

Pavle DJORDJEVIC<sup>1</sup>, Ivana SIMIĆ<sup>1</sup>, Snežana OLJAČA<sup>2\*</sup>, Juan Pablo SCIURANO<sup>3</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> National Association "Serbia Organica" Serbia

<sup>2</sup> University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Serbia

<sup>3</sup> International Network of Eco Regions (INNER), Argentina - Italy

\*Corresponding author: pavle\_djordjevic@hotmail.com

## **Agroecology Scientific Day 2024 Workshop 4, Session 3**

**Title: Introduction of the first Biodistrict in Serbia for upscaling agroecological and organic practices. Case study of Kolubara Region**

### **Abstract:**

The organic-districts, also called eco-regions or bio-districts, are areas where farmers, citizens, authorities and other local stakeholders enter into a formal agreement on the sustainable management of local resources based on the principles and model of organic farming and best agroecological practices in order to promote the economic and socio-cultural development of their community. The organic districts are therefore a real response to the current trend of economic development, which is leading to a massive rural exodus and an increasing urbanization of people in search of better living conditions and a higher income. The main goal is to initiate a process of formatting, implementation and development of biodistricts at the national level in Serbia, characterized by its territorial and socio-cultural values and practices, while serving environmental protection. It should be emphasized that this is the first initiative to establish a biodistrict in the Balkans (even in Southeast Europe), which would make Serbia the first country with a biodistrict. The first phase of biodistrict implementation in Serbia included many activities: the assessment of territorial conditions in Serbia using a number of methodologies, as well as the establishment and development of partnerships within the target area. This included analysis, estimation, conducting workshops and considering feedback from stakeholders. After this process, one of the districts in Serbia in the western region was selected - Kolubara district. Possible activities (working groups) were identified: Integrated management, planning, governance and policy of organic districts; Tourism – gastronomy; Organic farming - agroecology - natural resource management and energy production; Processing - distribution - consumption Food and nutrition security, quality and health; Social farming - community enforcement - gender equality; Communication; Women; Youth and organic farming.

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