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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GREEN AGENDA OF SERBIA AND THE URBANIZATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURČIN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPO 2027 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract: *The construction of the National Stadium and the exhibition-residential complex "EXPO 2027" for the purpose of holding an international specialized exhibition is expected to generate positive effects on the Republic of Serbia. These benefits include the development of a new urban zone in Belgrade, located within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Surčin. At the same time, the development of road and railway infrastructure at this location will enable accessibility from all parts of the Republic of Serbia, which further reinforces the national importance of this capital investment, classifying it on a macro level as the most significant project in the modern history of Serbia. However, at the micro level—specifically within the Surčin municipality—the current state and future development in terms of environmental protection remain uncertain. This study aims to examine whether, and to what extent, the planned major investments will impact the quality of life of residents in the Surčin municipality, that is, whether the project "Expo 2027" will meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, reduction of environmental pollution - air, soil and water, and contribute to harmonization with the legal acquis of the EU in the areas covered by the Green Agenda: decarbonization, energy efficiency and reduction of industrial emissions. This study employed descriptive and comparative methods, as well as methods of analysis and synthesis, supplemented by statistical techniques where applicable. The financial aspects of the capital investment were not addressed in this paper.*

Keywords: Expo 2027, Serbia, Belgrade, Surčin, Green Agenda, land, water, air

1. INTRODUCTION

The specialized world exhibition "Expo 2027" will be held from May 15 to August 15, 2027, in Belgrade. Since the realization of the "Expo" requires a demanding infrastructure in terms of exhibition space, road infrastructure and accommodation capacities, the Belgrade municipality of Surčin was chosen as the most suitable location for the implementation of

the exhibition. It is anticipated that over one hundred countries will participate in "Expo 2027," an event regarded as having significant political, economic, touristic, and cultural importance for Serbia, but also for the entire region. However, within the Serbian public, various analysts discuss the upcoming "Expo 2027" primarily from a macro perspective, while considerations at the micro level, namely the municipality of Surčin as the place

of implementation, has not been analyzed. Thus, the question remains open: how, and to what extent, the World Exhibition will impact the quality of life of residents in the Surčin Municipality, and whether the “Expo 2027” project will achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement and contribute to the reduction of environmental pollution: air, soil and water, and contribute to the implementation Green Agendas in the Republic of Serbia.

2. GREEN AGENDA AND CAPITAL INVESTMENTS EXPO 2027 IN SURČIN

The Republic of Serbia is a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the Treaty on the Energy Community. The Green Agenda for the Western Balkans is a regional development strategy that aims to provide answers to the challenges of climate change, green transition, and to help the countries of the Western Balkans harmonize environmental regulations with European standards and norms. The key document for the implementation of the Green Agenda is the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Serbia for the period up to 2030 with projections up to 2050 - INEKP (Ministry of Mining and Energy, 2023). The goal of the Republic of Serbia is the effective implementation of the Green Agenda, in accordance with the goals of the Paris Agreement:

- Decarbonization, energy efficiency and reduction of industrial emissions,
- Circular economy for resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis,
- Protecting and investing in biodiversity and ecosystems,
- Reducing environmental pollution with a focus on air quality,
- Sustainable food systems and rural development.

In line with global trends—though still working to advance in the area of the Green Agenda—the Republic of Serbia is striving to modernize and enhance its economy and

society. Accordingly, in January 2022, the Government of Serbia submitted its bid to host the World Specialized Exhibition “Expo 2027”; Serbia showcased itself at Expo 2023 in Paris under the theme “*Play for Humanity – Sport and Music for All.*” Its innovative projects made a strong impression on audiences and drew significant interest from international visitors. Along with the USA, Thailand, Spain, and Argentina, Serbia stood out as one of the participants that attracted notable attention, Serbia was shortlisted to host Expo 2027, and in June 2023, Serbia was chosen to host Expo 2027, winning all four rounds of voting at the General Assembly of the International Bureau of Exhibitions in Paris (Government of RS, 2023).

