



The role of urban forests in the environmental preservation:

Attitudes of citizens towards greenery of Novi Sad
legal and institutional aspects



University of
Novi Sad

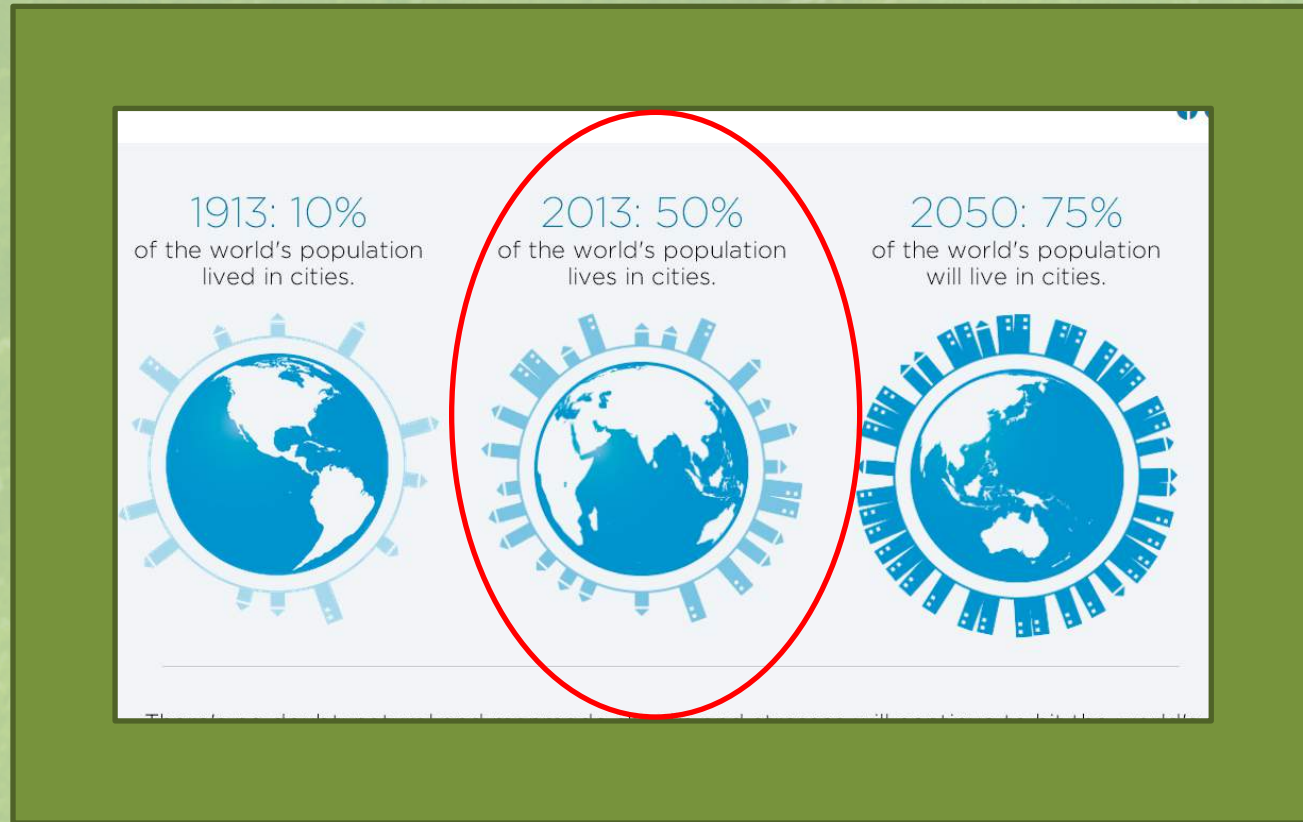


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More than a half of the world's population lives in the cities...



<http://udconnect.net/world-urban-population/>

... urban forests are important segment of (their) everyday life



Urban forests

- No unique definition
- **Urban forest** is a space where high woody vegetation dominates, it is accessible for city resident by foot, bicycle or public transportation, and it has primarily social and ecological purpose.
- **Urban forestry** is the management of planted and/or naturally occurring trees in urban areas and urban-interfaces areas and, it is also the art, science and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological, economic and aesthetic benefit trees provide society.



