## The role of urban forests in the environmental preservation:

Attitudes of citizens towards greenery of Novi Sad legal and institutional aspects



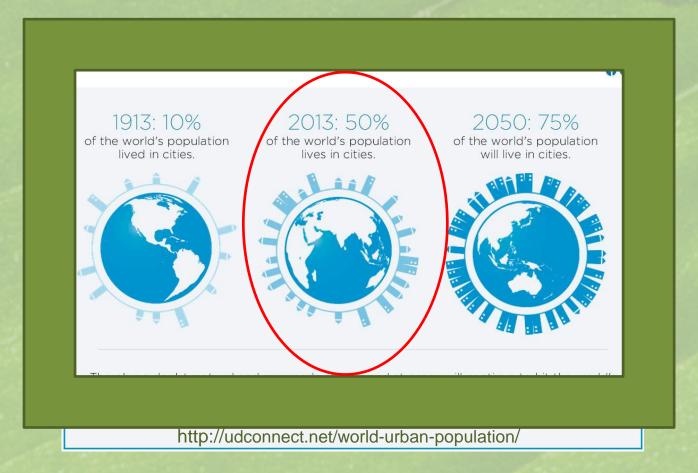
University of Novi Sad



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Savčić Bojana, Kardelis Milota, Lukić Nenad, Kulić Andrea, Orlović Saša More than a half of the world's population lives in the cities...



... urban forests are important segment of (their) everyday life

#### **Urban forests**

- No unique definition
- **Urban forest** is a space where high woody vegetation dominates, it is accessible for city resident by foot, bicycle or public transportation, and it has primarily social and ecological purpose.
- **Urban forestry** is the management of planted and/or naturally occurring trees in urban areas and urban-interfaces areas and, it is also the art, science and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological, economic and aesthetic benefit trees provide society.

- The role of urban forests in the environmental preservation assessed from the **social science perspective**.
- International project: "Citizens and urban forest governance in South East Europe: Case studies in selected cities (FORCITY)"
- Project part: example of Serbia and the city of Novi Sad, aspects:

#### Part I:

Attitudes of citizens toward green areas in the city of Novi Sad

#### Part II:

Legal and institutional
aspects related to
urban forests
(local, regional and state level)

#### **Presentation content**

#### Part I:

# Attitudes of citizens towards greenery of Novi Sad

**The aim** of the study: to reveal attitudes of the interviewed citizens of Novi Sad respective green areas in the city.

#### Data collection: survey.

Structured face-to-face interviews, questionnaire developed after focus groups, three segments of questions (attitudes toward current situation, toward problems and socio-demographic characteristics of respondents), Linkert-scale.

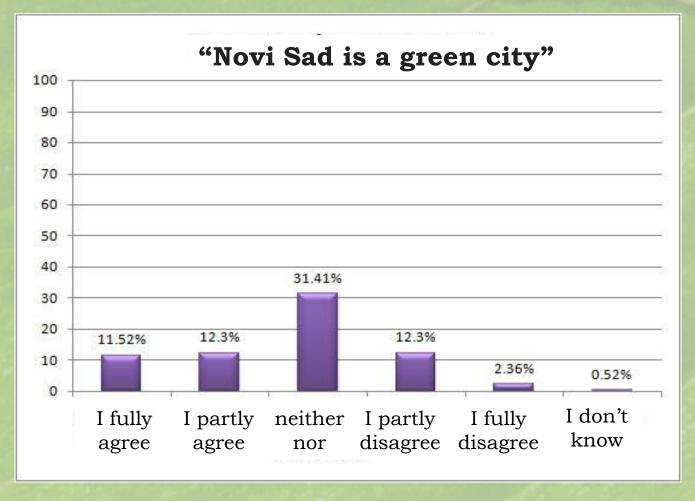
**Survey:** July to September 2012, controlled random sample of 382 respondents (15+), from all parts of the city, balanced gender.

