

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ECOLOGICAL TRUTH

Petar Paunovic¹, J. Sokolovic^{2*}

¹Rajac School of Health, Vuka Karadzica 49, 19314 Rajac, Negotin, SERBIA

²University of Belgrade, Technical Faculty in Bor, Vojske Jugoslavije 12, 19210 Bor, SERBIA

*jsokolovic@tfbor.bg.ac.rs

Abstract

On the occasion of June 5, the World Environment Day (WED), in 1993, the first ecological symposium "Our ecological truth" was organized in Zajecar. The main goal of this meeting is conceived as the possibility to start activities and discussions on ecology and ecological problems in the conditions of war and social crisis, poverty and scarcity of every kind. Soon after its establishment, "Our ecological truth" slowly transformed into the ecological movement of the Timocka Krajina. It has become a major driver of environmental activities in the political, scientific, professional and social level. In the last two and a half decades, "Ecological truth" has evolved and gone through various phases: from a national meeting to an international conference. Ecological truth has its own mission, which meets every year. Its strength is reflected in its successful living and being held every year in the 21st century. One of the basic tasks of the author of this lecture is an analysis of the achieved results in the period from 1993 to 2017.

Keywords: WED, 1993, Conference, Ecology, Twenty-five years, 2017

INTRODUCTION

Preparing for this lecture, the authors were considering whether the twenty-five years of the continuous duration of the "Ecological Truth" was a long enough time to cast a glance back and to find out which one of the benefits of such a scientific conference of international reputation was used, and how far the development of ecological idea has gone and which way it should go further. Furthermore, is something like that so necessary at all today, when the "Ecological Truth" continues its way on, as before?

For the first time, such a backward look was made after ten such conferences [1]. It was quite a lot of work that needed to be done: regarding the definition of ecology and harmonization of ecological terms and concepts, expert-methodological and essential approach to ecology as a science and the possibilities of its use in everyday life.

Ecology is a young science, with an interesting history. The term "ecology" was first used by Ernst Hekel, a follower of the great Darwin, defining it through the relations with the surrounding environment including, in the broadest sense of the word, all the existential relationships of living beings and the environment [2]. Ecology is the science of life, which provides the scientific basis for the protection of nature.

The term human ecology is also used, most often when it comes to ecological analyzes and activities that go hand in hand with the leading political elites and modern economies and their institutions, in order to maintain production that is harmful to the environment and when it wants to maintain an environmentally harmful order - homo tehnicusa [3].

The definition of ecology and functioning of the ecosystem is also found in the "Framework of Life" [4] of our scientist Sinisa Stankovic, born in Zajecar.

WHAT PRECEDED THE ECOLOGICAL TRUTH?

Hygiene - medical ecology

In the sixties of the last century, at the time when the development of industrialization took place, it was necessary, within the framework of the program of "reconstruction and development of socialism" in Yugoslavia, to build factories, restore mines, build electric power plants, railways and roads in the Timok region, to restore the economy as a whole, and to increase the production especially in Bor and Majdanpek. We will here also mention the impacts on the nature, life and health of the population that were created by the construction of the HPP "Djerdap I", where the interventions on the Danube and the coast were such that they significantly influenced the flora, fauna and population both on our and Romania's side. At that time, the ecological fate of this area was altered.

At that time, the Institute of Hygiene in Zajecar was founded with a purpose to monitor the impact of the environment on human health, at first, in industrial plants, and later to spread out, to control the impact of air, noise, lighting and temperature in the manufacturing plants on the health of workers, and later the quality of toxic gases and wastewater from industrial plants and other harmful effects on the environment. Doctors were sent to specialize hygiene, a medical science with attributes of medical ecology. The institute was equipped with adequate equipment, it employed technicians, chemists and toxicologists and gave the first results regarding the state of the environment in the Timocka Krajina area.

Bor mine - the biggest polluter of the environment in Yugoslavia

The results of laboratory investigations of the quality of air, watercourses and soil clearly show that in the seventies, Bor and his surroundings were the most polluted and most devastated space in Yugoslavia. The Timok river became a collector of industrial waters of the Bor copper mine, in which every form of life ceased to exist. It should be said that the Timok river was at the same time a collector of wastewaters from the industry and cities of Knjazevac, Zajecar and Boljevac. During the spring floods, the Timok was poisoned by poisonous pyrites and permanently destroyed fertile soil from the Vrazognac river to its confluence in the Danube from year to year. The peasants from Brusnik, Bracevac, Tamnica, Rajac, Rogljevo and Kovilovo have remained without more than a thousand hectares of fertile land. The peasants from the Bulgarian villages, downstream of Bregovo, suffered damage too.