- The role of urban forests in the environmental preservation assessed from the **social science perspective**.
- International project: “Citizens and urban forest governance in South East Europe: Case studies in selected cities (**FORCITY**)”
- Project part: example of **Serbia** and the city of **Novi Sad**, aspects:

Part I:

Attitudes of citizens
toward green areas
in the city of
Novi Sad

Part II:

Legal and institutional
aspects related to
urban forests
(local, regional and state level)

Presentation content



Part I:

Attitudes of citizens towards greenery of Novi Sad



The aim of the study: to reveal attitudes of the interviewed citizens of Novi Sad respective green areas in the city.

Data collection: survey.

Structured face-to-face interviews, questionnaire developed after focus groups, three segments of questions (attitudes toward current situation, toward problems and socio-demographic characteristics of respondents), Linkert-scale.

Survey: July to September 2012, controlled random sample of 382 respondents (15+), from all parts of the city, balanced gender.

Analysis:

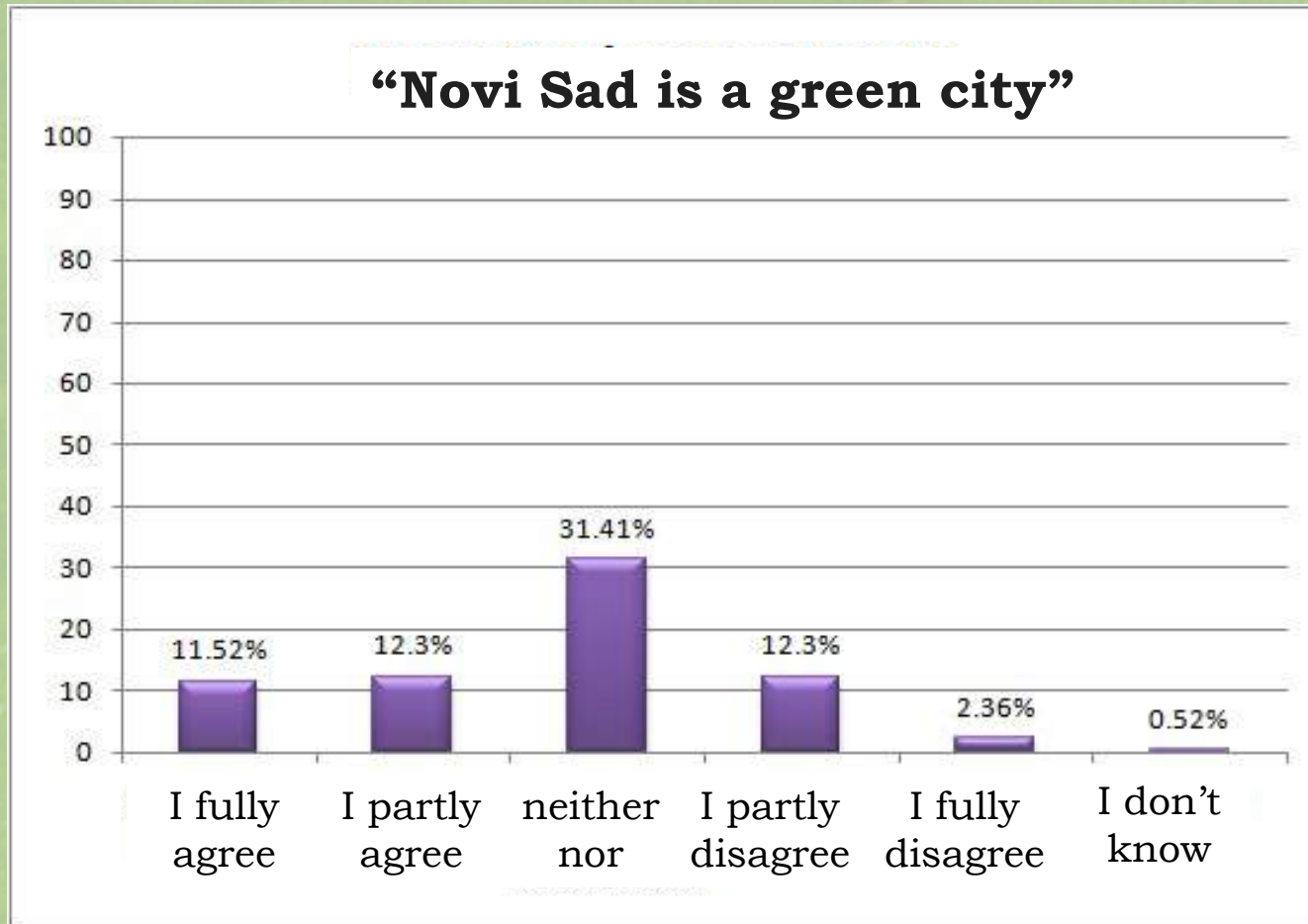
answers
statistically
processed,
critically
analyzed



