

Environmental Assessment

THE REPORT ON FINDINGS FROM THE RESEARCH ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN



Municipality of Istog



...for my city!

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INTRODUCTION

With the aim of being more inclusive and to take into account the opinions of citizens regarding various environmental issues for the development of the Local Environmental Action Plans, during November 2011 it was conducted a field research with 10 selected municipalities concerning the development of the Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). The municipalities that expressed interest and have been selected to develop a LEAP are the following ones: Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Deçani, Hani i Elezit, Graçanica, Istogu, Obiliqi, Juniku, Podujeva and Partesh.

The findings from this research will be initially available to the working groups in the selected municipalities for LEAP development, in order to take into account the citizens' opinions from respective municipalities. The findings of the research will assist the members of the working groups to treat various topics during the LEAP development or enforce their arguments during the selection of different positioning in LEAP.

The field research was conducted by the non-government environmental organizations which act in the selected municipalities for LEAP development. During the field research the members of non-governmental organizations except interviewing the respondents based on the sample distribution, they have also informed them about the importance of LEAP and the possibility of their contribution regarding the LEAP development. Therefore, the implementation of the field research has resulted with direct information of more than 11.000 selected respondents (interviewed citizens) to participate in the research. The collected data in the field were further processed in the SPSS computer program, which program is specialized for producing results from the social quantitative results.

The findings of the research are presented in the chapters of the key findings and are divided for each municipality. The findings for each municipality are divided as follows: *perception of the current environmental status, the strategy of development and information and the developmental vision.*

METHODOLOGY

In order to implement this field research the Regional Environmental Centre-office in Kosovo (REC), has engaged environmental non-organizations which act in the selected municipalities for LEAP development. The role of the engaged municipalities has been to interview the respondents, to transmit the research data to the research coordinators and inform the interviewers briefly regarding LEAP.

Before the field research, REC-u organized one-day training for the researchers who have been selected by the respective non-governmental organizations for conducting the field research. In this training there was explained the content of the questionnaire; the way of questionnaire' administration; the way of conducting the interview; the distribution of the sample and the importance of its exact observance; confidentiality and the code of ethics during the interview.

The research was conducted in ten selected municipalities for LEAP development. The number of respondents for municipalities was selected based on the census which was carried out during spring 2011 (see the table below regarding the division of the number of respondents per municipalities). Further on, the sample of the respondents was divided based on the gender and age. The division between the genders was done based on the data of the last census, whereas the division of age groups was done taking into account the number of population which corresponds with the respective age and their social, economic and political status currently and in the near future. The division of the number of the respondents between the gender and age groups is presented in the following table.

Municipality	Gender	Male 51%					Female 49%					
	gr. age no. of respod.	>18 10%	18-25 20%	25-50 43%	50-65 20%	65+ 7%	>18 10%	18-25 20%	25-50 43%	50-65 20%	65+ 7%	
1 Deçan	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
2 Fushe Kosova	2000	102	204	442	204	68	98	196	425	196	65	
	Fushe Kosova (ALB.-85%)	1700	87	173	376	173	58	83	167	361	167	55
	Fushe Kosova (Min.-15%)	300	15	31	66	31	10	15	29	64	29	10
3 Graçanica	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
	Graçanica (Serb.-90%)	450	23	46	99	46	15	22	44	96	44	15
	Graçanica (Min.-10%)	50	3	5	11	5	2	2	5	11	5	2
4 Hani i Elezit	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
5 Istog	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
	Istog (ALB.-95%)	475	24	48	105	48	16	23	47	101	47	16
	Istog (Min.-5%)	25	1	3	6	3	1	1	2	5	2	1
6 Junik	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
7 Mitrovica	3500	179	357	773	357	119	172	343	743	343	114	
	Mitrovica (ALB.-80%)	2800	143	286	619	286	95	137	274	594	274	91
	Mitrovica (Min.-20%)	700	36	71	155	71	24	34	69	149	69	23
8 Obiliq	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
	Obiliq (ALB.-90%)	450	23	46	99	46	15	22	44	96	44	15
	Obiliq (Min.-10%)	50	3	5	11	5	2	2	5	11	5	2
9 Partesh	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16	
10 Podujeva	2000	102	204	442	204	68	98	196	425	196	65	
	Podujeva (ALB.-95%)	1900	97	194	420	194	65	93	186	403	186	62
	Podujeva (Min - 5%)	100	5	10	22	10	3	5	10	21	10	3
No of respondents		11000	561	1122	2431	1122	374	539	1078	2335	1078	359

The respondents and the interviewed citizens were selected with the random method i.e for any starting point every third person was called for interview or every second house was knocked for interview. The respondents had the possibility to provide (or not) their data to be informed about LEAP development in their municipality. These data have also served to control the quality of the field research. A considerable number of the respondents, who provided their data, have been contacted to verify the validity of the field research – by sample distribution and by this quality control it has been achieved the validity of the research

After the data collection in the field, the questionnaires were administered in the so-called SPSS computer program and there have been generated data and graphics for the respondents' responses.

NOTE:

The graphics and the tables are with ordinal numbers (1.2.), (1.3.), (1.4.), (2.3.), (2.9.) and (3.1.)¹ in total they give a higher percentage than 100%. This is due to the data fusion from more than a table or a graphic in one single table or graphic. In this way it was enabled to get precisely the priority of various issues for the respective questions. This means that regarding the question (1.2) instead of presenting five different tables and graphics they are presented with a single table and graphic –which enables easier reading of the findings by the report readers.

¹ 1.2. Five key problems in the environmental field in your municipality; 1.3. three key environmental polluters in the territory of your municipality ; 1.4. Two institutions that deal mostly with the problem solutions in the environmental field; 2.3. What should be the target of future development in your municipality? 2.9. Where do you get information concerning the environmental status in your municipality; 3. 1. Circle 3 problems which most negatively influence the quality of life in your neighbourhood

Istog

Distribution of samples in Istog municipality

Municipality	Gender	Male (51%)					Female (49%)				
		Age >18	18-25	25-50	50-65	65+	Age >18	18-25	25-50	50-65	65+
	# of resp.	10%	20%	43%	20%	7%	10%	20%	43%	20%	7%
Istog	500	26	51	110	51	17	25	49	106	49	16
Istog (ALB. - 95%)	475	24	48	105	48	16	23	47	101	47	16
Istog (MIN - 5%)	25	1	3	6	3	1	1	2	5	2	1