As far as the Bor mine is concerned, in all the reports and analyzes, which always had the significance of the political message, there were always just praises. *No harmful impacts on the environment, nor a proposal for measures to stop further degradation of nature and sanitize the consequences.* A similar situation was in Majdanpek. The Country needed copper and gold. The political and economic elites in Yugoslavia were satisfied.

Ecological incidents, rebellions and meetings

The peasants, who were partly miners in nearby mines and factories in the cities nearby, weren't satisfied with the progress of industry and mining in the Timok region. After World War I, the development of mining in this region caused the degradation of the land and the great dissatisfaction of the population due to such destruction of nature and fertile soil. It was the reason for the peasants' rebellions in the surrounding of Bor, below Rtanj and in the vicinity of Vine. Thus, the "Bulletin of the Moravian Banovina Chamber of Commerce" published in the number 3, January 1, 1939, the following article: *"The coal mine Rtanj*

discharges its coal mine black water in the Mirovstica River, and further into the Black River. From polluted water, the fish died and the animals were killed, especially during drought. Taking this into account, our chamber has threatened the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Banks, asking to protect the interests of agriculture in this region [5]"

Much worse situation was in the vicinity of Bor and along the Bor river and in the vicinity of other mining and industrial plants between the two wars. On May 7, 1935, the following was written about the rebellion of peasants from the Bor region in the Letopis Bor Parrohi and the Church: „*On that day, peasants from Bor, Slatina, Krivelj, Ostrelj, Brestovac, Bucje, Metovnica and Bela Reka, with skillful concentration and sudden attack, stopped the operation of the copper smelter in the Bor mine after they had beaten some of the personnel in the smelter and banned the work. They were desperate and forced to do it because of the destructive effect of poisonous smoke from the smelter on their crops, soil and cattle. From that day till the 31st of May the smelter did not work, so there was the grace to watch the plants develop and the fields covered by greenery. In the absence of toxic smoke from the smelter, farmers' crops began to progress and even some birds that had not existed before appeared, and with their tweetment, gave life and joy to nature. But on June 1, the Smelter started working again and the smoke from it began to cover, with the fading death, trees, grass, fields, and even the birds under its influence were expelled. - Ah! When will the poisonous effect of this smoke finally disappear ? When the righteous desire of the peasant will be fulfilled, that the smoke does not destroy the soil, his cattle and his health! [6]"*

After the demolition of a dam on the lake where waste waters and pyrite from the mine in Majdanpek were collected, the village of Debeli Lug and the coastal area flooded to the mouth of the river Pek into the Danube. Residential buildings, stables and yards in Debeli Lug were flooded with toxic wastewater and pyrite, arable land was endangered and living world was destroyed in the water of the Pek River and the Danube.

In the mid-seventies of the 20th century, the communal environment of Zajecar was burdened with industrial pollution from a glass factory, from steam locomotives at the railway station and individual fireplaces. The public was especially harassed by the pollution from industrial plants in the glass factory. In those years, the measurement of air pollution in the communal environment started. After three years of measurement, it was shown that the air was polluted by the contents of the vapor from the glass factory, and it was ordered to take measures to reduce the pollution. There were suggestions that the train station should be moved to another location, thus reducing air pollution by smoke from steam locomotives. This did not happen because they were soon replaced by motor trains. In Bor, the situation was even worse, because the intensity of pollution in the municipal environment of industrial gases was above the maximum allowed concentration every day.

The situation was not improved much, so the population's dissatisfaction led to an ecological meeting in the center of Zajecar in the early 1990s, attended by about 3000 people. A few days later an ecological meeting was organized in Bor, too [7].

Such a public opinion process was inspired by the increased involvement of professional institutions from Zajecar and Bor, in solving the ecological crisis in the Timocka Krajina area and establishing an environmental tribune "Ecological Truth".



Figure 1 Ecological meetings in Zajecar and Bor

The Stockholm Conference in 1972 and her echo in the Timocka Krajina

The first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm in 1972. This Stockholm Conference marked a milestone in the relationship between humanity and the environment. The first day of the Conference in Stockholm, June 5, was proclaimed World Environment Day (WED). From this Conference, a malicious, apocalyptic message spreads, that if the pollution and destruction of nature, continues at the same pace, life on earth will disappear in the next 50 years! Warning alarm was on as a reminder that natural resources can not be exploited uncontrolled and excessively without consequences for the overall humanity is included. In the focus of interest, The "polluters", that are protected by politics, were found in the focus of interest in the whole of the Timok River basin, and across the hill, in Majdanpek. Cadastres of polluters were being made rapidly. At first, the state was satisfied that "polluters" were paying expensive ecological taxes, because of the damage they do on nature. Problems for solving are very complex and expensive for interventions on obsolete technologies and doing their harmful effect to nature more tolerable. The problems caused by the development of all cities and the urbanization of the Timocka Krajina region should be also added to all this. There was a need for the problems arisen by the intensive industrialization of the Timok region to be restricted by creating institutions and strategies based on science in the field of nature protection from industry and degraded technologies.