Futoski park (<http://www.panoramio.com>, 2008)



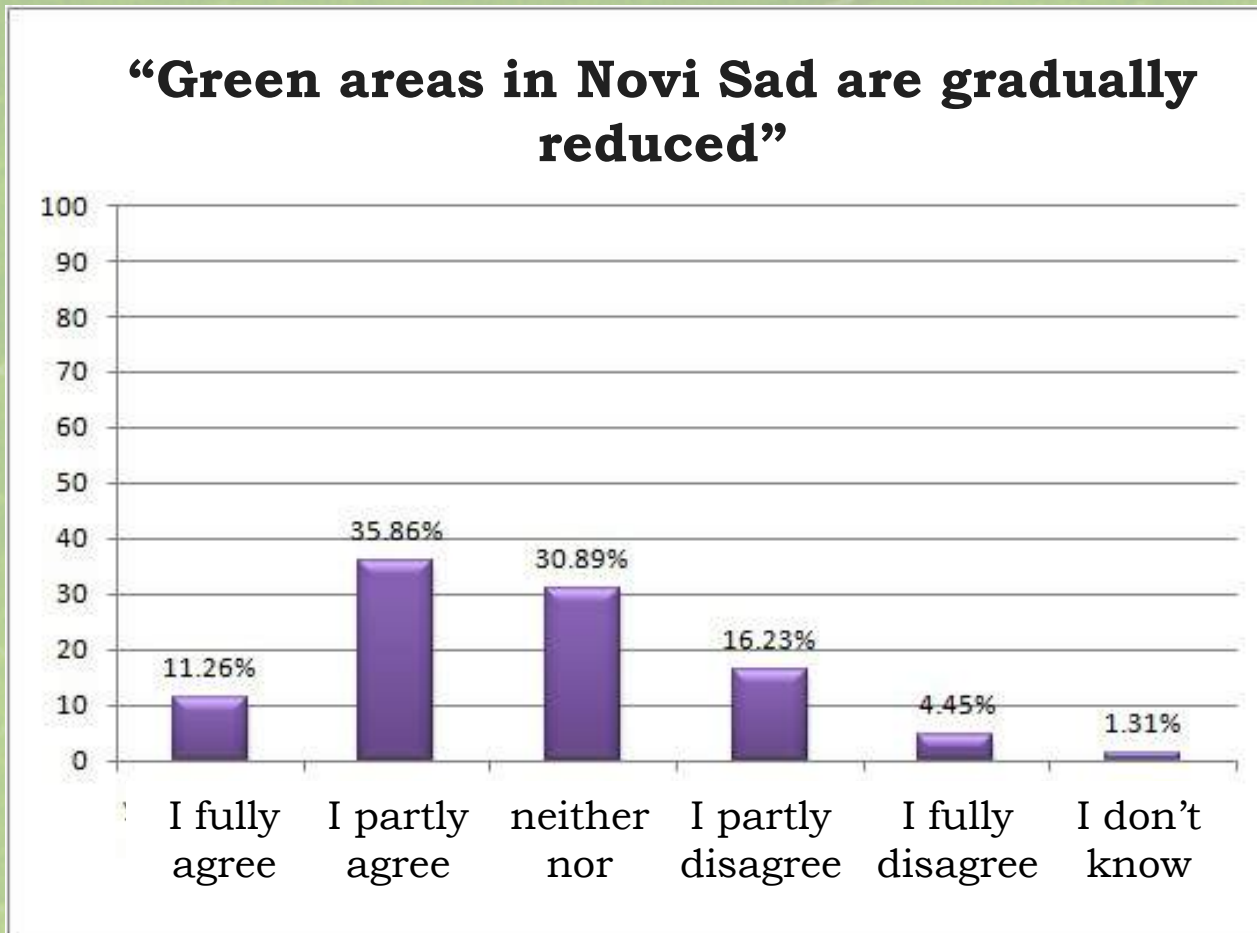
Results (selection)



(percental distribution of respondent's answers)



Results (selection)



(percental distribution of respondent's answers)



Results (selection)

Problems:

Parking on the green areas

Vandalism

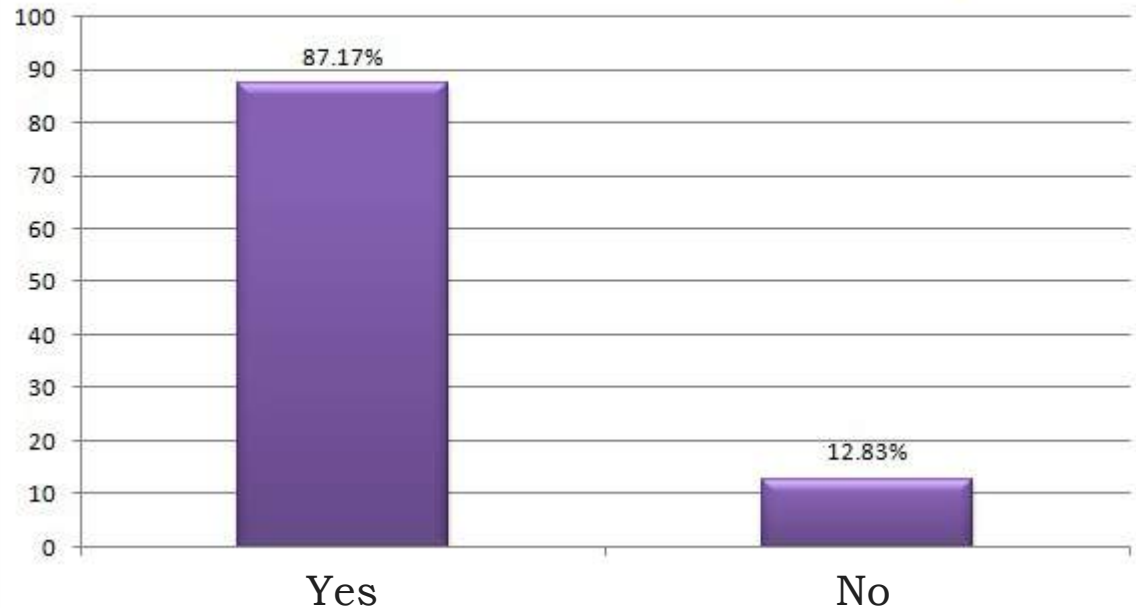
Traffic noise

Insufficient illumination

Lack of bicycle lines

Lack of sufficient park infrastructure

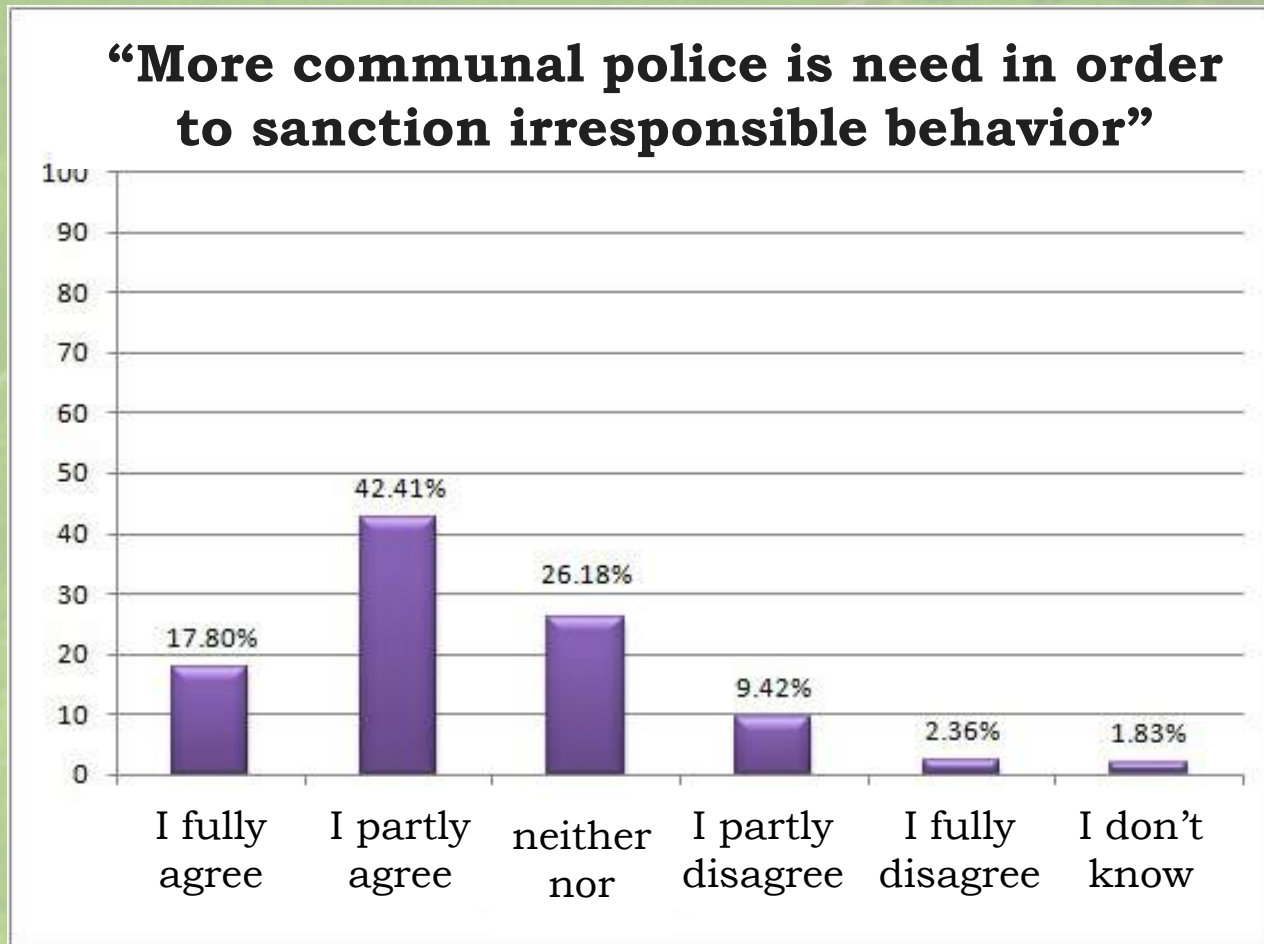
What do you think, are there any problems related to urban greenery of Novi Sad?



