

in collaboration with



ACTIS

in collaboration with the Environment Engineering group
presents

The Youth Encounter on Sustainability course
with an additional focus on Democracy, Privatization and Common Goods

Kostunici & Novi Sad – Serbia
29 June – 16 July 2012

YES is an initiative that builds a network of young leaders around the world in order to advance sustainability

Join us this summer for a once in a lifetime experience in Serbia

On our webpage www.acts-education.ch you will find general information on our YES courses, a 2012 program overview and the application form

YES Serbia 2012

The **Republic of Serbia** is a friendly and changing country, located in the Balkans, in South Eastern Europe. With a population of only 8 Million inhabitants and a size of some 88'000 sq Km it is the biggest country of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Serbia lies at the crossroad from Western Europe to the East, and as such it has a very vivid history and is composed of a mixture of many cultures.



The country with splendid landscapes, huge plains in the north and remote beautiful mountain areas in the south, was the bone of contention of almost all the European Kingdoms and Nations through history. The remarkable signs and traces of numerous conquest by and occupancies of Western European and Turkish Empires, are to be found all over the country: well restored great castles, huge fortresses over the Danube river, old palaces and beautiful churches in small medieval-type towns – all well preserved and today restored. The latest development of Serbia on its way from a low developed towards a modern, basically agrarian state, starts with the independence in 2003, when changed from the Republic of Yugoslavia to the Republic of Serbia. Serbs still preserving a traditional lifestyle outside of the bigger cities are warm and hostile people, especially towards foreigners. In towns you may find many younger people speaking English, German and French is spoken more likely by seniors.

During our YES program we will visit some of the famous cultural heritages, stroll through the old parts of Belgrade (2 Mio. inhabitants), Novi Sad (350'000 inhabitants) and some smaller towns in the South, and of course enjoy the natural beauty of the landscape and the rich national parks.

The Locations

Our seminar location is situated some 2.5 h from Belgrade International airport in a very remote, but beautiful mountain region of South Serbia, close to the City of GORNI MILANOVAC (40'000 inhabitants). In the middle of the dispersed settlement of the community of KOSTUNICI, surrounded by 30 ha free hilly land with sports and recreation areas and a spectacular view over valleys and mountains, we are accommodated in simple, but well amended block and chalet type wooden houses. Numerous smaller and bigger seminar and recreation rooms (indoor and outdoor), a big open restaurant space, and other facilities are at our full disposal. The site is operated by the cooperation of the villagers who take care for excellent local food, and help for exploring the area and arranging local side visits and activities.

For the last 4 days we will transfer to the Province of Vojvodina in the low lands of the country with its famous old province capital of Novi Sad. About 30 km outside of this 2nd biggest town of the country we will be accommodated in a modern governmental center in the middle of the beautiful national park of Fruska Gora Mountains, with very comfortable seminar, outdoor and rooming facilities.



For more information on SERBIA check under:
www.srbija.travel



The Program

As in all our YES courses we will touch upon and discuss all facets of the sustainability concept within a multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary context. Within the framework of a well elaborated systems approach we follow a modular concept that includes the main burning themes on climate & energy, food, water and health, biodiversity, policy making, the economic sector, and psycho-social aspects regarding consumption, attitude change, and ethics. Besides presentations from well selected university faculty members and experts, we will spend much time for discussions, case study work, small group activities, and exchange of experiences in our multi-cultural composition of the participants. Besides nature explorations we will visit small local production centers and factories.

The country of Serbia is on the turning point from a dictatorial socialistic towards a modern democratic system. It therefore provides an ideal showcase for many countries in our world today with equal or similar challenges. The way to more real democracy, and the quest to find the right balance between privatization and governmental operations, will guide us throughout the entire course in the frame of our special focus: **Democracy, Privatization and Common Goods**. Based on inputs from regional experts, onsite visits and discussions, we will address the following additional issues:

- To whom belong the land, the air, the environment, the natural resources, and who has what right in utilizing these externalities?
- What are Public Goods and how shall they be managed?
- What is the responsibility of the private sector, what rules, laws, and control mechanisms shall be applied? What's about CRS and who pays for damages?
- What is the value of nature, biodiversity, natural resources our human life depends on?
- How can we protect these basic goods for today and future generations, and who does what to reduce the risk of destroying them?
- What strategies shall be applied to create just and equitable societies, and how to involve and engage the citizens into a participative democratic decision making processes?
- How can we enhance social capital, increase human well-being with less materialistic growth and consumerism? Is the free market the right way to go?

During our stay in the heart of the impressive "Fruska Gora" Nationalpark, close to the city of Novi Sad we will deepen our understanding of the challenges concerning Common Goods, Privatization and Democracy. Representatives from the provincial and local government, private companies, and environmental NGO's will give us the opportunity to learn and discuss perspectives and views ,but also presenting us good and bad examples and its effects on society. During our 4 days stay in this modern, well equipped education center, we will also have the chance to do some nature explorations in this unique national park, and learn about an important part of European history by visiting the city of Novi Sad.





The Learning Model

The YES course Serbia combines practical experience with academic rigor, based on the newest findings regarding different sustainability fields and challenges. It will be facilitated by ACTIS faculty and renowned experts from the private and public sector. Teaching methods include lectures, cases, field trips, and workshops, as well as social and cultural activities, and visits to local companies and natural sights. The course builds on the YES teaching style and methodology, where participants are heavily involved in the delivery of content. The learning model includes an in depth team project, which helps creating capabilities in project management in an international, multicultural, and multidisciplinary group of peers.



Who should apply

The YES Serbia basic course with the focus on “*Democracy, Privatization and Common Goods*” is designed for upper level undergraduate (3d year minimum) and graduate (Masters and PhD) students, as well as young professionals from all regions, the private, public and NGO sector. Participants from any country and any field of study should demonstrate a high dedication to sustainability. The full program will be conducted in English and applicants must demonstrate a working proficiency in the language. Participants should not be below 22 and above 33 years of age.



Application Process

To apply for the YES course SERBIA, complete the separate application form and return it via email with the requested attachments to:

Dr. Roger Baud: roger.baud@actis-education.ch

Please enclose the following supporting documents along with your application form:

1. Your CV / Resume (max. 3 pages)
2. A short statement of motivation to attend the course (max. 400 words)
3. A letter of recommendation from your organization or from a professor.



Participation fee:

CHF 400.- for students from non-OECD countries (including all Eastern Europe & Balkan countries)

CHF 900.- for students from OECD countries

CHF 1'300.- for young professional (studies terminated / working)

Application Deadline:

April 10th, 2011

Early registration before March 10th benefit from a 10% discount

Our heavily subsidized fee covers all services from the arrival to the departure, including full board accommodation