Echo of the Conference in Rio in 1992 - new approaches to ecology

The Rio de Janeiro Conference, twenty years after the Stockholm conference, has focused on preserving natural values, especially on biodiversity. While the first was concerned with environmental issues, the other had environmental and developmental issues and was known as the World Earth Summit. The global concept of sustainable development has been officially accepted and adopted at this conference [8].

The Institute for Health Protection "Timok" in Zajecar introduces a new philosophy in the ecology of the Timocka Krajina region, which also reflects on the contents of the work of "Ecological Truth". At the time when this was not taken into account in Serbia, and when many did not know what is biodiversity, the Institute initiated and organized the scientific conference "Our Ecological Truth", thus drawing attention to new approaches to ecology.

The following attitude is taken into account: it is better to protect natural biodiversity more effectively than to lead a war with "polluters". So the issue of ecological education came to the agenda. The results of the research unambiguously indicated low ecological awareness among the population and insufficiently developed health culture.

The Institute offered the school system the Ecological education program, which began to be applied in some secondary schools in Bor and Zajecar. Elementary school in the village of Krivelj had organized for several years "School of ecology" in the village of Gornjane, where pupils of elementary schools from several cities from Serbia and Vojvodina came. The papers about ecological education referenced in a series of scientific conferences of "Ecological Truth" is a proof of the echo the Conference in Rio had in our area.

Community for Science and "Ecological Truth"

Nikola Sainovic started the founding of the Society for Science in Bor in 1986. The first scientific project for the protection of the human environment was related to the so-called. «Floodplain», created after the construction of the hydroelectric power plant "Djerdap I".



Figure 2 Participants of the "School of ecology" in the village of Gornjane

It was hosted by several institutions and researchers, led by Academician Vojislav Petrovic, professor of biology, born in Krajina, a former professor of Negotin Gymnasium. Several doctors from the area of the Timok region, who wanted a taste of the eternal grail of science, were also included in a large team of experts of the project. A microbiologist, a toxicologist and a doctor of preventive medicine were engaged in the Institute for Health Protection "Timok" Zajecar, together with the Institute for Copper in Bor and the Technical Faculty in Bor and the Institute seriously began to deal with ecology. We had laws, a science community, institutions, but there was something else missing: an environmental forum where research results, environmental ideas, research approaches, discussions, research and interventions in a damaged nature could be presented. And most importantly, to offer efficient expert solutions to factories and the state and to facilitate the implementation of environmental laws.

What was at first interesting was the fact that researchers began to pay attention to the risks and health-related hazards caused by industry and technology. And not only that. The presence and engagement of the Institute in Zajecar has contributed to the protection of nature with special values: moral, institutional and scientific.

During participation in the work of the Community of Science, Rade Kojdic - Cica, Director of the Institute of Copper Bor, Director of the Institute for Health Protection "Timok" Zajecar, Dr Petar Paunovic, and Toplica Marjanovic from Bor, initiated an initiative for holding a scientific-professional conference "Our Ecological Truth", later "Ecological Truth", today "Ecological Truth and Environmental Research" every year.

The first Conference entitled "Our Ecological Truth", was held on June 5, 1993 in Zajecar. The representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, local governments,

businesses, NGOs, the media and doctors of medical centers of the cities in the region of Timocka Krajina took part in the conference. The papers from this scientific conference were published in the Journal "Razvitak" in Zajecar.



Figure 3 Journal "Razvitak" from 1993

Our Ecological Truth and Radioactive Waste from Vinca

Soon after its establishment "Our Ecological Truth", slowly began to transform itself into ecological movement of Timocka Krajina region. It has become a serious institution of ecological activities on political, professional and social plan. In the middle of nineties, during a scientific and expert meeting held on Bor Lake, Dr Jordan Aleksic, minister of Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, raised a question regarding the radioactive waste from Vinca, having a doubt that the waste had been deposited in the abandoned uranium mine in Kalna [9].