In the second part of the survey respondents evaluated problems they are faced with as users of the green areas in the city. Survey clearly appointed which problems are the most common (ranked by the range of importance).



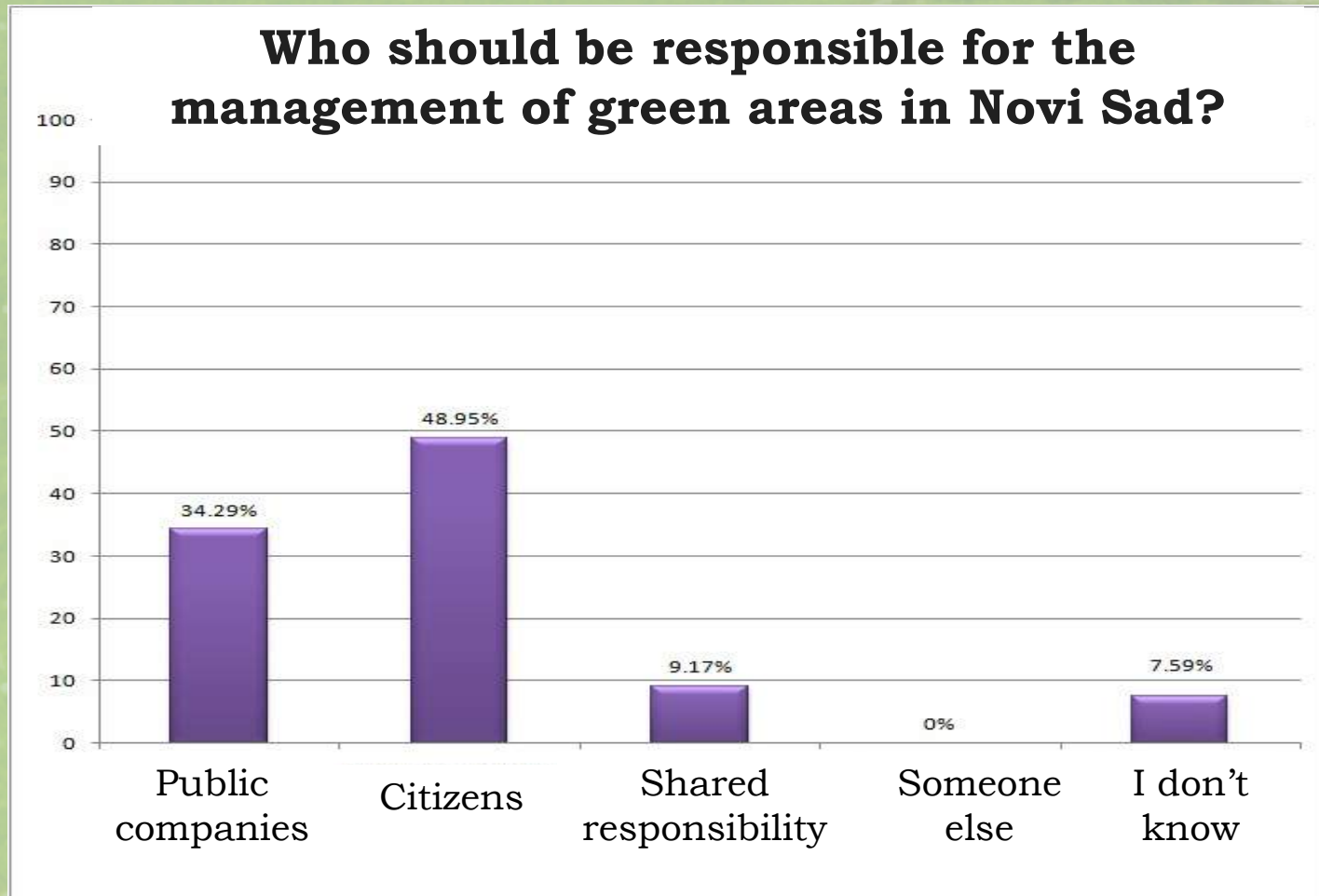
Results (selection)