The announced capital investments that are in the construction plan for the needs of holding “Expo 2027” are positioned in the municipality of Surčin, in the cadastral municipality of Surčin, in an undeveloped area that previously had the status of agricultural land. In the Local Sustainable Development Strategy of the Municipality of Surčin, which was adopted for the period from 2021 to 2030 (Municipality of Surčin, 2021), it was stated that the share of agricultural land in the territory of the city municipality of Surčin is 72.2% of the total area of its territory, i.e. 20,928.4 ha. According to the ownership structure, 4,479 hectares of the total agricultural land area are owned by the Republic of Serbia [3:25]. A part of this significant land area owned by the Republic of Serbia is located in the cadastral municipality of Surčin, in Donji polje, which is located south of the modern settlement of Surčin, towards the Sava River.

During the 20th century, Surčinsko Donje polje underwent several phases in terms of ownership relations and the ways in which its land resources were used. During the first decade of the 20th century, thanks to the capital investments made by the Cooperative for the Drainage of Southeast Srem, this once swampy and marshy area became protected land. With the construction of a flood-defense embankment and a canal network, the area was drained and transformed into pasture, a small portion of which

was converted into arable land by the mid-20th century (Aleksić, 2020). After the Second World War and the change in the social order, this land area was renamed as social property, from the 60s of the 20th century, and was given to the Belgrade Agricultural Combine (PKB), which turned it from pasture land into arable land. Since the 80s of the 20th century, with the construction of a water exploitation plant, the land of Surčin's Donji polje in the coastal belt of the Sava River has gained the status of a narrow protection zone of the Belgrade Waterworks. With the change in social organization that occurred in the 21st century, and ownership transformations, since 2018, the agricultural land that was previously used by PKB, for the most part, got a new owner, while a part of this land resource was retained by the Government of the Republic of Serbia (Aleksić, 2022). Today, the state-owned portion of land previously classified as agricultural has been reclassified as construction land, and the future "Expo 2027" is planned to be built on that location. According to the published plans "Leap into the Future Serbia 2027" (Government of the RS), the future exhibition space "Expo 2027" with the National Stadium and all accompanying facilities, were designed in Surčin on a total area of 243 ha. By the end of 2026, it is expected that the works on the first phase of construction will be completed:

- New interchanges - connections to the Miloš Veliki highway,
- New pier on the Sava for cruise ships and taxi boats,
- New city boulevards with all accompanying installations in a length of 10 km,
- Public parking lots with a capacity of 9,000 parking spaces.

Work on the construction of an innovative and modern exhibition complex designed to host over 2.5 million visitors, on an area of 25 ha, began in July 2023. In addition to the exhibition complex, there are other complexes that will significantly enrich the sports infrastructure of Belgrade and the Republic of Serbia, and primarily Surčin:

- The construction of the national stadium, which began in April 2024, with the agreed deadline for the completion of the works by the end of 2026, with a capacity of up to 52,000 seats, according to UEFA International Standards.
- Aquatics Center – a modern complex intended for water sports with accompanying superstructure, on 10 ha, with 4,000 seats, according to the standards of the International Swimming Association.

The residential area -Expo City, will be built with all facilities for a comfortable stay of the participants of the international specialized exhibition, on an area of 160,000 m², with a capacity of 1,500 apartments intended for housing 3,500 tenants. It is expected that the new 18-kilometer railway line from Zemun Polje to Nikola Tesla Airport and the "Expo 2027" site will be completed by the first quarter of 2026. This will form one line of the Belgrade Metro, which is planned to continue toward Obrenovac. All of the listed capital investments will be carried out by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on previously undeveloped land that had been classified as agricultural. For the purposes of implementation, the "Expo" site was reclassified as construction land.

3. SURČIN - CURRENT STATE AND PERSPECTIVES

The youngest municipality of the City of Belgrade, the Surčin municipality, was constituted on November 24, 2004. It was formed by separating from the municipality of Zemun, becoming the 17th municipality of Belgrade. The municipality of Surčin borders the Belgrade municipalities of Novi Beograd, Zemun, Obrenovac, Čukarica, and the municipality of Pećinci, which is part of the AP Vojvodina. Today's municipality of Surčin consists of seven settlements: Bečmen, Boljevci, Dobanovci, Jakovo, Petrovčić, Progar and Surčin. The territory of the youngest Belgrade municipality, Surčin, in the largest part of its total area, is today outside the borders of the General Urban Planning Project (GUP) of Belgrade. Only

the cadastral municipality of Surčin and part of the cadastral municipality of Dobanovci are included in the GUP, while other cadastral municipalities Boljevci, Bečmen, part of Dobanovci, Jakovo, Petrovčić and Progar are not included in the GUP.