Kladovo Community has initiated the question of the Danube pollution by radionuclides from the waste waters coming from those European countries through which this big river flows. The community was also looking for a solution how to protect vegetable fields from the destruction caused by acid rains that are formed due to air which is polluted by the industrial emissions from the factories in Turn Severin, in neighboring Romania. This opened up a space for researchers and topics that found their place in the programmes of scientific – expert meetings of Ecological Truth.

LEAP - Local Environmental Action Plan

Numerous and varied activities in the field of environmental protection enabled the LEAP - local environmental action plan to be created at the beginning of a new time in 2000, in order to ensure the continuity of human environment protection. The largest number of municipalities in the Timocka Krajina region have made ecological plans under the state's directives, but they have not revived, due to the political and economic crisis. "Ecological truth" continued to live in spite of the war and the mentioned crisis.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ECOLOGICAL TRUTH

"Ecological Truth" is a traditional scientific-expert conference, today a conference devoted to environment, ecology, public health, sustainable development, and its primary goal is to raise ecological awareness. It has been held for 25 years and, most importantly, it fulfills this mission.

"Ecological Truth" began in 1993 as a national conference, later a national scientific with international participation, and today an international conference. In the past two decades, "Ecological Truth" has been developing and passing through certain phases of its development. However, the milestones in the development of the "Ecological Truth" are the following years: 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2003 and 2010.

In the spring of 1994, the Institute offered cooperation to the Society of Young Researchers and to the Mining and Smelter Basin Bor to jointly continue with the organization of this event. This was one of the crucial moments when the foundations of future organization and cooperation were laid. On this occasion, some strategic decisions were made:

1. "Our Ecological Truth" is to become a multidisciplinary scientific-expert conference on natural values and environmental protection, where the latest scientific, theoretical, expert knowledge and practical experience of experts of different profiles (engineers, doctors, biologists, geographers, free planners, economists, lawyers, pedagogues) will be heard.

2. At the same time, together with the "Ecological Truth", the "Days of Preventive Medicine of Timocka Krajina", which, by then, had already had a five-year tradition of organizing, is to be organized.

3. Apart from the Institute, some other scientific-professional, health and economic organizations as well as non-governmental organizations from Bor and Zajecar will be included in the organization of the Conference.

4. The Conference should become traditional and be organized in all the cities of Timocka Krajina.

According to the number of papers, authors and co-authors, as well as the participants, the second "(Our) Ecological Truth" was the most massive event to date. A Proceeding of abstract papers was prepared for the Conference (up to 2 pages per work).

Every next conference launched some new dilemmas and sought answers to new questions. Preparations for the third conference began with the question: Should such a Conference be organized each year? Do we have enough knowledge, readiness, organizational and financial capabilities? The solution was found in the establishment of cooperation between scientific-professional institutions, economy, local self-government and non-governmental sector, which ensured successful organization.

The next, in 1995, the co-organization of the conference includes the only state higher education institution in the Timocka Krajina region, the Technical faculty in Bor. The Technical faculty in Bor was actively participating in the co-organizing event until 2002, and since 2003, until today, it is the main organizer of the "Ecological Truth". During this period, the Technical faculty in Bor gave a great contribution to the realization of the idea begun in 1993.

In 1996, this scientific conference was named "Ecological Truth" on the proposal Assist. Prof. Dr. Goran Belojevic from the Institute of Hygiene of Medical Science in Belgrade, who was one of his regular participants.

In 1998, it brought some new things, which enriched the content and program of this event and brought it closer to the wider public. From the beginning, one of the basic goals of the Conference was the affirmation of the research work of young people. At the sixth meeting, in 1998, for the first time they had the opportunity to announce their papers to pupils and students within the special section "Scientific youth", and this idea was also accepted at other scientific meetings in Serbia.

The "Ecological Truth" was the only traditional scientific conference organized in wartime in 1999. It was held in Zajecar on the last day of the NATO bombing and on the first day of peace.



Figure 4 Participants of the "Ecological Truth" in Zajecar, 1999

Due to the great interest of many experts from the country and abroad, this conference was also developed in 2010, on its 18th birthday, for the first time held as international and for the first time out of East Serbia, in Vojvodina, in Banja Junakovic near Apatin. Accepted works are printed in English in Proceedings. The conference is called the International Conference "Ecological Truth", which is officially used by 2017. The late Prof. Dr. Zoran S. Markovic then stated: „*This is one of the multidisciplinary, international conferences in Serbia that has the official approval of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.*“

In 2010, from the previous co-organizers, only the Society of Young Researchers from Bor, with the presence of new co-organizers such as: West Backa Administrative District Sombor, Public Health Institute of Sombor, Vojvodina Forest of Sombor, Chamber of Commerce Novi Sad, DP „Agroinstitut“ Sombor, Municipality of Apatin and Sombor City.