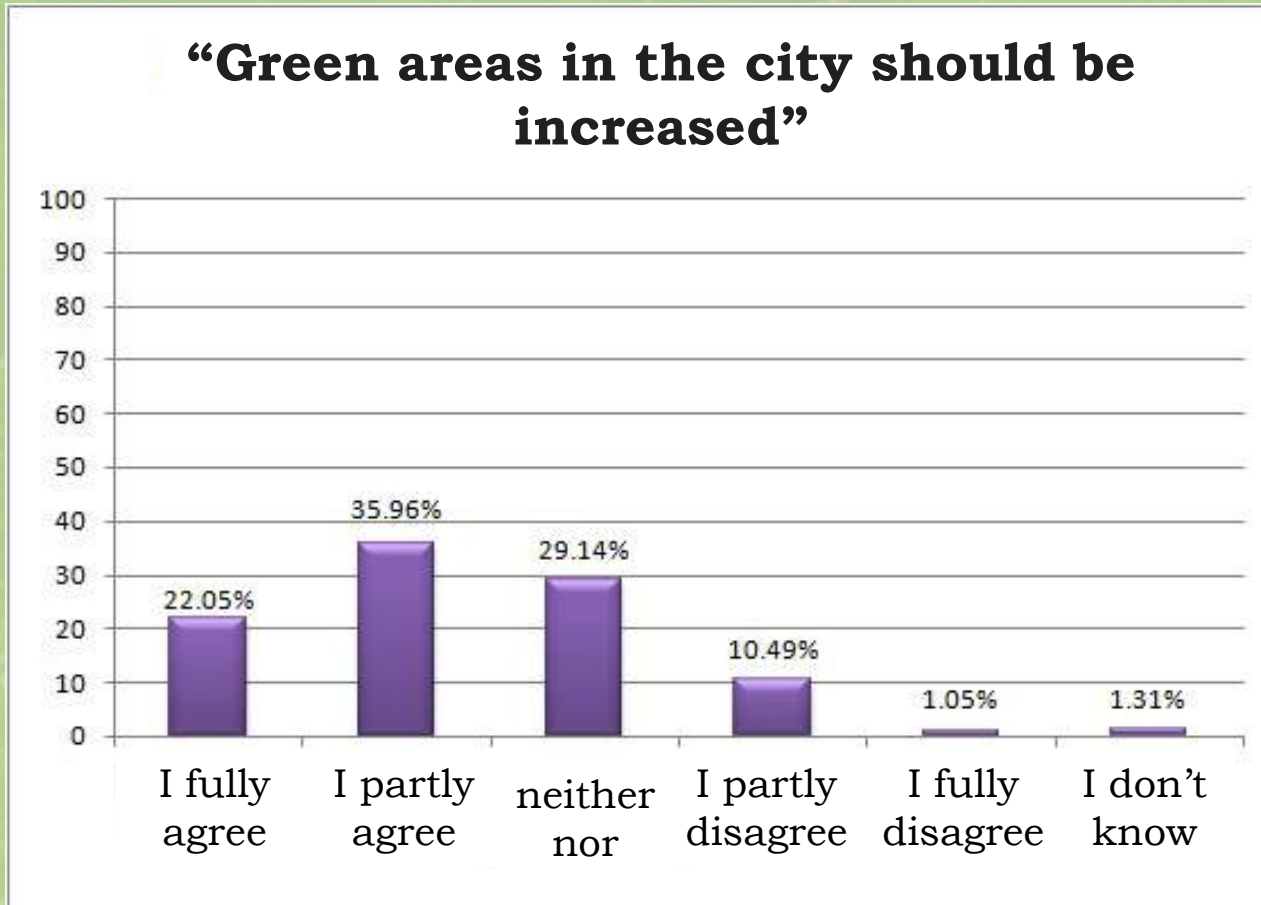
(percental distribution of respondent's answers)