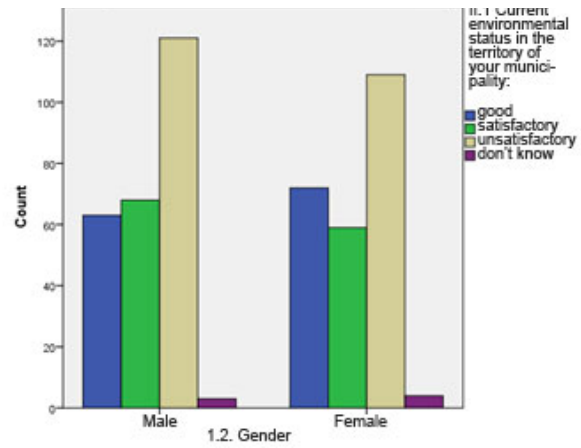
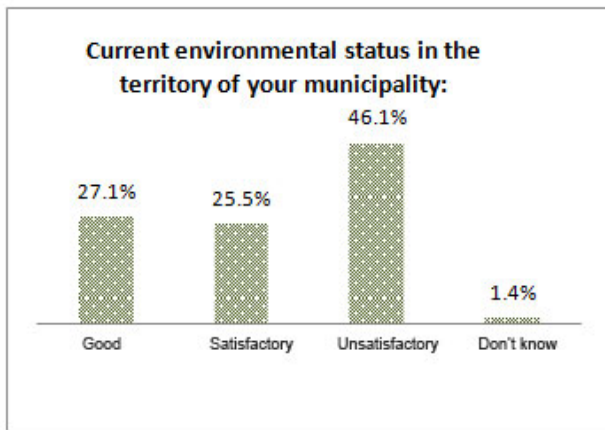
Regarding the implementation of this research in the urban area of Istog there have been interviewed 500 respondents where 95 % of them were Albanians and 5 % minorities. This distribution of the sample was further divided according to gender aspect: 51 % male and 49 % female, equal division according to the data of census carried out during spring 2011. The division of the sample continued further according to the age for both males and females: 10 % of the respondents constituted the age group under 18 years old; 20 % from the age group 18 to 25 years; 43 % from the age group 25 to 50 years; 20 % from the age group 50 to 65 years; and 7 % from the age group above 65 years. This age group division was based on the number of the respondents which constitute this age group and their reflection regarding the social, political and economical life, and the influence and the reflection that they might have in the near future.

1. PERCEPTION FOR THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

1.1. Current environmental status in the territory of your municipality

		Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Don't know
Gender	Male	63 24.7%	68 26.7%	121 47.5%	3 1.2%
	Female	72 29.5%	59 24.2%	109 44.7%	4 1.6%
Total		135 27.1%	127 25.5%	230 46.1%	7 1.4%

In the question how do you evaluate the current environmental status in the territory of your municipality, the majority of the respondents from Istog responded that: the status in the territory of their municipality is unsatisfactory with the total of 46.1%, good with 27.1% and satisfactory with 25.5%. This response does not differ a lot when it is compared between both genders. For more see the illustration in the following graphics.



1.2. Five key problems in the environmental field of your municipality

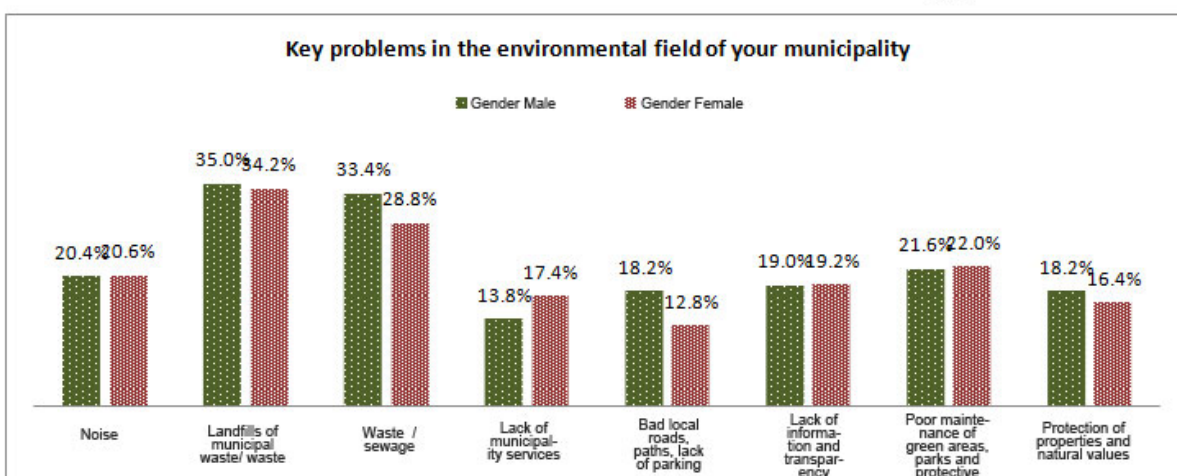
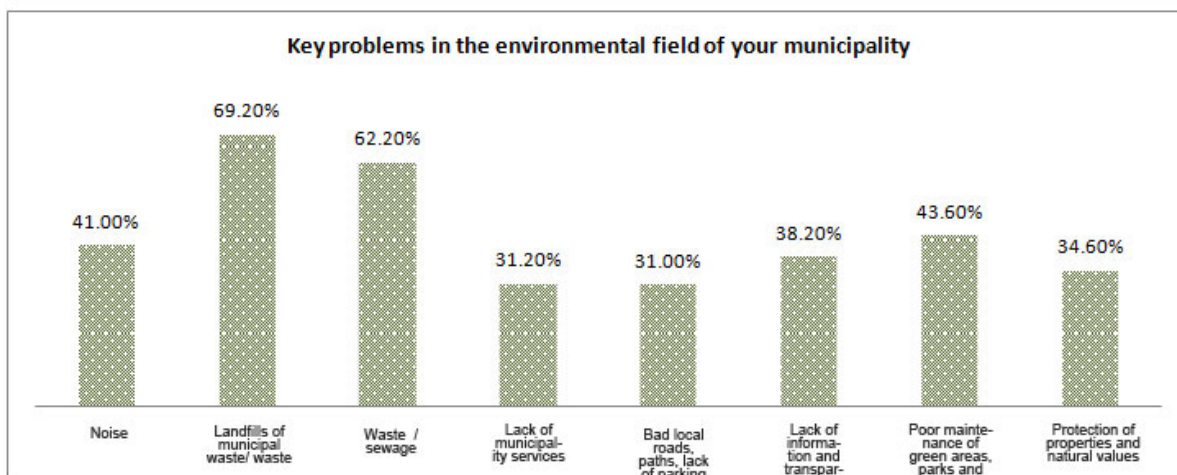
		Noise	Landfills of municipal waste/waste	Waste / sewage	Lack of municipality services	Bad local roads, paths, lack of parking	Lack of information and transparency	Poor maintenance of green areas, parks and protective strips	Protection of properties and natural values
Gender	Male	102 20.4%	175 35.0%	167 33.4%	69 13.8%	91 18.2%	95 19.0%	108 21.6%	91 18.2%
	Female	103 20.6%	171 34.2%	144 28.8%	87 17.4%	64 12.8%	96 19.2%	110 22.0%	82 16.4%
Total		205 41.0%	346 69.2%	311 62.2%	156 31.2%	155 31.0%	191 38.2%	218 43.6%	173 34.6%

As the key environmental problems, the citizens of Istog have listed¹:

- a) **Municipality waste management**, as the key problem;
- b) **Waste/Sewage**, as the second more important problem;
- c) **The quality of potable water**, as the third more important problem;
- d) **Lack of maintenance of green areas, parks and protective strips**, as the fourth important problem and
- e) **Noise**, are listed as the fifth important problem.

Also in this case the listing of the environmental problems does not change regarding gender perception and for more information see the illustration of the graphics below.

¹ **NOTE:** The graphics and the tables are with ordinal numbers (1.2.), (1.3.), (1.4.), (2.3.), (2.9.) and (3.1.)¹. In total they give a higher percentage than 100%. This is due to the data fusion from more than a table or a graphic in one single table or graphic. In this way it was enabled to get precisely the priority of various issues for the respective questions. This means that regarding the question (1.2) instead of presenting five different tables and graphics they are presented with a single table and graphic –which enables easier reading of the findings by the report readers.