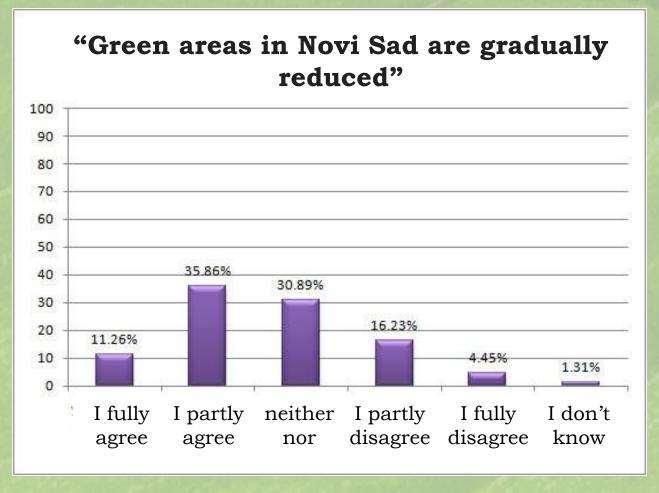
#### **Analysis:**

answers statistically processed, critically analyzed

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Problems:

Parking on the green areas

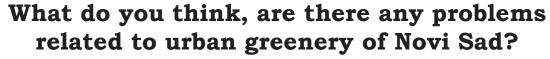
Vandalism

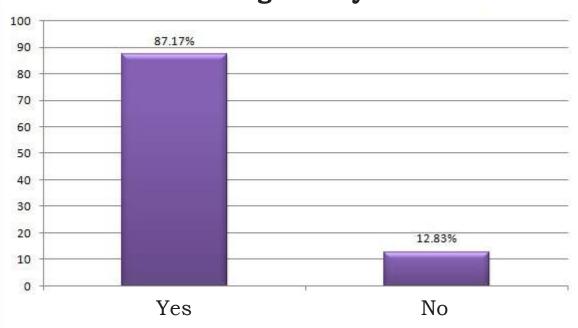
Traffic noise

Insufficient illumination

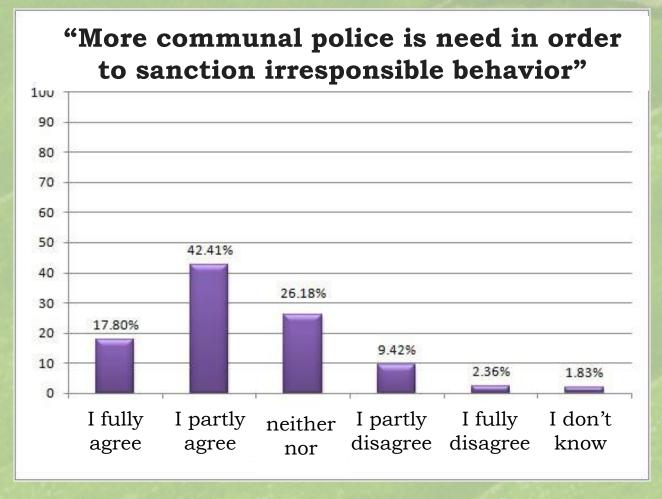
Lack of bicycle lines

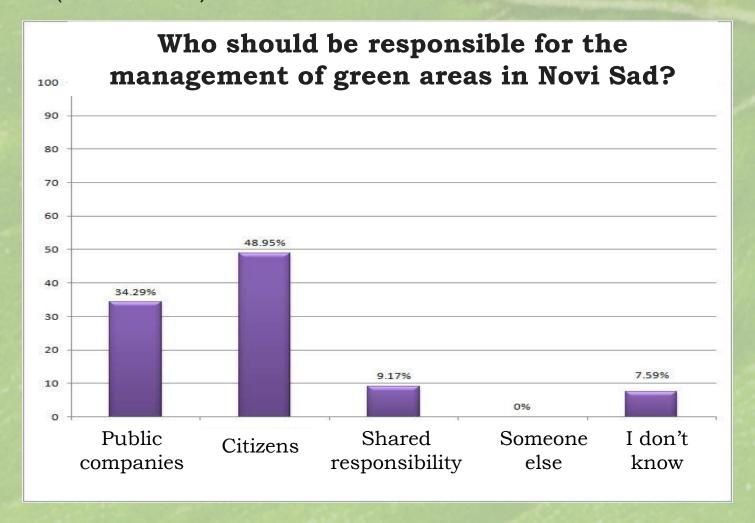
Lack of sufficient park infrastructure

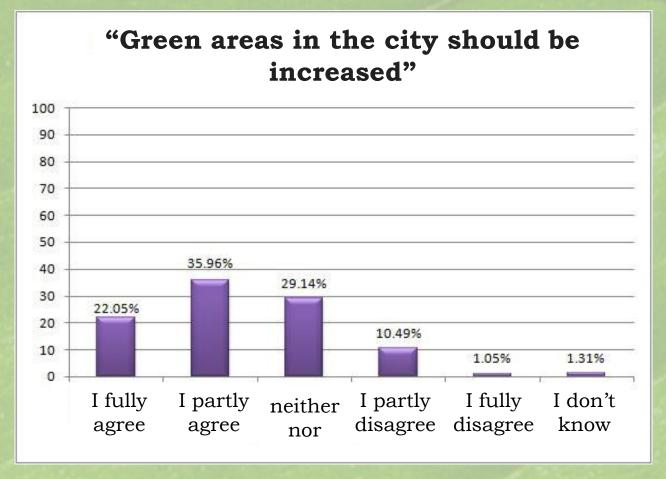




In the second part of the survey respondents evaluated problems they are faced with as users of the green areas in the city. Survey clearly appointed which problems are the most common (ranked by the range of importance).







Part II:

### Legal and institutional aspects

#### **Aims** of the study:

- to reveal which institutions are in charge of urban forests and who claims to have responsibility for their management and protection (state, province and local level)?
- to reveal whether legal documents address urban forests and greenery in Serbia and is this term used by professionals who work in this field?

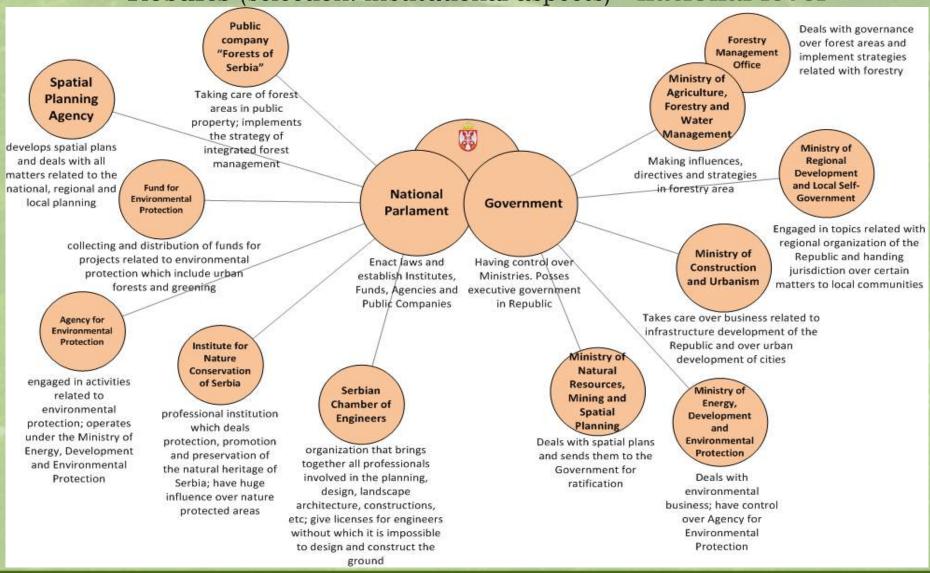
**Data collection**: document analysis and semi-structured face-to-face interviews with institution's representatives; reference period 2012

Analysis: data is critically analyzed, with the help of triangulation, inductive and deductive reasoning and other techniques commonly applied in social sciences.



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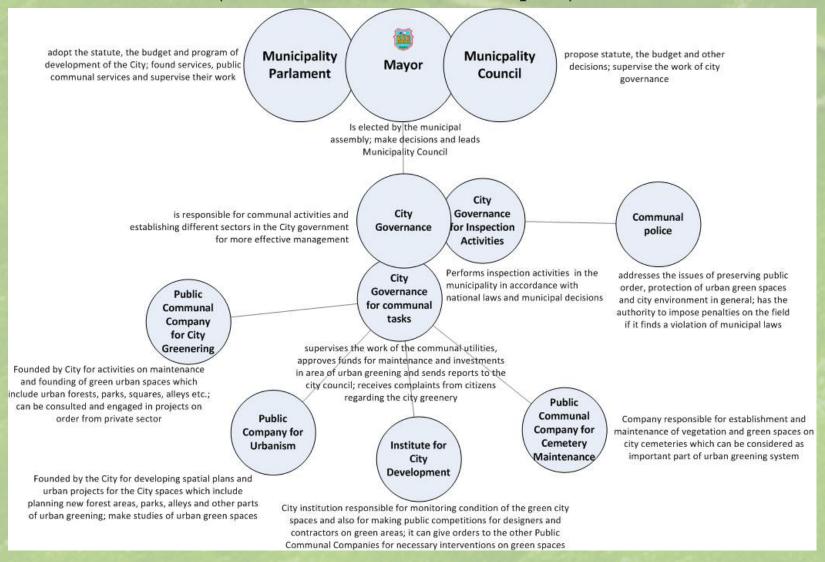
#### Results (selection: institutional aspects) - national level