Bearing in mind that in the realization and affirmation of the "Ecological Truth", various government, scientific-professional and numerous non-governmental organizations have participated from the very beginning, it is necessary to get acquainted with the nature and basic characteristics of the "Ecological Truth".

The basic characteristics of the Conference "Ecological Truth" are:

- **Science and expertise:** the main goal is the presentation of scientific and professional papers reviewed by the Scientific Committee. All papers were published in special Proceedings, which affirmed the participants and their ecological activities.
- **Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity:** the organizer's desire was to gather experts from different profiles at the same place and to share knowledge about the environment and people's health from the aspect of different sciences, and to point out the possible solutions to the same topic.
- **Actuality and adaptability to the needs of the time:** the number of different topics and sections in which it is dealt is that it is always searched for current scientific aspirations and practical needs of the society. Some sections expanded their scope of work and introduced new sections with contemporary content, for example, Since 2001, there has been a session on the Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAP), which became a special topic at the moment when we began to talk about these plans.
- **Affirmation of research work of young people:** since the first scientific conference special attention has been paid to the affirmation of the research work of young people.
- **Co-operation and capacity building of the local community:** the organization of such an event required the establishment of cooperation of the entire community. One of the goals was to achieve cooperation and strengthen the capacities of all sectors: government (local self-government), business sector, scientific-professional institutions and non-governmental organizations.
- **Publicity:** the conference is seen as an opportunity to inform the public about new scientific knowledge about the environment. Therefore, from the beginning, all the information was available to the media and used every opportunity to talk and write about it.

An analysis of the results achieved at the scientific-professional conference "Ecological truth" is one of the basic tasks of the author of this lecture. Tables 1 to 8 provide statistical analysis of results and events in the period from 1993 to 2017.

The number of published papers at the conference "Ecological Truth" from 1993 to 2017 is given in Tables 1 – 3.

The organizers and co-organizers of the conference "Ecological Truth" from 1993 to 2017 is given in Tables 4 – 6. The venue and the Presidents of the Scientific and Organizing committee of the conference "Ecological Truth" from 1993 to 2017 is given in Table 7. The number of authors and publications of papers at the conference "Ecological Truth" from 1993 to 2017 is given in table 8, too.

Table 1 Number of published papers on the national scientific and professional conference "Our Ecological Truth" (1993-2002)

SESSION	OUR ECOLOGICAL TRUTH										
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences										
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Σ
EI1. Plenary lectures	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
EI2. Technology and the state of environment	-	61	55	45	44	26	5	20	22	20	298
EI3. Protection and preservation of natural resources	-	33	18	12	20	18	13	21	18	13	165
EI4. Ecological education	-	11	11	8	21	6	11	20	10	13	111
EI5. Water accumulation – state, problems and perspectives	-	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
EI6. Use and water protection	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	8	11	12	48
EI7. Food and nutrition of the people	-	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
EI8. Nutrition and health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	10	10	32
EI9. Agriculture	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	10	8	38
EI10. Economy and environmental protection, standardization and homologization of standards	-	-	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
EI11. Ecological management	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	14	13	-	36
EI12. Urban ecology	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11	9	20	45
EI13. Sustainable tourism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
TOTAL EI	10	123	110	70	85	66	54	116	103	101	838
SESSION	DAYS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE OF TIMOCKA KRAJINA										
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences										
	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	Σ
PM1. Environment and health	-	12	18	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	34
PM2. Energy and health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
PM3. Migration and health	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
PM4. Demographic processes in SRJ	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	6	9	18	38
PM5. Preventive medicine	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
PM6. Preventive medicine in health protection today	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
PM7. Health of people during the last decade of the XX century	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
PM8. Prevention and suppression of chronic mass disorders of health – modern achievements	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	11	8	3	29
PM9. Social- ecological health model in theory and practice	-	-	-	-	12	7	-	-	-	16	35
PM10. Health education and social medicine	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
PM11. Hygiene	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
PM12. Epidemiology and microbiology	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
PM13. Modern ecological-epidemiological approach in solving natural focal infections	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
PM14. Quality control of immunization	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
PM15. Lyme, 20 years later	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
PM16. Microbes and people	-	-	-	9	7	11	6	15	14	7	69
TOTAL PM	0	96	36	34	22	26	14	32	35	44	339
SESSION	SPECIAL SESSIONS										
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences										
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Σ
PS1. Scientific and research projects	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	1	2	8
PS2. National and local ecological action plans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	8
PS3. Scientific youth	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	19	26	31	88
TOTAL PS	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	20	29	39	104
TOTAL PAPERS (EI+PM+PS)	10	219	146	104	107	108	68	168	167	184	1281