According to the data published by Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (RZZS), between 1991 to 2024, there was a demographic growth in the settlements of today's municipality of Surčin. The increase in the number of inhabitants intensified after the formation of the Municipality, especially in the period from 2011, when 18,205 inhabitants were recorded (Vukmirović, 2014: 32), while today, when there are 45,386 inhabitants in Surčin (RZZS, 2024: 2). According to statistical data, the population of Surčin Municipality in 2024 increased by 59.86% compared to 2011.

By carefully observing the results of demographic statistics in the 2011-2024 period, it can be concluded that in the area of the entire municipality of Surčin, which consists of seven settlements, a disproportionate increase in the number of inhabitants was recorded in the settlement of Surčin itself. The reason for the dynamic demographic growth in the Surčin settlement cannot be attributed to natural growth, but is the result of population immigration (Ibid: 3). However, the problem of Surčin is that the communal and social infrastructure of this municipality has not kept up with the growth of the population, with the exception of the road infrastructure, which provides excellent connectivity between the territory of Surčin Municipality and other parts of Belgrade and the Republic of Serbia. The Pan-European Corridor 10 and the Bypass around Belgrade pass through the territory of the Surčin municipality, which connect the Surčin settlement with the urban parts of Belgrade, primarily the municipalities of Novi Beograd and Zemun. In recent years, Surčin's road connectivity has been further enhanced by the "Miloš Veliki" highway, which was constructed in a part of the municipality's territory not covered by the GUP. Surčin is connected to this highway by two connecting

roads. However, despite the traffic advantages that modern roads have brought to Surčin, the question remains: how have these many kilometers of roadway affected Surčin's environment, given that increased road capacity has led to a rise in the number of vehicles traveling through the municipality each day?

The intensity of traffic that currently circulates through the village of Surčin is extremely high. The likely reason for this is that the residents of Surčin cannot meet all their daily needs within the municipality itself, forcing them to use transportation every day to reach destinations outside Surčin. The reason for the daily migration of residents of Surčin is the observed shortcomings of Surčin municipality:

A particular problem for the population of Surčin is the insufficient capacity of health services in Surčin, where a modern Health Center was built only at the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century, which was opened in 2013 (Davidov-Keser). According to data from the City Institute for Public Health (2022: 11), the Surčin Health Center separated from the Zemun Health Center in 2011 and began operating as an independent health institution as of October 1, 2022. In 2022, in the municipality of Surčin, on average, there were 1,513 residents per doctor (Gavrilović, 2023: 305), which is unacceptably the lowest average in the entire Belgrade region. Apart from the insufficient number of doctors who provide primary health care to the Surčin population at the Surčin Health Center, it is important to highlight the fact that Surčin has neither a polyclinic nor a hospital. Therefore, the citizens of this municipality are forced to travel outside the territory of their municipality for secondary or tertiary health care, commonly to KBC "Bežanijska kosa" or KBC "Zemun".

There are no secondary schools or gymnasiums, nor any higher education institutions—such as colleges, academies, or faculties—within the territory of the Surčin municipality [11: 287, 295], and therefore, students from Surčin are forced to travel outside the territory of their municipality to continue their education after completing primary education.

The seriousness of the problem posed by the lack of educational institutions in Surčin is illustrated by the fact that in the school year 2021/22. In 2015, there were 156 classes with 3,671 students [11: 283] in the primary schools of the Surčin municipality, who, after completing primary education cannot continue their education in the territory of their municipality, but are forced to travel daily to other municipalities in order to attend classes.

Surčin lacks cultural institutions. There are no cinemas in the entire territory of the municipality of Surčin (Ibid: 302). Although efforts to revive the theater in Surčin (Janošević) have been ongoing for several decades, it allegedly started operating only in April 2024 (City of Belgrade). On the entire territory of the Surčin, as a legacy from the time of the SFRY, there is an Aviation Museum and two libraries: in Surčin and Dobanovci [3: 66], which, due to the mutual dispersion of settlements in the municipality, are generally not easily accessible to residents of other places in the Surčin Municipality. There is not a single gallery or exhibition space, nor a concert hall in the entire municipality. During the summer months, there is an open-air stage in the Bojčinska Forest, where the “Bojčin Cultural Summer” program is held.