#### Results (selection: institutional aspects) - provincial level

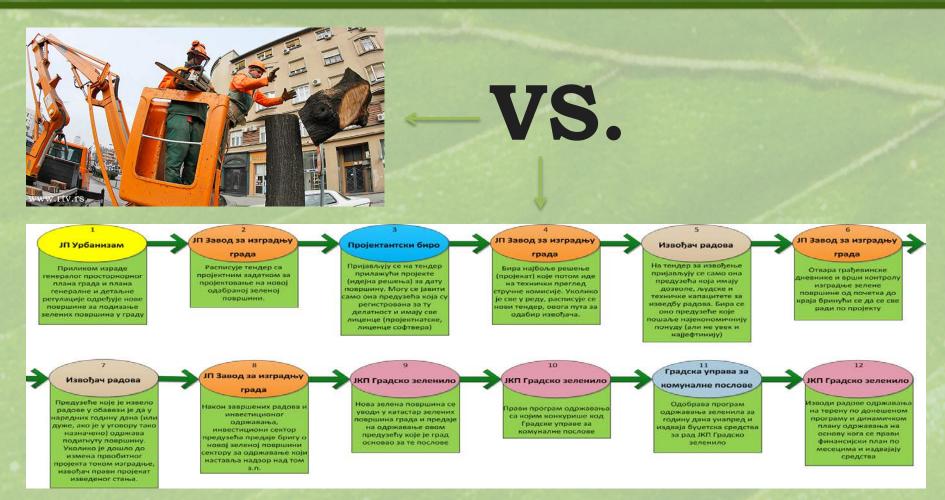
Having activities on Province Public governance, protection and Secretariat for development of forest areas Company Agriculture, which are located in Province "Forests of Forestry and area: forestation of unused Vojvodina" Water surfaces Management Public provides general guidelines for the Company development and improvement of "Waters of forests in province region Vojvodina" Provincial Give orders for **Province** Province development of spatial Executive **Province** Secretariat for Taking care of protective **Parlament** plans to Province Council forests and greening located Institute for Urbanism, Institute for Urbanism: near rivers and irrigation Environment Construction performs tasks entrusted and systems which include by the Republic Protection **Environment** planning and maintenance ministries; have influence executive authority of the highest Protection on urban regeneration Protecting natural and Province. For its work is representative body and making of health valuable areas, parks, responsible to the Parlament of the Province. urban environment forests and individual of Vojvodina, and his work is Assembly consists of trees in Province region defined within the 120 deputies officially **Province** jurisdiction of the elected Institute for Secretariat for Constitution of the Republic Lowland Interregional of Serbia and Vojvodina **Province** Forestry and Cooperation Statute Institute for **Environment** and Local Self-Urbanism Government Forecasting and diagnostic Making regional, special and supervise the legality of the acts of the services of pests outbreaks in local spatial plans and projects local authorities in Vojvodina; forests and urban green spaces; which include ensuring new developing interregional cooperation design and implementation of spaces for forests and city and encourage usage of European Union new technologies in the lowland greening funds for environmental projects etc. forestry and agroforestry systems

#### Results (selection: institutional aspect) - local level



- -It is surprising how many different institutions affect this issue
- But even **professionals** who are in charge in this field are not completely sure which institution is exactly responsible for what job.
- -Some positive improvements are visible in the adoption of new, **more adequate laws**, with greater financial means

But...



... but, citizens are beginning to realize that a healthy environment is extremely important for the quality of life for all of us and that the urban forests and greening are one of the relevant factors of that environment...





### THANK YOU!

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Univerzitet u Novom Sadu



Institut za nizijsko šumarstvo i životnu sredinu