Table 2 Number of published papers on the scientific and professional conference on natural resources and environmental protection "Ecological Truth" (2003-2009)

SESSION	SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION "ECOLOGICAL TRUTH"							
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences							Σ
	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	
E11. Plenary lectures	4	2	1	1	1	1	5	15
E12. Protection and preservation of natural resources	23	16	14	14	14	17	18	116
E13. Technologies, wastes recycling and the environment	22	22	31	28	18	31	-	152
E14. Technological aspects – natural values and their protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
E15. Nutrition and health	5	5	13	3	5	6	10	47
E16. Agriculture	3	14	11	13	14	12	-	67
E17. Urban ecology	20	15	13	11	14	8	-	81
E18. Air protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
E19. Water supply and protection	10	10	19	9	7	7	7	69
E110. Land protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
E111. Energy efficiency	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
E112. Waste management and secondary materials recycling	-	-	-	-	12	12	-	24
E113. Ecological management	5	7	8	9	9	5	-	43
E114. Ecological ethics, ecological education, NGO and the environment	8	9	10	6	13	5	-	51
E115. Municipality and environmental protection	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	28
E116. Sustainable development	-	-	-	-	12	7	-	19
E117. Sustainable tourism	5	4	6	16	-	-	-	31
E118. Round table	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	9
TOTAL EI	105	104	126	113	122	119	105	794
SESSION	DAYS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE OF TIMOCKA KRAJINA							
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences							Σ
	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	
PM1. Socio-ecological health model in theory and practice	6	2		-	6		-	
PM2. Prevention and eradication of massive health disorders - the latest developments	3	15	12	-	5	12	-	93
PM3. Microbes and people (interweaving of macro and micro environment in all spheres of life)	5	-	-	-	-		-	
PM4. Demographic processes	14	4	9	-	-		-	
TOTAL PM	28	21	21	0	11	12	0	93
SESSION	SPECIAL SESSIONS							
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences							Σ
	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	
PS1. Scientific and research projects	-	3			-	-	-	
PS2. National and local ecological action plans	6	2	3	2	-	-	-	16
PS3. Scientific youth	16	23	-		4	5	12	60
TOTAL PS	22	28	3	2	4	5	12	76
TOTAL PAPERS (EI+PM+PS)	155	153	150	115	137	136	117	963

Table 3 Number of published papers on the International scientific – professional conference “Ecological Truth” (2010-2017)

SESSION	INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE "ECOLOGICAL TRUTH"								
	Ordinal numbers of Conferences								Σ
	XVIII	XIX	XX	XXI	XXII	XXIII	XXIV	XXV	
EI1. Plenary lectures	-	2	2	1	1	4	4	5	19
EI2. Protection and preservation of natural resources	10	10	18	10	7	8	7	5	75
EI3. Technologies, wastes recycling and the environment	26	26	24	29	30	47	40	31	253
EI4. Energy efficiency, environment and climate	6	6	1	5	7	7	8	-	40
EI5. Soil and water conservation engineering	10	-	10	13	4	-	19	8	64
EI6. Agriculture: agribusiness, agro-engineering and organic food production	5	5	2	-	5	7	8	-	32
EI7. Nutrition and health	4	-	1	4	-	-	5	8	22
EI8. Urban ecology	5	12	15	6	5	13	-	-	56
EI9. Water supply and protection	3	9	-	-	6	4	-	6	28
EI10. Ecological management (Law, economy, standardization)	3	6	5	13	13	6	17	7	70
EI11. Ecological ethics and ecological education	3	7	3	4	4	6	14	-	41
EI12. Environmental impact assessment	4	1	1	9	5	-	-	19	39
EI13. Eco tourism and sustainable development	3	4	4	3	3	7	-	7	31
EI14. Preventive medicine and ecology	5	14	4	7	6	7	6	-	49
TOTAL EI	87	102	90	104	96	116	128	96	819
SPECIAL SESSIONS									
PS1. Students' papers	1	6	9	4	-	-	-	-	20
TOTAL PS	1	6	9	4	0	0	0	0	20
TOTAL PAPERS (EI+PS)	88	108	99	108	96	116	128	96	839

Table 4 Organizers and co-organizers of the national scientific and professional meetings “Our Ecological Truth” (1993-2002)