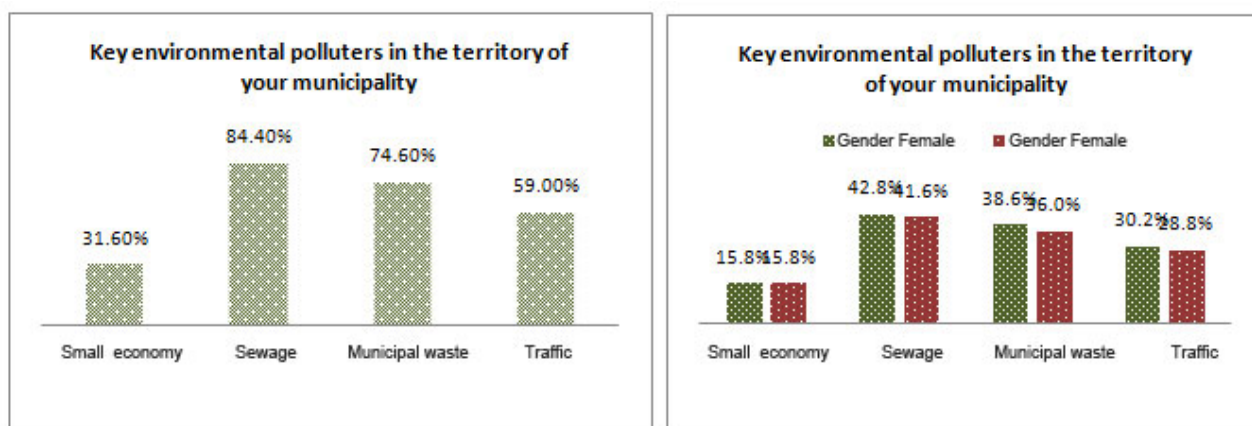


As another mentioned problem by the citizens of Istog are: is the lightning of fires even those for cleaning the field or the other garbage.

1.3. Three key environmental polluters in the territory of your municipality

		Small economy	Sewage	Municipal waste	Traffic
Gender	Male	79 15.8%	214 42.8%	193 38.6%	151 30.2%
	Female	79 15.8%	208 41.6%	180 36.0%	144 28.8%
Total		158 31.6%	422 84.4%	373 74.6%	295 59.0%

As the key environmental polluters in Istog municipality, the respondents have presented the following ones: **sewage**, **municipal waste** and **traffic**. This division also does not change a lot regarding the gender perception. For more information see the graphical presentation.

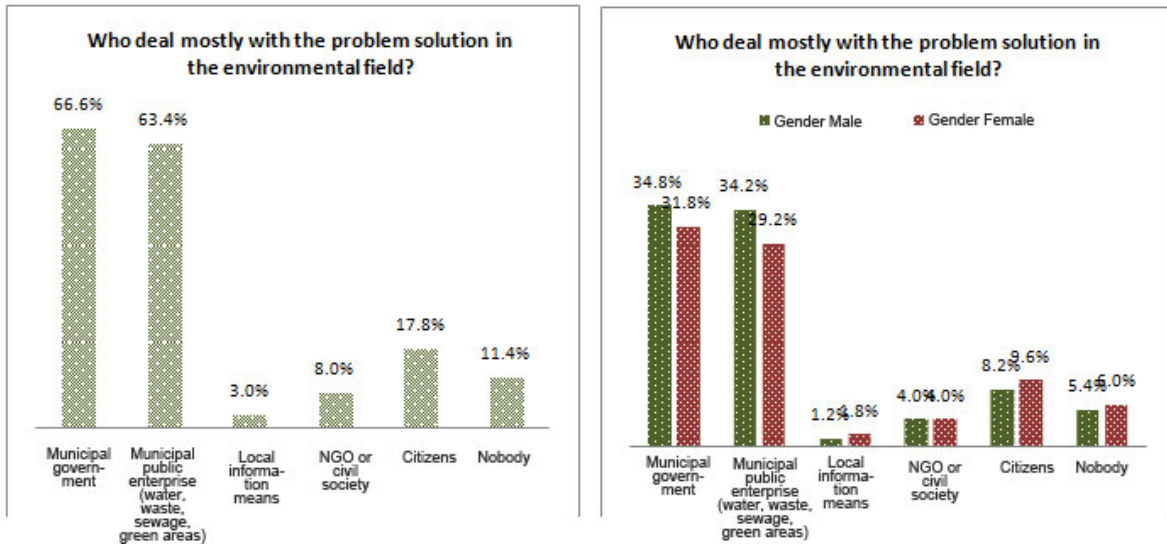


Other problems listed by respondents as environmental pollutants are: waste incineration, generators, quarries and himself man.

1.4. Two institutions which deal mostly with the problem solution in the environmental field

		Municipal government	Municipal public enterprise (water, waste, sewage, green areas)	Local information means	NGO or civil society	Citizens	Nobody
Gender	Male	174 34.8%	171 34.2%	6 1.2%	20 4.0%	41 8.2%	27 5.4%
	Female	159 31.8%	146 29.2%	9 1.8%	20 4.0%	48 9.6%	30 6.0%
Total		333 66.6%	317 63.4%	15 3.0%	40 8.0%	89 17.8%	57 11.4%

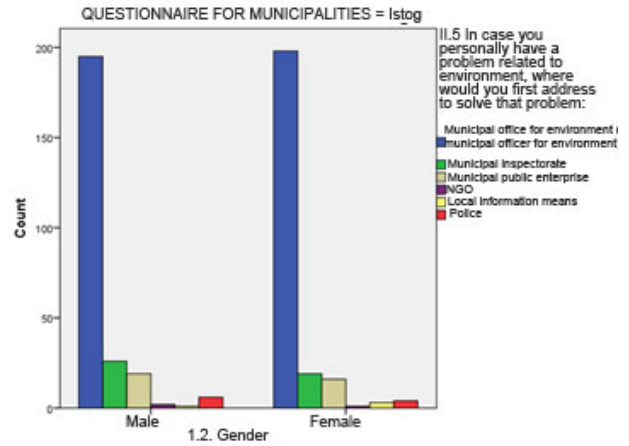
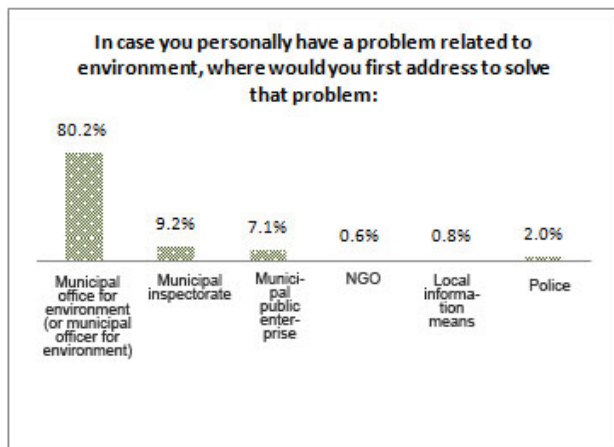
The respondents from *Istog* mostly rely on **municipal government** for problem solution in the environmental field, whereas as a second alternative they select the **municipal public enterprises**. For more information see the graphical illustration.



1.5. In case you personally have a problem related to environment, where would you first address to solve that problem:

		Municipal office for environment (or municipal officer for environment)	Municipal inspectorate	Municipal public enterprise	NGO	Local information means	Police
Gender	Male	195	26	19	2	1	6
		78.3%	10.4%	7.6%	0.8%	0.4%	2.4%
	Female	198	19	16	1	3	4
		82.2%	7.9%	6.6%	0.4%	1.2%	1.7%
Total		393	45	35	3	4	10
		80.2%	9.2%	7.1%	0.6%	0.8%	2.0%

For individual environmental problems citizens of Istog will initially be directed at **municipal office for environment** and then at the **municipal inspectorate**. See the following graphical illustration.