With the construction of the Expo-residential complex, the number of apartments in Surčin will increase by 1,500 new residential units. It is planned that this settlement serves as a residential accommodation complex for the participants of the Expo. The Government of the Republic of Serbia has stated that it will reveal the future use of this neighborhood after the conclusion of the World Exhibition: whether it will be future “social housing” or the housing units will be offered to buyers on the free market. According to announcements, the “Expo” settlement will be able to host, that is, become a home for 3,500 residents. It was announced that this settlement in Surčin will be equipped with all the necessary communal infrastructure, but the publicly available information does not indicate that the settlement will be provided with all the necessary social infrastructure. In the announcements of the future “Expo” settlement,

the following points are not defined: health center, hospital, school, kindergarten, cinema, library, theater, etc. For now, it can be concluded that the urban project of the “Expo” settlement lacked projects that would satisfy all social segments that are needed for the daily life of people in the future “Expo” settlement. If the future “Expo” settlement is not provided with all the necessary infrastructure, it is essential that the future residents of this new settlement in Surčin rely on the existing social infrastructure, which currently does not meet the needs of the population of the Surčin municipality. With the additional influx of population into the Surčin municipality, without expanding the existing social infrastructure, the living conditions of current residents will inevitably deteriorate. Hence, the “Expo 2027” project, in the form it has been presented to the public to date, has a well-founded tendency to affect the overpopulation of Surčin, that is, lead to a decline in the quality of the social segment of people’s lives in this municipality.

In 2022, a total of 16,843 employed persons resided in the Surčin municipality. There were 371 employees per 1,000 inhabitants of Surčin [11:136]. Among the 17 municipalities of the Belgrade region, Surčin ranked 13th in terms of the number of employed persons per 1,000 inhabitants. In the category of unemployed persons, 1,108 unemployed persons were listed in Surčin, so that there were 24 unemployed persons per 1,000 residents of Surčin [11:156], which ranked Surčin second to last, in 16th place. In the category of average net earnings, excluding taxes and contributions, Surčin was in 13th place in Belgrade region in 2022, with an average earnings of RSD 66,688 [11:160]. It is important to point out that until 2017, Surčin was the first in the category of average salary in Belgrade, and that in that year there was a change in the method of calculating the average salary [3:54]. Until then, the average salary was calculated according to the employer’s headquarters. Thus, due to the highly profitable companies headquartered in the Surčin municipality—most notably “Nestle,” “Coca-Cola,” and “Air Serbia”—the average earnings

for the municipality were presented in an unrealistically high manner.

According to the new calculation, the average salary is calculated based on the place of residence of the employed person, so with the application of the new methodology for calculating average salaries, Surčin ranks at the bottom of the Belgrade region. However, since Serbian media, in the years prior to the adoption of the new methodology for calculating average wages, reported unrealistically high earnings in Surčin, this likely influenced people from other municipalities and regions of Serbia to move to the Surčin municipality.

The perception of economic well-being in Surčin is further contradicted by data on social protection beneficiaries. The Local Sustainable Development Strategy states that 734 hot meals are distributed daily to users of the National Kitchen services. In 2020, there were a total of 1,064 users of social assistance [3:56-58]. The above data support the fact that, on average, in the Surčin Municipality, the social status of the population is far from enviable. Hence, it can be assumed that apart from personal needs, the population of Surčin municipality does not have the economic power to meet the needs of the community.

It should not be forgotten that the implementation of the Green Agenda is a process that requires certain material resources, and therefore, it can be assumed that the population of Surčin does not have enough economic power to individually undertake any initiative related to sustainable development and environmental protection at the local level.

According to Keynesian economic theory, the construction of the “Expo 2027” complex could act as a catalyst for initiating economic growth in the area where the investment is being carried out. However, it is unlikely that residents of Surčin will participate in capital works, which are exclusively carried out by specialized construction companies. However, as an opportunity for Surčin, the question of accommodation capacity for the workers directly involved in the construction of the “Expo” complex remains unresolved. Our

public still does not know which companies will be directly involved in the construction of the capital complex, but it is certain that the future construction site must be served by people, who must live, sleep, and eat somewhere. For Surčin, this can be a source of income, that is, a short-term development opportunity. It is certain that due to the influx of workers to the area of Surčin, there will be an increase in consumption of food, water and energy. Whether the Surčin municipality has sufficient capacity to accommodate an additional, temporary influx of people—and whether this will actually benefit its residents—remains an open question for now.