Results (selection)



Results (selection)



(percental distribution of respondent's answers)



Part II:

Legal and institutional aspects



Aims of the study:

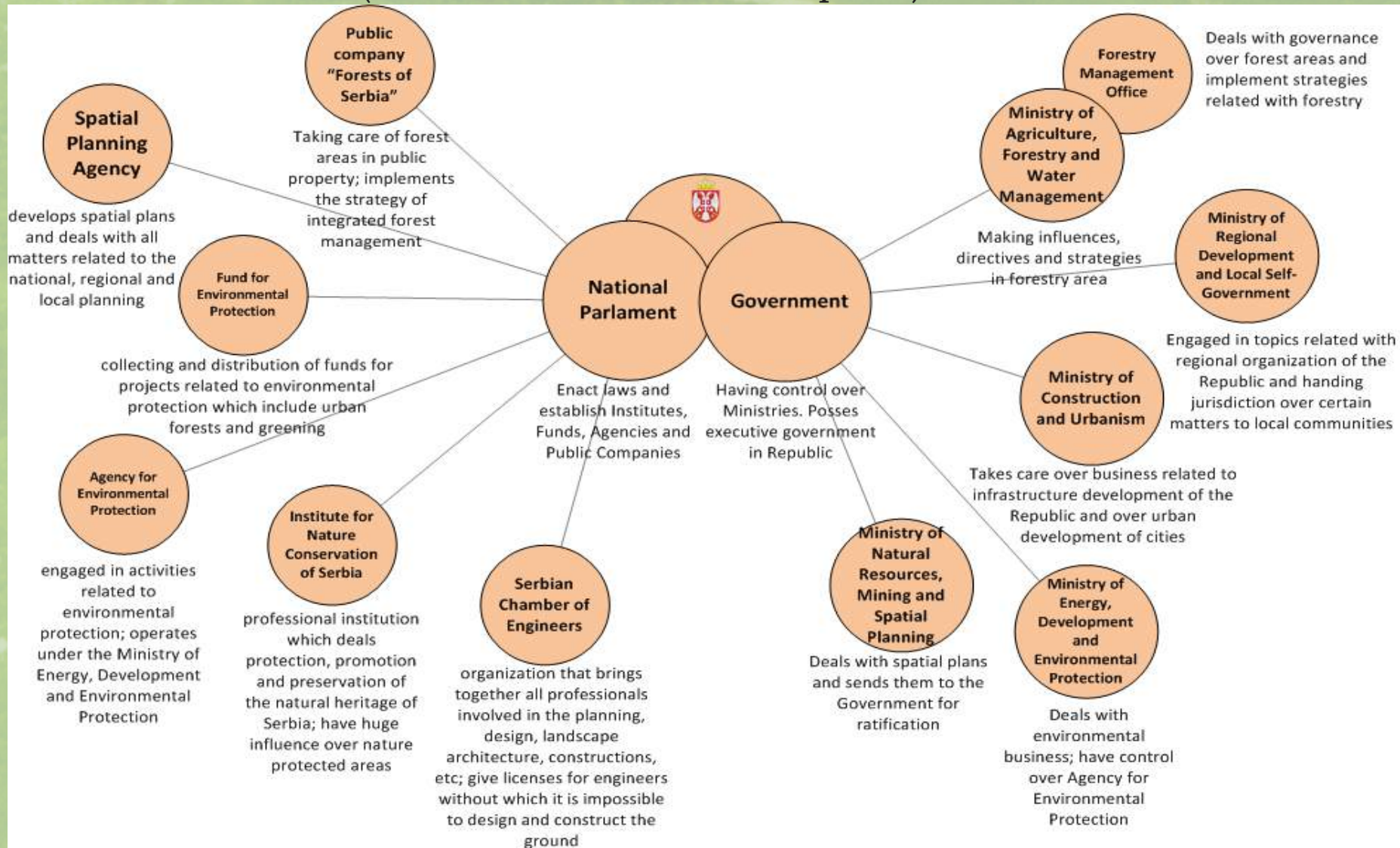
- to reveal which institutions are in charge of urban forests and who claims to have responsibility for their management and protection (state, province and local level)?
- to reveal whether legal documents address urban forests and greenery in Serbia and is this term used by professionals who work in this field?