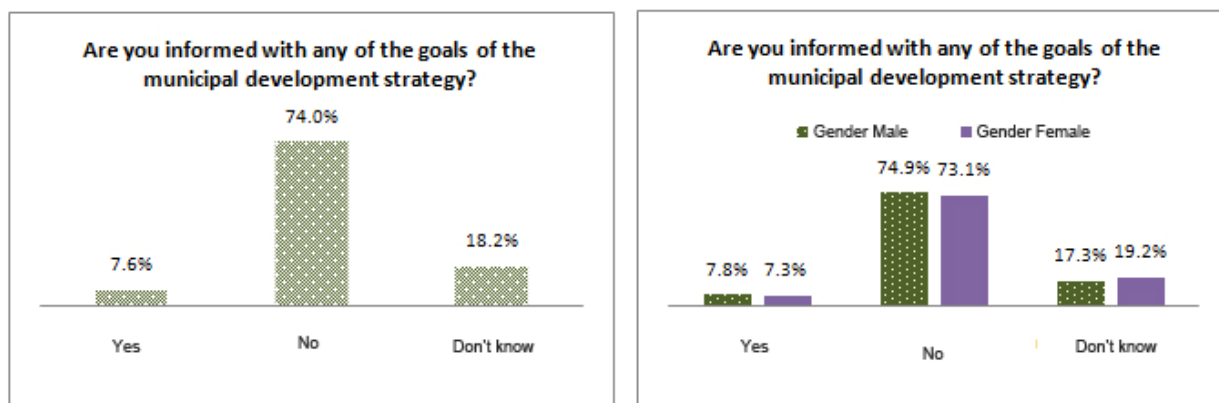


2. STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION

2.1. Are you informed with any of the goals of the municipal development strategy?

		Yes	No	Don't know
Gender	Male	20 7.8%	191 74.9%	44 17.3%
	Female	18 7.3%	179 73.1%	47 19.2%
Total		38 7.6%	370 74.0%	91 18.2%

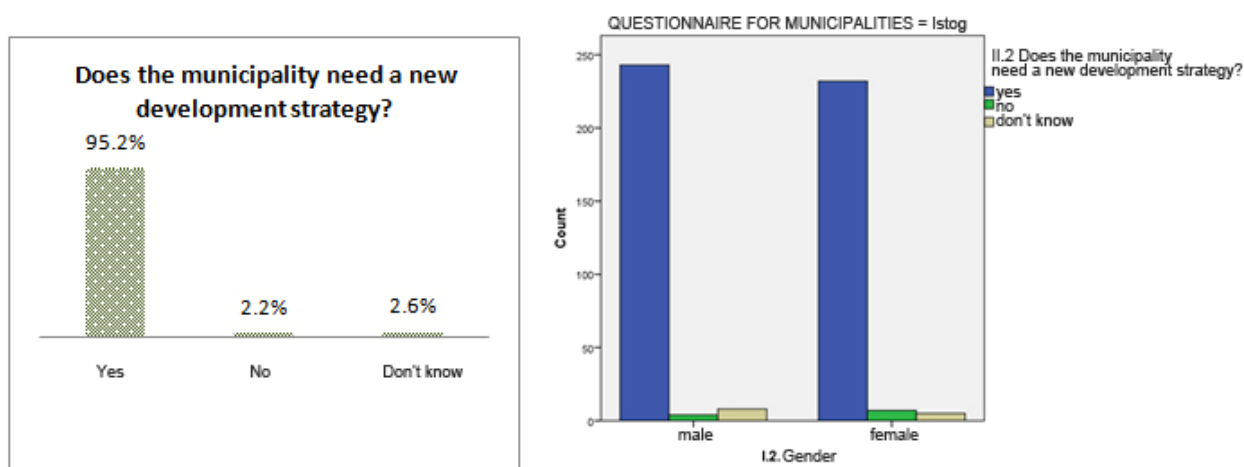
The majority of the interviewed citizens of *Istog* stated that they are informed about the goal of the municipal development strategy with 74.0%; or that they are not aware that there exists such strategy with 18.2%; while only 7.6% express that they are aware of the goals of the municipal development strategy. For illustration see the following graphics.



2.2. Does the municipality need a new development strategy?

		Yes	No	Don't know
Gender	Male	243 95.3%	4 1.6%	8 3.1%
	Female	232 95.1%	7 2.9%	5 2.0%
Total		475 95.2%	11 2.2%	13 2.6%

Regarding the question if the municipality of Istog need a new development strategy, the majority of the interviewed citizens express that it needs with 95.2%, does not need 2.2% and they do not know if something like this exist 2.6%. Concerning this question, both females and males have almost the same opinion. For more information see the illustration below.



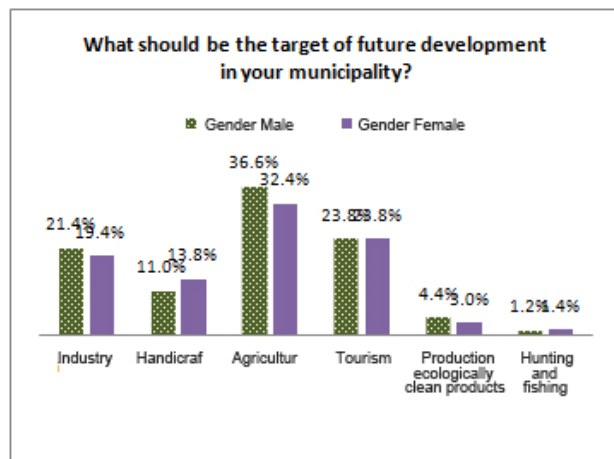
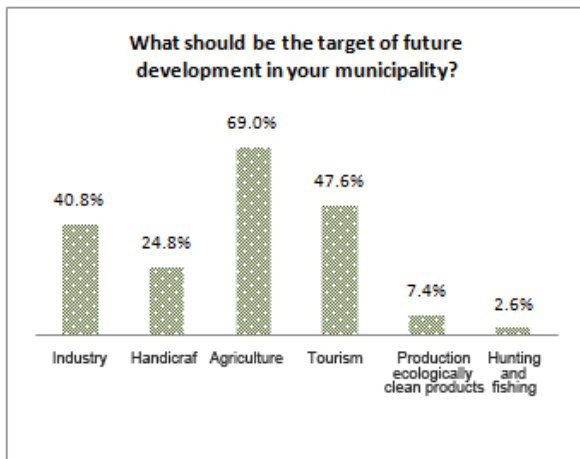
2.3. What should be the target of future development in your municipality?