3.1. WATER

Settlements on the territory of the Surčin Municipality are connected to the water supply system of the Belgrade Waterworks, which supplies the territory of Surčin with drinking water from its system, from the “Bežanija” production plant. Water is distributed to consumers through pipelines, with the total length of about 258 km. [3:43]. In addition to the drinking water distribution network, there is also a raw water distribution network on the territory of the Surčin municipality, which is exploited along the banks of the Sava River, along the entire length of its course, and which flows through the territory of the Surčin municipality. Therefore, according to Article 77 of the Law on Water, 46 kilometers of the Sava River’s shoreline within the Surčin municipality are designated as a source for the Belgrade Waterworks. In recent years, the area of the water source has been threatened by illegal construction along the banks of the Sava River. Illegal construction takes place in the sanitary protection zone of the water source (Aleksić, 2019).

According to the General Urban Plan of Belgrade (GUP) from 2016, Donje polje is designated as a zone of sanitary protection of the Belgrade water source. The construction of the “Expo” was planned at this location, and not far from the future “Expo” complex, on the left bank of the Sava, in the zone of narrower sanitary protection, the construction of a

pier for cruise ships and taxi boats is planned. Therefore, it can be concluded that, from the perspective of protecting both the broader and narrower sanitary zones of water sources, as well as preserving biodiversity and ecosystems within these zones, the “Expo” will not have positive effects. The conclusion was drawn from the aspect of the future intensity of river and road traffic, which will inevitably lead to an increase in the emission of harmful gases, as well as an increase in the degree of risk of possible hazards and accidents, which is not in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the implementation project of the Green Agenda in the Republic of Serbia.

There is no sewage system in the settlements of the Surčin municipality, except in a small part of the modern settlement of Surčin (Notice, 2019). The disposal of wastewater in the settlements of the Surčin municipality is a major problem. Sewerage and drainage of waste water from Surčin is planned as part of the future Batajnica sewage system (Decision, 2021). However, when this planned capital project will be completed and put into use remains unknown for now. On the other hand, through publicly available data related to the “Expo” project, in which the construction of a water supply and sewage network was announced, it does not appear that the “Expo” project will make any progress in solving the environmental problems that Surčin is currently facing. Currently, in the area of the Surčin municipality, used water, including fecal water, flows uncontrollably into the open canal systems, which have existed in places in the Surčin municipality for more than a century, as a flood defense system (Aleksić, 2021).

In the part of Surčin’s Donje polje where the “Expo” is located, there are a number of smaller, side canals and two central canals: Galovica and Petrac. The Galovica canal is located at the very edge of the Surčin settlement. The Galovica canal collects surface and waste water from Surčin and directs it to the Petrac canal, which then flows into the Sava River. According to the Reports on the quality control of rivers and canals in the territory

of Belgrade, over the past years, the Galovica canal, instead of the prescribed II, is in the V class of surface water quality [3:24]. As the Galovica canal collects sanitary and waste water from settlements, companies and agrocomplexes, in the past 10 years it has been found to be highly polluted with organic matter, which leads to the absence of oxygen and the death of aquatic organisms, and it also has an adverse effect on the groundwater in the coastal area and in the narrower zone sanitary protection (Ibid). In addition, it has a negative impact on air quality. It is known that water, as an element necessary for the survival of mankind, can be a source of health problems if it contains harmful substances of biological, chemical or radiological origin. Hence, Surčin’s waste water, which mostly flows into the open channels that flow into the Sava River through a network system, in the sanitary protection zone, represents a potential danger not only to the ecosystem of Surčin, but also to the health of the population of all Belgrade municipalities, who consume water from the Belgrade water supply system, which sources its water from the Surčin municipality area.

The capital project “Expo” in Donje polje in Surčin is located between the Galovica canal and the Petrac canal. If, due to the excessive pollution of this open water course, the construction of a sewage network in the Surčin settlement does not start, and in order to prevent waste water from spilling out in the immediate vicinity of the “Expo” complex, the entire “Expo” capital project will not have a positive effect in the segment of reducing pollution in the municipality of Surčin.

