the nature;
- to be proactive;
- to work on cause of the problems, not only on consequences of the problems;
- to not be afraid of articulating criticisms to the national or local governments or other stakeholders – because it is the only way to build sustainable future.

What do we expect from governmental structures?

- to see us as partners not opponents;
- to be more open for active involvement for NGOs in decision making processes;
- to realize that criticisms may be seen as constructive suggestion.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATENTION



“If there is a will, there is a way“

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