		Industry	Handicraft	Agriculture	Tourism	Production of ecologically clean products	Hunting and fishing
Gender	Male	107 21.4%	55 11.0%	183 36.6%	119 23.8%	22 4.4%	6 1.2%
	Female	97 19.4%	69 13.8%	162 32.4%	119 23.8%	15 3.0%	7 1.4%
Total		204 40.8%	124 24.8%	345 69.0%	238 47.6%	37 7.4%	13 2.6%

As a target for future development of *Istog*, the interviewed citizens listed:

- i) Agriculture,**
- ii) Industry,**
- iii) Tourism and others.**

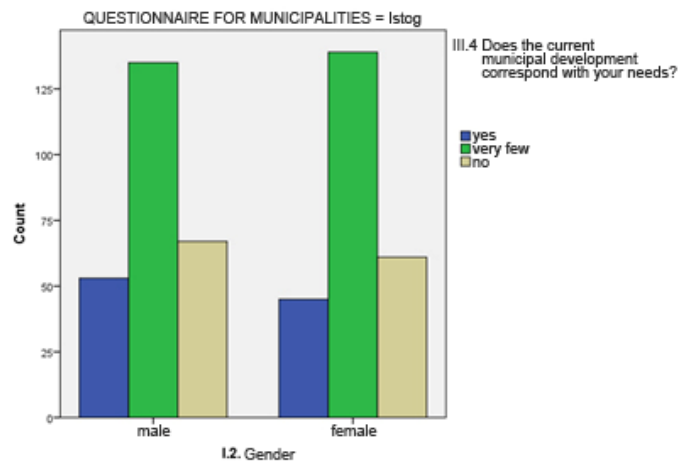
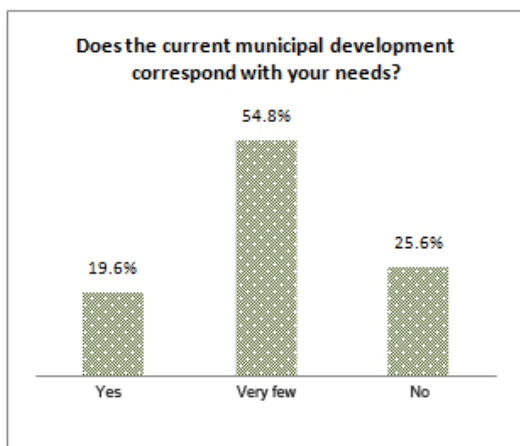
See the graphical illustration for the given importance by the interviewers for the main fields of their municipal development in the future.



2.4. Does the current municipal development correspond with your needs?

		Yes	Very few	No
Gender	Male	53 20.8%	135 52.9%	67 26.3%
	Female	45 18.4%	139 56.7%	61 24.9%
Total		98 19.6%	274 54.8%	128 25.6%

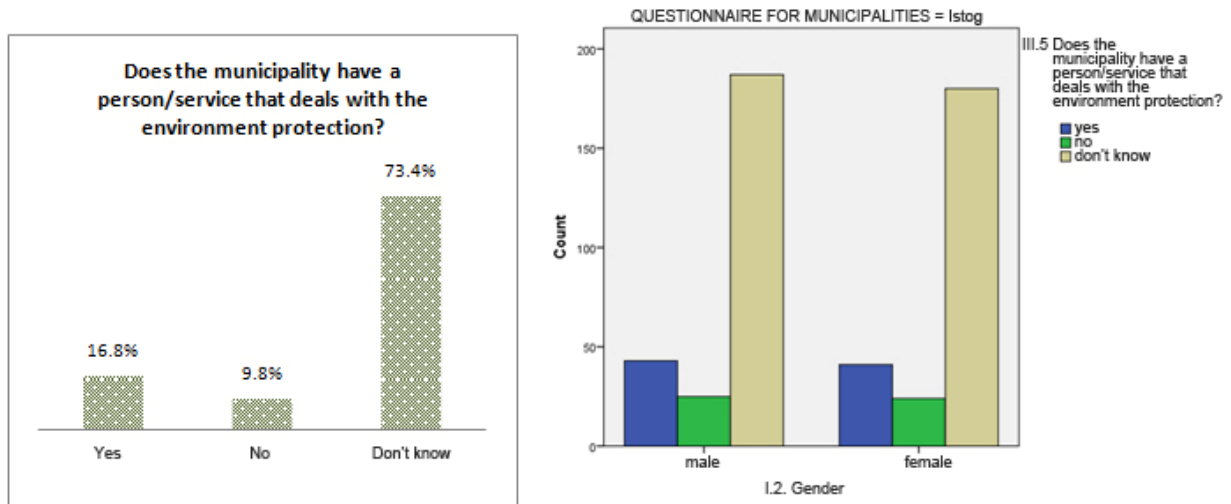
The majority of the interviewed citizens express that the current development of *Istog* does not correspond to the citizens' needs: 54.8% of them express that the current municipal development corresponds very little to their needs, 25.6% doesn't correspond with their needs, while 19.6% think that the municipal development correspond with the citizens' needs. See the following graphical presentation for visual illustration.



2.5. Does the municipality have a person/service that deals with the environment protection?

		Yes	No	Don't know
Gender	Male	43 16.9%	25 9.8%	187 73.3%
	Female	41 16.7%	24 9.8%	180 73.5%
Total		84 16.8%	49 9.8%	367 73.4%

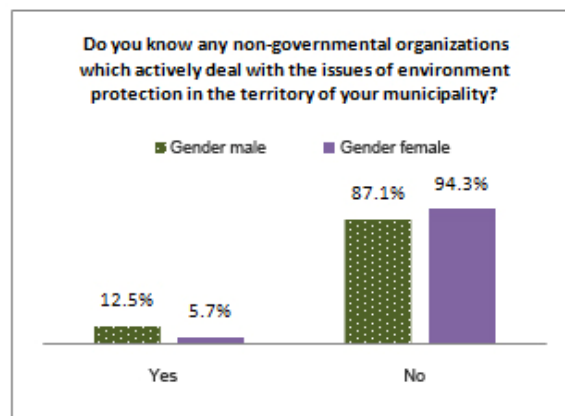
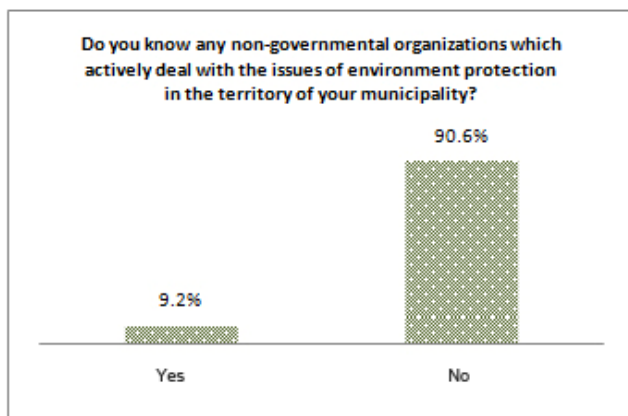
A considerable number of citizens are aware that the *Istog* municipality has the person or the service that deals with environment protection. A percentage of 16.8% express that the municipality has the person or the service for environment protection, 9.8% express that the municipality does not have such service, whereas 73.4% do not know if the municipality provides this service or not. See the following graphics for visual illustration.



2.6. Do you know any non-governmental organizations which actively deal with the issues of environment protection in the territory of your municipality?

		Yes	No
Gender	Male	32 12.5%	222 87.1%
	Female	14 5.7%	231 94.3%
Total		46 9.2%	453 90.6%

The majority of the interviewed citizens of *Istog* are not aware about the existence or the activity of civil society organizations that deal with the issues of environment protection. A percentage of 90.6% of the interviewers responded that they do not know if there are such organizations in the territory of their municipality.