As previously noted, the Surčin municipality is situated along the Sava River, which, through its waterway, connects to the Danube River—the European waterway corridor—stretching for 46 km. At the same time, the left bank of the Sava River in the territory of Surčin is in a special status, as a narrow zone of protection of Belgrade’s water sources, where 28 reni wells and 20 tube wells are located [3:23]. According to the report of the Environmental Protection Agency, the water quality of the Sava

River based on the analysis dated February 14, 2024. at the measuring point Ostružnica, which is located opposite Surčin, was within the limits of the prescribed values for the I and II class of surface water quality (Ministry of Environmental Protection). Whether the water of the Sava River will maintain its current quality class after the construction of the “Expo” pier for cruisers and speedboats—planned within the narrow protection zone of Belgrade’s water sources—remains an open question.

3.2. LAND

It is known that the land resource is one of the most important non-renewable natural resources. In the modern world, human activities and climate changes are increasingly leading to its pollution and degradation, which has negative effects not only on the volume of agricultural production, but also on the environment and human health. By 2021, the share of agricultural land from the total area of the Surčin municipality was 72.7%. From a pedological point of view, the most widespread types of soil in Surčin are: rite black, chernozem and gajnjače [3:25]. These types of land belong to productive agricultural land suitable for arable production. In the cadastral municipality of Surčin, in the category of agricultural land in 2021, there was an area of about 6,365 ha, of which is the most represented land area was in the category of arable land.

Since 2016, when the entire Donje polje in Surčin was treated as an area outside the construction area (GUP) until today, the funding of agricultural land in the territory of the municipality of Surčin, especially in the cadastral municipality of Surčin, in accordance with the current Law on Planning and Construction, has been reduced by repurposing agricultural land into construction land (Aleksić, 2018).

Firstly, the reduction of agricultural land in the municipality of Surčin, during the previous years, was influenced by capital investments in transport infrastructure: the high-speed road from New Belgrade to the “Miloš Veliki” highway and part of the route of the “Miloš Veliki”

highway, the expansion of the airport, Nikola Tesla”, but also the construction of other industrial and commercial buildings and complexes. In the coming years, it is certain that the trend of decreasing agricultural land in Surčin municipality will continue. It is known that the “Expo” complex, with all accompanying facilities, was designed on former agricultural land in Donje polje, in the cadastral municipality of Surčin. Therefore, it is not surprising that the trend of decreasing agricultural land in the area of the city of Belgrade, during the last years, is most pronounced in the municipality of Surčin (Statistical Yearbook of Serbia, 2023). The reduction of agricultural areas in Surčin is certainly accompanied by the reduction of agricultural holdings, that is, the reduction of food production capacity.

By comparing Census data on the population and the area of agricultural land in Belgrade, it can be concluded that in 2011 there were 0.13 ha of arable land per resident, while in 2022 this figure had decreased to 0.09 ha per resident. Furthermore, the results clearly show that the population in 2022 increased by 1.55% compared to 2011 and that in the same time period, agricultural land decreased by 29.76%. The average annual air temperature in Belgrade in 2022 compared to 2011 increased by +1.5 °C” (Aleksić, 2023), and hence it can be assumed that the construction of the “Expo 2027” complex on former agricultural land will additionally influence the growing trend of the average air temperature in Belgrade.

Viewed from the perspective of a sustainable food system and rural development, the “Expo 2027” project clearly undermines these objectives, as the conversion of arable agricultural land into construction—effectively turning a rural zone into an urban one—does not support the goals of the Paris Agreement.

3.3. AIR

As of 2020, the air quality control program in Belgrade also includes the measuring site Surčin. The measuring point is located in the center of the Surčin settlement, at Braće Puhalić no. 12, near the Health Center, in

the immediate vicinity of the Municipality. Monitoring showed air pollution is caused by the emission of harmful substances originating from cargo and passenger vehicles, and the degree of air pollution in Surčin is determined by the intensity of traffic, the structure of traffic vehicles, as well as meteorological conditions [3:22].

It is known that traffic corridors 10 and 11 pass through the municipality of Surčin, as well as the highways Belgrade-Niš, "Miloš Veliki", that parts of the main railway network pass through the territory of the municipality, and Surčin is also home to the most important international airport "Nikola Tesla". Consequently, emissions of harmful gases from both land and air traffic negatively affect the air quality for the residents of the Surčin municipality. With the construction of the "Expo" complex, it is certain that the frequency of traffic will increase, which will have a negative impact on the air quality in Surčin.

