

Climate Assembly of Skopje

Session 1

The inaugural session of the Climate Assembly of Skopje, convened on February 17th, 2024, at hotel Aleksandar Palace in Skopje, served as a pivotal platform for delineating the primary themes for subsequent discussions within the Assembly. Alongside this objective, the introductory session fostered an environment conducive to participant interaction and acquaintance.

To ensure equitable seating arrangements, participants were tasked with randomly selecting a number corresponding to their designated table. This method facilitated organic introductions among participants, fostering a collective sense of purpose and cohesion.

The opening address, delivered by esteemed figures including Deputy Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning Hristina Odžaklieska, former Mayor of the City of Skopje Trifun Kostovski, and eco-activist Gorjan Jovanovski, underscored the imperative of collaborative efforts across governmental, business, and citizen sectors to address air pollution comprehensively.

Subsequent to these addresses, Agim Selami, Executive Director of the ZIP Institute, elucidated the operational framework, objectives, and thematic focus of the Climate Assembly. Expressing gratitude to participants for their integral role in the Assembly, Selami emphasized their pivotal contribution to its success.

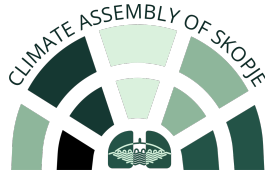
During the interactive segment of the agenda, the main moderator orchestrated a lively ice-breaking activity aimed at fostering engagement and camaraderie among participants. Forming a circle, participants were prompted with a series of thought-provoking questions designed to stimulate conversation and reflection:

- "Do you feel awake this morning?"
- "Who has contemplated leaving Skopje due to the polluted air?"
- "Where in Skopje do you reside?" Participants collaboratively constructed a map of the city, positioning themselves based on their geographical location, thereby visualizing the dispersion of attendees across the urban landscape.
- "Who has implemented lifestyle changes in response to air pollution in Skopje?"

Participants responded with affirmative or negative answers, with those answering affirmatively permitted to advance a step forward, while others remained in place. At the culmination of the activity, the participant with the highest number of affirmative responses was rewarded with a chocolate, incentivizing engagement and participation.

This interactive exercise not only provided a platform for participants to share personal experiences and perspectives but also fostered a sense of community and shared purpose as they collectively navigated the discourse surrounding air pollution in Skopje.

Gorjan Jovanovski, thereafter, provided a thematic overview and facilitated an inclusive discussion wherein multiple participants shared their perspectives. This interactive exchange prepared participants for constructive engagement.



Jovanovski's personalized engagement with attendees further fostered a conducive atmosphere, ensuring that all voices felt valued and heard.

During the latter part of the session, dedicated to brainstorming ideas and topics, Jovanovski, supported by facilitators, adeptly managed time and discussion flow. Circulating among tables, he provided guidance, addressed queries, and ensured inclusivity, thereby fostering a dynamic and productive environment for idea generation and collaboration.

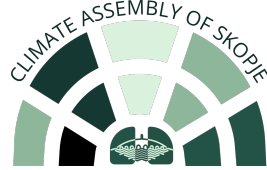
In the subsequent phase of the Climate Assembly, participants engaged in small group discussions facilitated by skilled facilitators. These facilitators played a crucial role in steering conversations and encouraging the active involvement of all members, ensuring that diverse perspectives were heard and valued.

As part of this collaborative process, participants collectively identified and voted on three paramount topics—energy, transportation, and public health—that bear significant relevance to the issue of air pollution. Each group was then entrusted with the responsibility of delving into these chosen themes, tasked with summarizing key points and pointing out relevant problems.

These initial discussions served as a foundational stage, laying the groundwork for more comprehensive exploration and analysis in subsequent sessions. The insights gleaned and key points identified during these group deliberations will form the basis for in-depth examinations of each topic, facilitating a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted aspects of air pollution and its interconnected challenges. By engaging in this process of collective inquiry and analysis, participants will be equipped to formulate informed recommendations and strategies aimed at mitigating air pollution and fostering sustainable environmental practices.

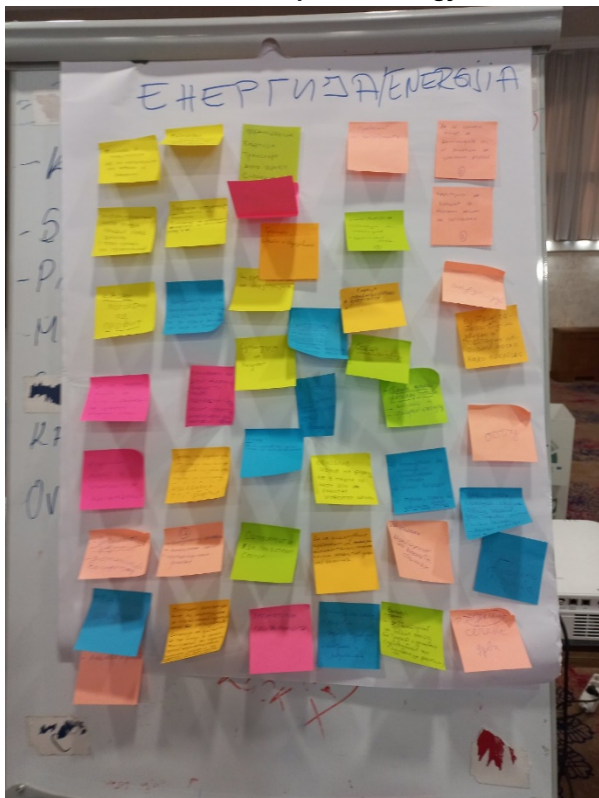


Picture 1 – Opening addresses by Deputy Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning Hristina Odžaklieska

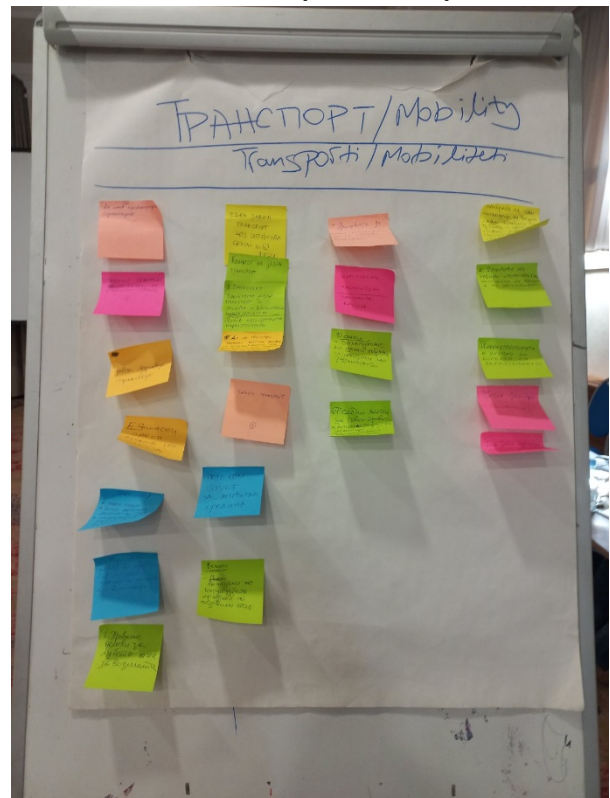


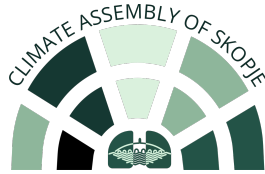
Picture 2 – Address by Zip Institute Executive Director Agim Selami

Picture 3: Topic 1 – Energy



Picture 4: Topic 2 - Transport





Picture 5: Topic 3 – Public health