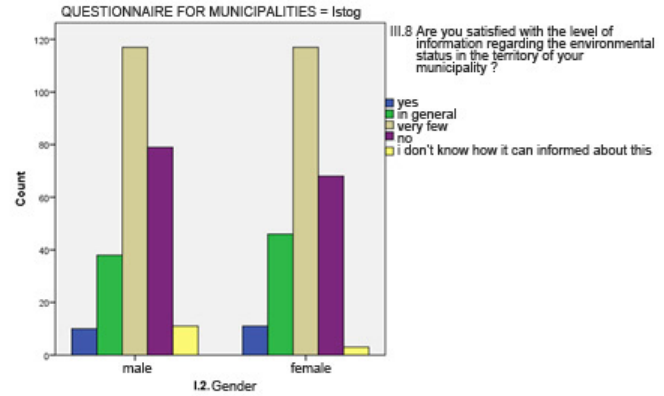
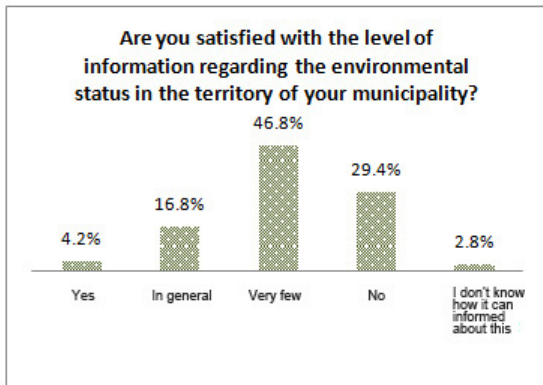
2.7. The names of the organizations which the respondents know in their municipality:

Red Cross, Iliria-I, Vizioni 2 and Mirëmbajtja.

2.8. Are you satisfied with the level of information regarding the environmental status in the territory of your municipality?

		Yes	In general	Very few	No	I don't know how it can be informed about this
Gender	Male	10 3.9%	38 14.9%	117 45.9%	79 31.0%	11 4.3%
	Female	11 4.5%	46 18.8%	117 47.8%	68 27.8%	3 1.2%
Total		21 4.2%	84 16.8%	234 46.8%	147 29.4%	14 2.8%

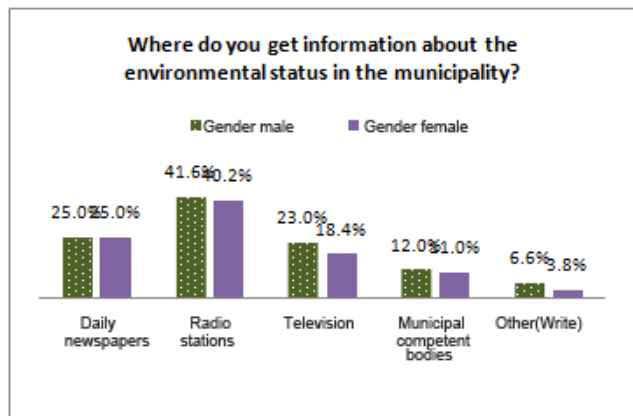
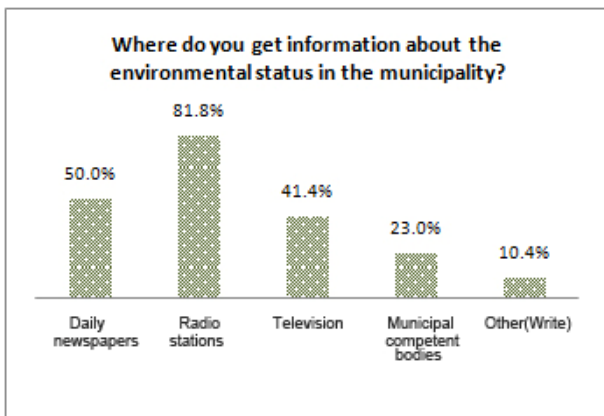
From the research' findings the interviewed citizens of Istog in general are not satisfied with the level of information about the environmental status of their municipality. For this 29.4% of them responded that they are not satisfied at all with the level of information, 46.8% very little satisfied, 16.8% in general satisfied, while only 4.2% expressed that they are satisfied with the level of information. For more see the following graphical illustration.



2.9. Where do you get information about the environmental status in the municipality?

		Daily newspapers	Radio stations	Television	Municipal competent bodies	Other (Write)
Gender	Male	125 25.0%	208 41.6%	115 23.0%	60 12.0%	33 6.6%
	Female	125 25.0%	201 40.2%	92 18.4%	55 11.0%	19 3.8%
Total		250 50.0%	409 81.8%	207 41.4%	115 23.0%	52 10.4%

Regarding the informational media about the environmental status, the citizens of *Istog*, have selected **radio stations as a primary medium, daily newspapers as a secondary medium and television as a tertiary medium**. For visual illustration see the following graphics.

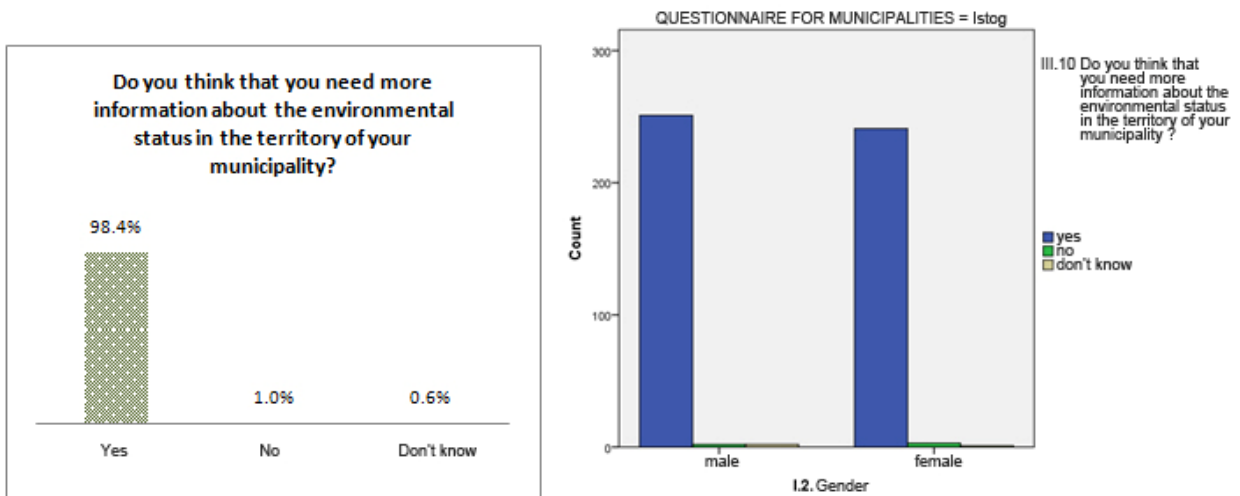


As other sources of information on environmental situation, citizens of Istog use: internet, citizens, NGOs, personal observation and schools.

2.10. Do you think that you need more information about the environmental status in the territory of your municipality?

		Yes	No	Don't know
Gender	Male	251	2	2
		98.4%	0.8%	0.8%
	Female	241	3	1
		98.4%	1.2%	0.4%
Total		492	5	3
		98.4%	1.0%	0.6%