ORGANIZER	OUR ECOLOGICAL TRUTH									
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
University of Belgrade, Technical Faculty in Bor			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institute for Public Health “Timok” Zajecar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Society of Young Researchers Bor		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institute for copper Bor		X						X		
RTB BOR Group		X	X							
Health Center Bor		X	X							
Ministry of Environment and Development SRJ		X								
Ministry of Environmental Protection RS		X								
Community of Negotin						X				
Center for Agricultural Research Zajecar						X	X	X	X	X
Ecological movement “Dubasnica”						X				

Table 5 Organizers and co-organizers of the scientific and professional conference on natural resources and environmental protection "Ecological Truth" (2003-2009)

ORGANIZER	SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION "ECOLOGICAL TRUTH"						
	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII
	EkoIst'03	EkoIst'04	EkoIst'05	EkoIst'06	EkoIst'07	EkoIst'08	EkoIst'09
University of Belgrade, Technical Faculty in Bor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institute for Public Health - Zajecar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Society of Young Researchers Bor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institute of Mining and Metallurgy - Bor							
Center for Agricultural Research Zajecar	X	X	X	X	X	X	
RTB BOR Group							
Health Center Bor							
Ministry of Environment and Development SRJ							
Ministry of Environmental Protection RS							
Community of Negotin							
Ecological movement "Dubasnica"							
University of Nis, Faculty of Occupational Safety Nis					X	X	

Table 6 Organizers and co-organizers of the International scientific – professional conference "Ecological Truth" (2010-2017)

ORGANIZER	INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE "ECOLOGICAL TRUTH"							
	XVIII	XIX	XX	XXI	XXII	XXIII	XXIV	XXV
	Eco-Ist'10	Eco-Ist'11	Eco-Ist'12	Eco-Ist'13	Eco-Ist'14	Eco-Ist'15	Eco-Ist'16	Eco-Ist'17
University of Belgrade, Technical Faculty in Bor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institute for Public Health - Zajecar		X	X					
Society of Young Researchers Bor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institute of Mining and Metallurgy - Bor		X	X	X	X			X
Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia - Belgrade		X	X		X	X	X	X
Bor Administrative District – Bor		X						
Community of Bor		X						
Touristic Organization "Bor" - Bor		X						
Students Alliance Bor - Bor		X	X		X			
West Backa Administrative District - Sombor	X							
Institute for Public Health Sombor	X							
"Vojvodina forests" Property of Sombor	X							
Regional Chamber of Commerce - Novi Sad	X							
Agriculture Professional Service - Sombor	X							
Community of Apatin	X							
Town Sombor	X							
RTB BOR Group				X				
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.				X				
Rakita Exploration Bor				X				
Geoling Group Beograd				X				
British-Serbian Chamber of Commerce				X				
University of Montenegro, Faculty of Metallurgy and Technology Podgorica, Montenegro					X			
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Metallurgy Sisak, Croatia					X	X	X	X
University Christian "Dimitrie Cantemir", Faculty of Management in Tourism and Commerce Timisoara, Romania					X	X	X	X
University in Banja Luka, Faculty of Technology, Banja Luka, RS, B&H							X	
University of Pristina, Faculty of Technical Science, Kosovska Mitrovica, Serbia						X	X	X

Table 7 Venue and the Presidents of the Scientific and Organizing committees

Conference	Venue	President of the Scientific Committee	President of the Organizing Committee
I	Zajecar		Petar Paunovic
II	Borsko jezero	Dr Rade Kojdic	Toplica Marjanovic
III	Borsko jezero	Dr Petar Paunovic	Zvonimir Milijic
IV	Kladovo	Prof. dr Nedeljko Magdalinovic	Ljubiša Đorđević
V	Donji Milanovac	Prof. dr Berislav Ristic	Toplica Marjanovic
VI	Negotin	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Srdan Markovic
VII	Zajecar	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Dušan Pejčić
VIII	Soko Banja	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Nadežda Nikolic
IX	Donji Milanovac	Prof. dr Zvonimir Stankovic	Predrag Marušić
X	Donji Milanovac	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Predrag Marušić
XI	Donji Milanovac	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Doc. dr Radoje Pantovic
XII	Borsko jezero	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic
XIII	Borsko jezero	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic
XIV	Soko Banja	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Prof. dr Milan Trumic
XV	Soko Banja	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Prof. dr Milan Trumic
XVI	Soko Banja	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Prof. dr Milan Trumic
XVII	Kladovo	Prof. dr Stevan Stankovic	Prof. dr Zvonimir Stankovic
XVIII	Banja Junakovic, Apatin	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic
XIX	Bor	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic
XX	Zajecar	Prof. dr Milan Antonijevic	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic
XXI	Borsko jezero	Prof. dr Radoje Pantovic	Prof. dr Radoje Pantovic
XXII	Borsko jezero	Prof. dr Milan Antonijevic	Prof. dr Radoje Pantovic
XXIII	Kopaonik	Prof. dr Milan Antonijevic	Prof. dr Radoje Pantovic
XXIV	Vrnjacka Banja	Prof. dr Dragana Zivkovic	Prof. dr Radoje Pantovic
XXV	Vrnjacka Banja	Prof. dr Zoran Markovic	Prof. dr Radoje Pantovic