In addition to traffic, air pollution in Surčin is also caused by emissions of harmful gases from individual combustion plants. Although the Surčin municipality has invested significant efforts in the realization of gasification of all inhabited places of the municipality, not all households are connected to the gas network, and during the winter months, the use of individual fireplaces negatively impacts air quality in Surčin.

The thermal power plant "Nikola Tesla," specifically blocks A and B, is a particularly significant source of harmful emissions that negatively affect air quality in the Surčin municipality. Both blocks of the thermal power plant are located in the municipality of Obrenovac, which is the first neighbor of the municipality of Surčin.

All of the aforementioned factors of air pollution in Surčin municipality in the publicly available data related to the "Expo" project do not offer solutions for the existing problems of air pollution in Surčin. Therefore, it can be concluded that the "Expo" project will not support the objectives of the Paris Agreement or the implementation of the Green Agenda in Surčin.

4. CONCLUSION

The Government of the Republic of Serbia announced the upcoming World Exhibition as a development opportunity, which should position the Republic of Serbia on the geo-economic and geo-political stage of the world. The "Expo 2027" project, which will be held in Surčin, will in many ways affect the changes expected by Belgrade and the Republic of Serbia, especially with regard to the construction of capital investment and supporting infrastructure, which should meet the needs of the upcoming World Fair.

However, any benefits of the "Expo" at the micro level in Surčin are not yet evident. This conclusion particularly highlights the ongoing challenges faced by the municipality, including the absence of secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities such as hospitals, the lack of secondary and higher education institutions, the scarcity of cultural institutions, and, most critically, the deficiencies in communal infrastructure, especially the sewage network. Despite the shortcomings that the "Expo" will not address, it is certain that the project will lead to an increase in the population of the Surčin municipality. This, in turn, will intensify traffic and result in a reduction of agricultural land in the area. Hence, as a result of this empirical research, which was conducted on the basis of publicly available data, it can be concluded that there were no concrete answers to certain questions. In particular, the issue of preserving Belgrade's water sources, that is, preserving the zone of narrower and wider sanitary protection, remains open. In certain aspects, the "Expo" project appears to contradict the goals of the Paris Agreement, and in some cases, it is even directly opposed to these objectives, thereby negatively affecting the implementation of the Green Agenda in the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, the "Expo 2027" construction project in Surčin would need to be accompanied by initiatives aimed at addressing the existing challenges. Such complementary projects would support the goals of the Paris Agreement, advance the implementation of the Green Agenda, and improve the living conditions of Surčin's residents.

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ОДНОС ЗЕЛЕНЕ АГЕНДЕ СРБИЈЕ И УРБАНИЗАЦИЈЕ ОПШТИНЕ СУРЧИН ЗБОГ РЕАЛИЗАЦИЈЕ ЕХПО 2027 – СТАЊЕ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЕ

Резиме: Изградња Националног стадиона и изложбено-стамбеног комплекса „ЕКСПО 2027“ ради одржавања међународне специјализоване изложбе, имаће позитивне ефекте на Републику Србију. Они се огледају кроз развој нове урбане области у Београду, на локацији којом администрира Општина Сурчин. Уједно, развој путне и пружне инфраструктуре ка овој локацији омогућиће приступачност из свих делова Републике Србије, што додатно потврђује национални значај ове капиталне инвестиције, сврставајући је на макро нивоу у најзначајнији пројекат у модерној историји Србије. Међутим, остаје отворено питање микронивоа – Сурчинске општине - затеченог стања и будућег развоја из перспективе заштите животне средине. У овом раду настоји се доћи до сазнања о томе да ли ће и на који начин планирана капитална инвестиција утицати на квалитет живота људи који настањују Сурчинску општину, односно, да ли ће пројекат „Ехпо 2027“ испунити циљеве из Споразума о клими из Париза, смањењу загађења животне средине – ваздуха, земљишта и вода, те допринети усаглашавању са правним тековинама ЕУ у областима обухваћеним кроз Зелену агенду: декарбонизацији, енергетској ефикасности и смањењу индустријских емисија. У овом истраживању примењене су дескриптивна и компаративна метода, метода анализе и синтезе, а где је било могуће коришћена је и статистичка метода. У раду нису разматрани финансијске вредности капиталне инвестиције.

Кључне речи: Ехпо 2027, Србија, Београд, Сурчин, Зелена агенда, земља, вода, ваздух