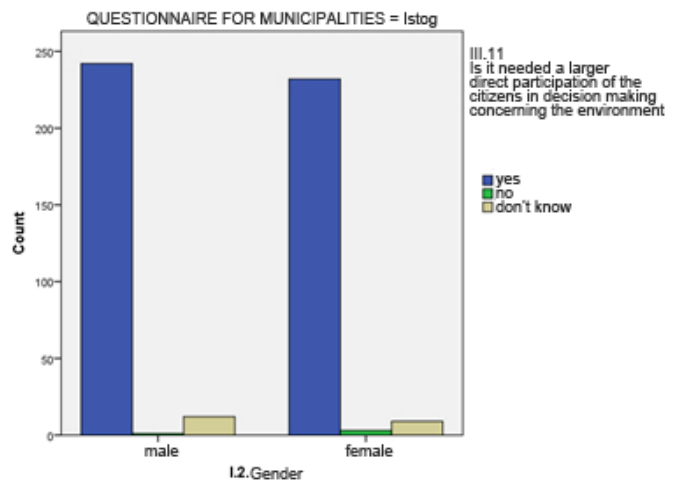
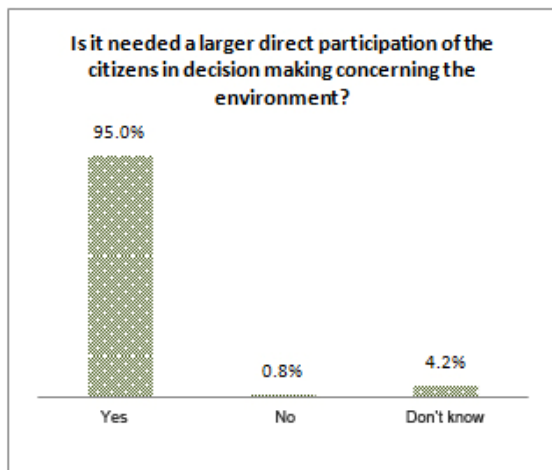
In the question if you need more information about the environmental status in the territory of your municipality the majority of the interviewed citizens of *Istog* with 98.4% responded that they need more information regarding the environmental status in their municipality. This response does not differ a lot between the male and female respondents. For more see the following graphical illustrations.



2.11. Is it needed a larger direct participation of the citizens in decision making concerning the environment?

		Yes	No	Don't know
Gender	Male	242	1	12
		94.9%	0.4%	4.7%
	Female	232	3	9
		95.1%	1.2%	3.7%
Total		474	4	21
		95.0%	0.8%	4.2%

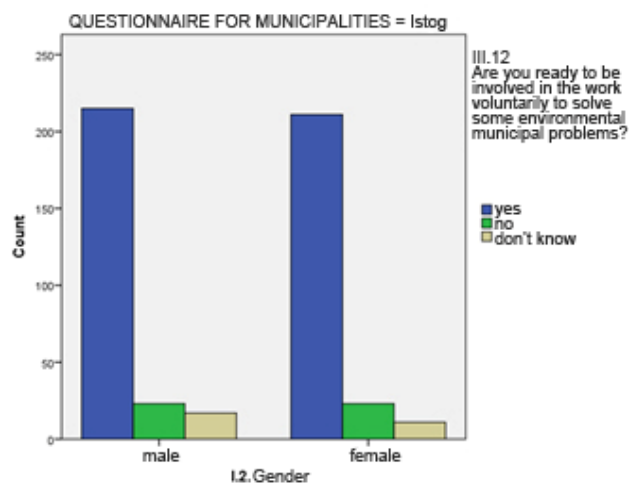
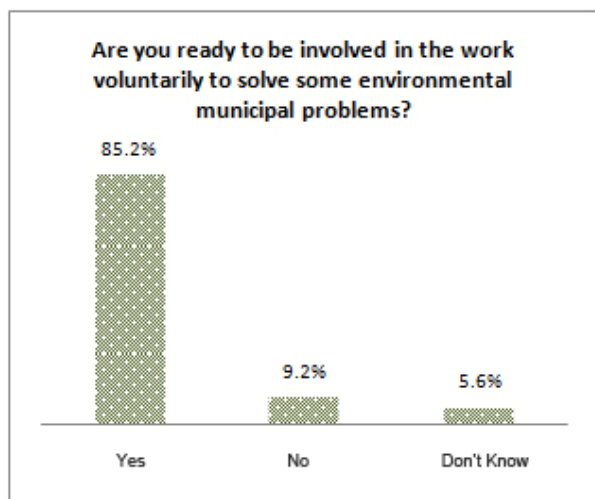
A considerable majority of the interviewed citizens of *Istog* expressed that it is necessary the direct participation of the citizens in the decision making processes. When expressed in percentage 95.0% of them express that the participation is necessary. In addition this percentage does not differ a lot between the male and female respondents. For graphical illustration see the following graphics.



2.12. Are you ready to be involved in the work voluntarily to solve some environmental municipal problems?

		Yes	No	Don't know
Gender	Male	215	23	17
		84.3%	9.0%	6.7%
	Female	211	23	11
		86.1%	9.4%	4.5%
Total		426	46	28
		85.2%	9.2%	5.6%

some environmental problems in their community. A high percentage of 85.2% are ready to do voluntary work; 5.6% do not know if they would be engaged whereas 9.2% will not be engaged in a voluntary work. In general the readiness of the males to engage in voluntary works is higher than the female ones. For illustration see the following graphics.

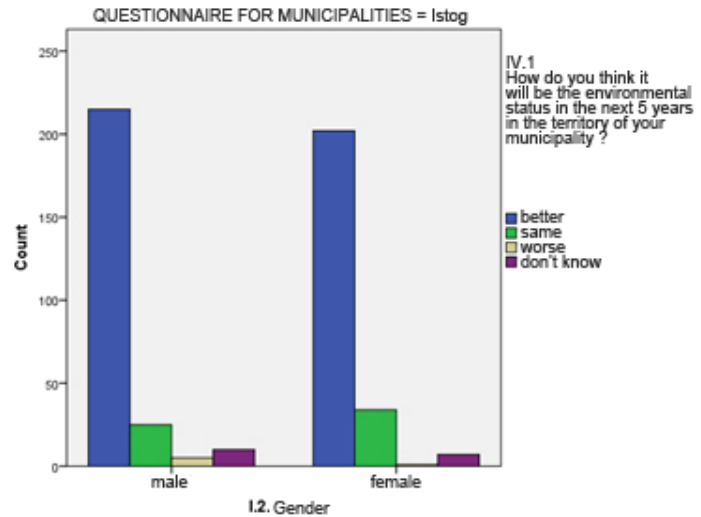
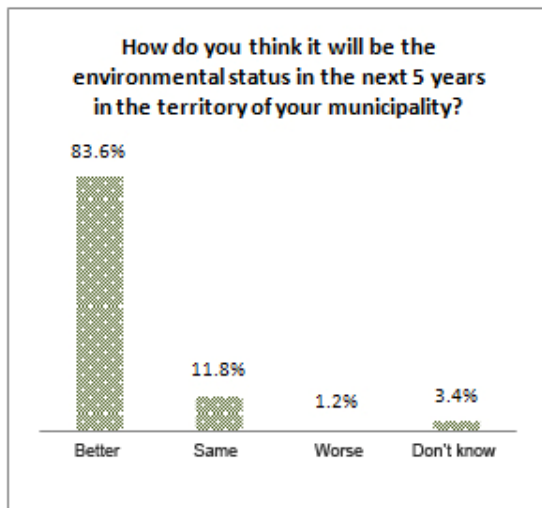


3. DEVELOPMENT VISION

3.1. How do you think it will be the environmental status in the next 5 years in the territory of your municipality?

		Better	Same	Worse	Don't know
Gender	Male	215 84.3%	25 9.8%	5 2.0%	10 3.9%
	Female	202 82.8%	34 13.9%	1 0.4%	7 2.9%
Total		417 83.6%	59 11.8%	6 1.2%	17 3.4%

The majority of the interviewed citizens of *Istog*, are optimistic concerning the future environmental status. In the question what do you think that the environmental status will be in five (5) next years in the territory of your municipality, the majority of the respondents responded that it will be better with 83.6%, *same* 11.8%, don't know 3.4%. The males and the females share almost the same opinion. For illustration see the following graphics.