Table 8 Number of authors and publications of papers

Conference	Number of authors and co-authors	Publication of papers		
		Publication	Number of pages	Format
I	20	Journal "Razvitak"	20	
II	410	Proceedings	300	B5
III	260	Proceedings	678	B5
IV	250	Proceedings	510	B5
V	230	Proceedings	572	B5
VI	200	Proceedings	492	B5
VII	100	Proceedings	346	B5
VIII	260	Proceedings	728+216	B5
IX	240	Proceedings	680	A4
X	300	Proceedings	662	A4
XI	314	Proceedings	560	A4
XII	291	Proceedings	672	B5
XIII	261	Proceedings	718	B5
XIV	210	Proceedings	619	B5
XV	267	Proceedings	746	B5
XVI	272	Proceedings	664	B5
XVII	252	Proceedings	452	B5
XVIII	213	Proceedings	539	B5
XIX	240	Proceedings	687	B5
XX	245	Proceedings	649	B5
XXI	301	Proceedings	717	B5
XXII	267	Proceedings	649	B5
XXIII	356	Proceedings	797	B5
XXIV	386	Proceedings	882	B5
XXV	278	Proceedings	682	B5
Σ	6423	-	15237	-

During the previous period, in these twenty-five scientific-professional meetings, including the Day of Preventive Medicine, 2915 papers were published in 30 different sections. In the section "Scientific Youth" 168 papers were published, which makes a total of 3083 papers. Also, twenty-five Proceedings (22 formats B5 and 3 A4 formats) were printed on a total of 15237 pages. The conference was attended by over 6423 authors and co-authors of papers and a large number of invitees, guests, journalists and interested individuals.

"Ecological Truth" was organized in 7 cities of Timocka krajina and 3 cities outside Timocka Krajina. The Organization was led by 12 Presidents of the Organizing Committee, while 10 prominent scientists chaired the Scientific Committees that took care about scientific and technical values of the Conference.

INSTEAD OF THE CONCLUSION

"Ecological Truth" is the only conference in this region, and wider, which has gathered all generations for the last twenty-five years, from pupils and students to professors and foreign research workers.

A large number of experts contributed to the success of the "Ecological Truth" from the Institute and from many other institutes and faculties, the Institute for Health Care in Serbia and other organizations, such as the "Society of Young Researches".

The Society of Young Researchers Bor has been one of the permanent co-organizers of the scientific-orifessional meeting "Ecological Truth" since the first conference in 1993. Since then, the co-organizers have been changed and among the large number of new co-organizers, the Society of Young Researchers Bor is the only traditional co-organizer.

A special contribution was made by the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade with its professors Mirce Obradovic and Spiro Radulovic, prof. Stevan Stankovic from the Faculty of Geography as a long-time president of the Scientific Committee, late prof. Zoran S. Markovic from the Technical Faculty in Bor and others.

In addition to scientific-professional work, special attention was paid to accompanying activities. The goal of numerous excursions was to get acquainted with the culture and natural heritage of eastern Serbia, and later Apatin, Kopaonik, Goc and Vrnjacka Banja. Participants of the event had the opportunity to get to know the beauties of the Lazarev canyon and the Zlotska cave, the Djerdap Gorge, the Bor Lake, the Moravica canyon and the thermo-mineral springs Sokobanja. Travelling by boat, they met the values of the Danube and cultural treasures of Kladovo, Apatin. They visited the first urban settlement in Europe, "Lepenski Vir", visited Rajacke pinnice, Sokograd, Jama, Vidikovac, RTB Bor, then museums in Negotin and Zajecar, the birthplace of Stevan Mokranjac and many other cultural sights.

Finally, we can say that "(Our) Ecological Truth" has great strength. Its strength is reflected in its successful living and being held every year in the 21st century.

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