

Ecosystems in an urbanising world: Challenges and opportunities for symbiosis  
Pitch on urban planning, governance, and decision making tools,  
NL Pillar Hall (Sunday 25.08.2018., 14:00-15:30)



# Is really ecosystem development hand in hand with urbanization?

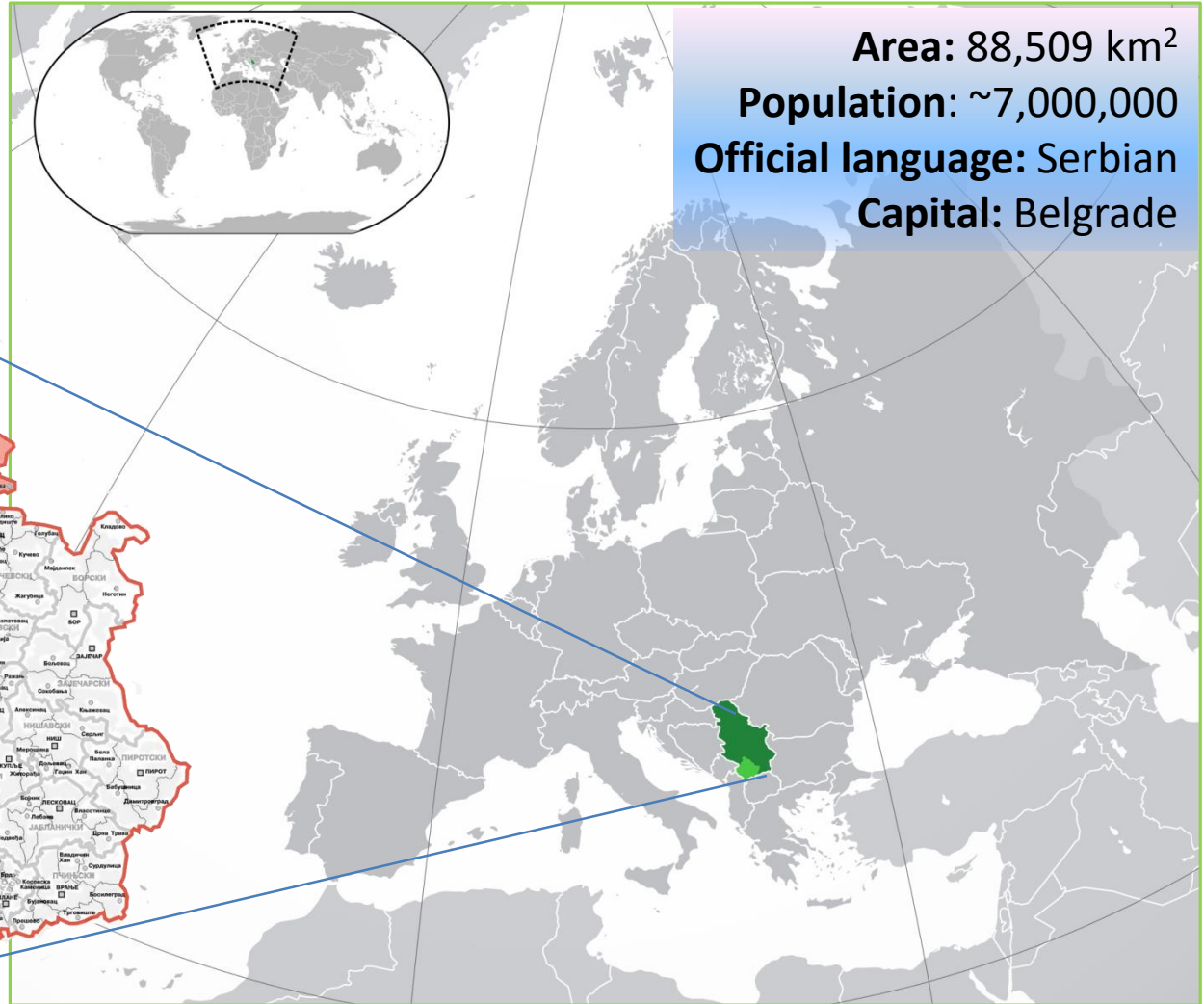
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# Serbia in the World

**Area:** 88,509 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population:** ~7,000,000  
**Official language:** Serbian  
**Capital:** Belgrade



**VOJVODINA**  
Province

**NOVI SAD**  
(Case study)

**BELGRADE**

# THE NOVI SAD CITY



Serbian City Novi Sad is experiencing problems in managing its ecosystems, affected mainly by urbanization, institutional organization and societal behavior.

Earlier research indicated options to improve maintenance of parks, distribution of fresh and purification of polluted water, fostering resilience of ecological systems, and reducing and protecting the environment.

There is a need to explicitly relate urban and ecosystem development indicators with management of city areas covered by public parks, to quantify their mutual impact and to trace the road toward synergy.

Way forward is foreseen as to implement participative decision-making framework to motivate residents to work hand-in-hand with institutions. Awareness that hesitancy of participants will influence judging criteria, attributes and action options led to the conclusion that proper scientific methodology for group decision making will be needed as an instrument to support the process.

Participative decision-making framework is required to motivate residents to work hand in hand with institutions.

The hesitant analytic hierarchy process methodology for multicriteria decision-making is applied to derive priorities of urban and ecosystem development indicators.

*/'hesitant' here means 'uncertain', 'unsure', 'doubtful', but in a way also 'sceptical', 'reluctant'/'*

Applied methodology is considered adequate because it manipulates qualitative and quantitative decision elements, commonly expressed in non-commensurate units, and because it provides trustful environment for involved participants while making decisions.

Priorities of indicators, once determined by stakeholders/interest groups will enable focused discussion towards reaching consensus between representatives of authorised city bodies and professional experts (including academia experts) regarding recommendations to be given to the city government on how to harmonize urban and ecosystem development.

Outcome of the process will expectedly be an answer to the question **Is really ecosystem development hand in hand with urbanization?** and this should trace the strategy how to achieve it in sustainable and synergistic way.