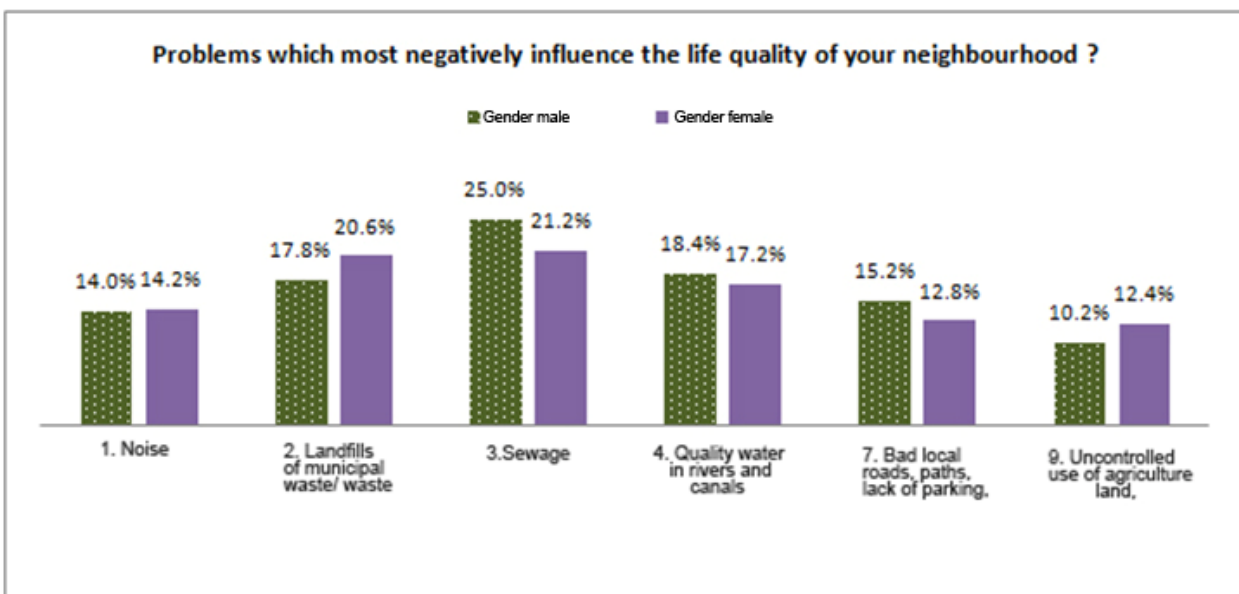
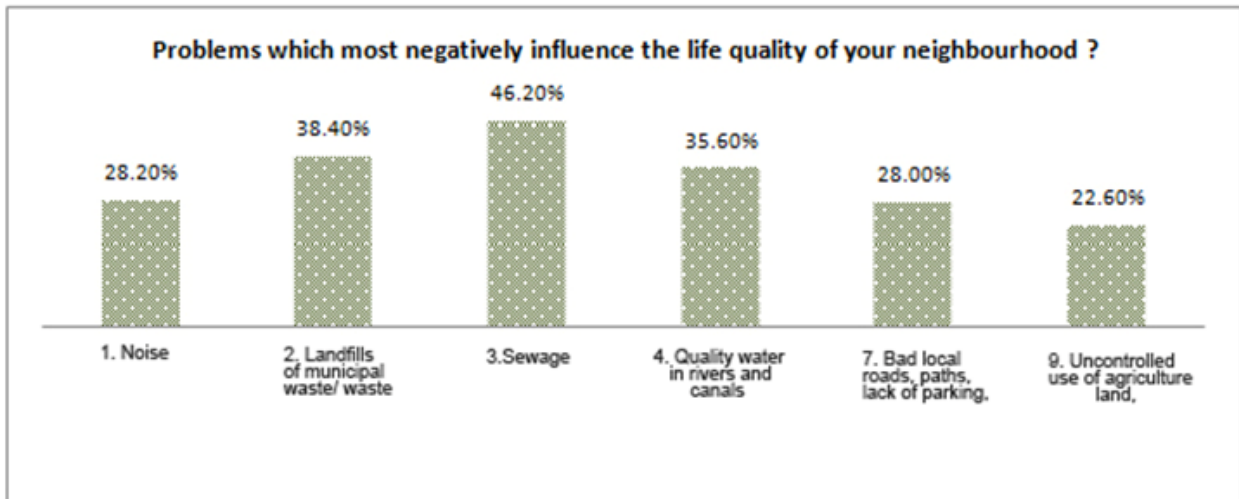
3.2. Circle 3 problems which most negatively influence the life quality of your neighbourhood

		1. Noise	2. Landfills of municipal waste/ waste	3.Sewage	4. Quality water in rivers and canals	7. Bad local roads, paths, lack of parking,	9. Uncontrolled use of agriculture land,
Gender	Male	70 14.0%	89 17.8%	125 25.0%	92 18.4%	76 15.2%	51 10.2%
	Female	71 14.2%	103 20.6%	106 21.2%	86 17.2%	64 12.8%	62 12.4%
Total		141 28.2%	192 38.4%	231 46.2%	178 35.6%	140 28.0%	113 22.6%

Regarding the question which is the three problems which most negatively influence the life quality in your neighbourhood, the respondents from Istog have selected:

- i) **Sewage**, as the first problem;
- ii) **Landfills of municipal waste**, as the second problem and
- iii) **Quality water in rivers and canals**, as the third problem.

For more see the graphic illustration on the problems which most negatively influence the quality of life in their neighbourhood:



CONCLUSIONS

The majority of the research' findings reconfirm our impression regarding various environmental problems which exist in respective municipalities. Nevertheless, each municipality is distinguished regarding their environmental features, as for example the primary problem of Hani i Elezit, Obiliq and Fushe Kosova is related to air pollution and concerning these three municipalities it is known very well the cause of air pollution. In regards to other municipalities, they are not faced with this problem as a primary one.

In the part regarding *current environmental perception* for all the municipalities, the response of the respondents is that the current environmental situation is not good and this implies that there should be done more regarding the improvement of the environmental situations. Regarding this, they see the local government, municipal public enterprises and the citizens themselves responsible to improve the environmental situation in the territory of their municipality. Depending on the municipalities, some of the problems that require immediate address are as follows: *Waste management, Sewage system, the quality of potable water, non-maintenance of the green areas, parks and protection stripes, Noise, the quality of the water in rivers and canals, the lack of information and transparency, the uncontrolled use of the agricultural land, the lack of the municipal services, the quality of the air, the polluted industrial waters and other problems.*

In the part concerning *the strategy of development and information*, the majority of the interviewed respondents expressed that they are not informed with the goals of municipal development strategy; their municipality needs a new development strategy and the current development do not meet the needs of the citizens. Therefore, the municipal administration should develop a platform of communication with its citizens and include them in the decision-making process –in this case in the development of LEAP. The research confirmed that the citizens take information mainly from television, local radios, daily press and internet. These media should have been channels through which the citizens are informed. However, the citizens have selected other channels which are specific for the respective municipalities.

The interviewed citizens have a very little knowledge concerning the environmental organizations that act in the respective municipalities or concerning the municipal service that deals with environmental issues. In relation to this, the environmental organizations and also the municipal service for environmental issues should be more present in the community through their activities and be more voiced in addressing the environmental problems. The most verified fact by this research is that the majority of the respondents are ready to do a voluntary environmental work with the aim of improving the environment in their neighbourhood. This fact should be used by the environmental non-governmental organization and also by the municipal authorities to have allied citizens in the environmental actions.

In the part of *development vision*, the majority of the respondents hope that in the future the environmental status will be improved for better. This expectation can be achieved by the LEAP development and its implementation in practise; nevertheless they should be always properly informed and involve the citizens and the group of interest in the decision-making process.



SWEDEN



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
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