Data collection: document analysis and semi-structured face-to-face interviews with institution's representatives; reference period 2012

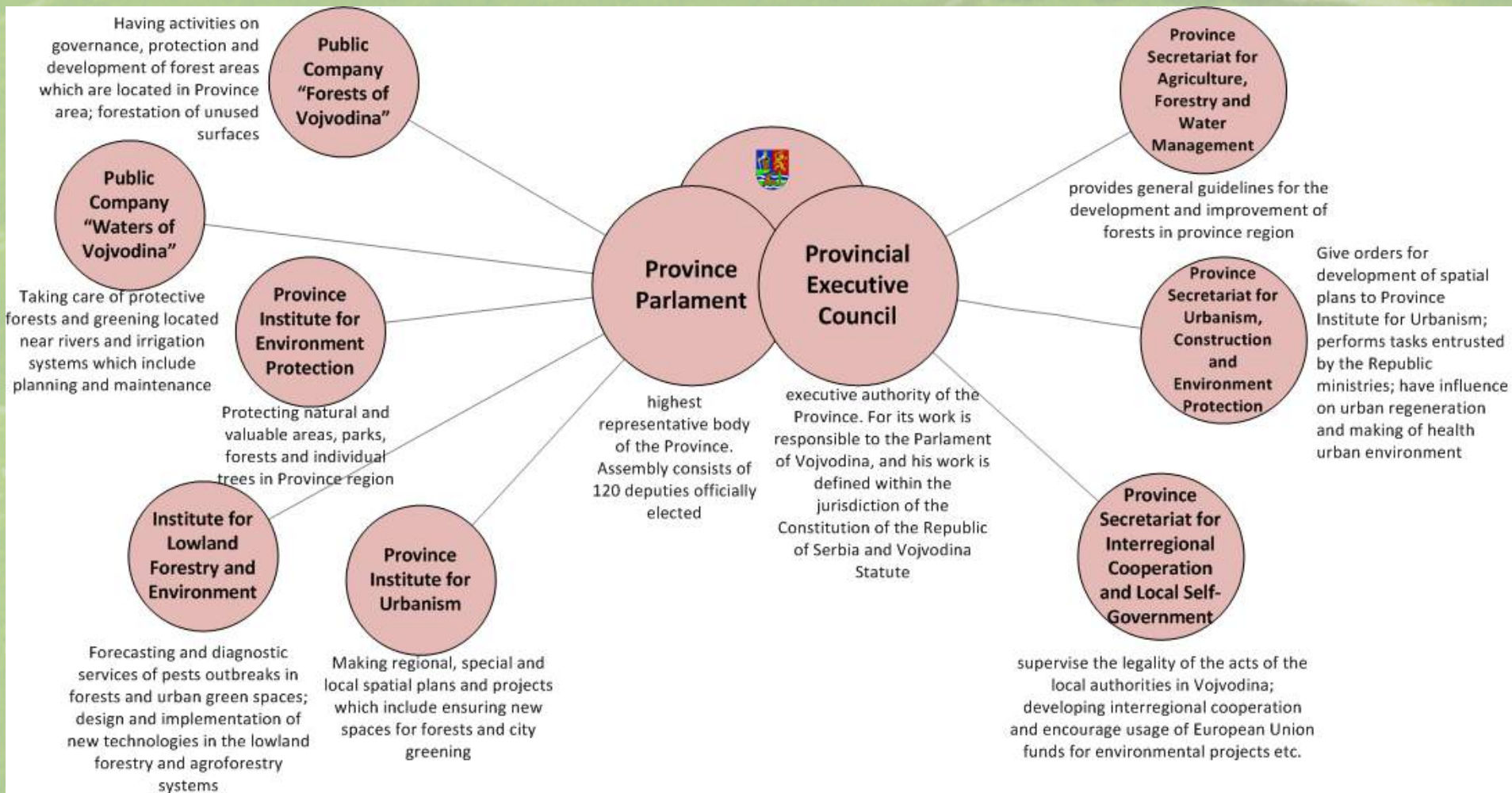
Analysis: data is critically analyzed, with the help of triangulation, inductive and deductive reasoning and other techniques commonly applied in social sciences.



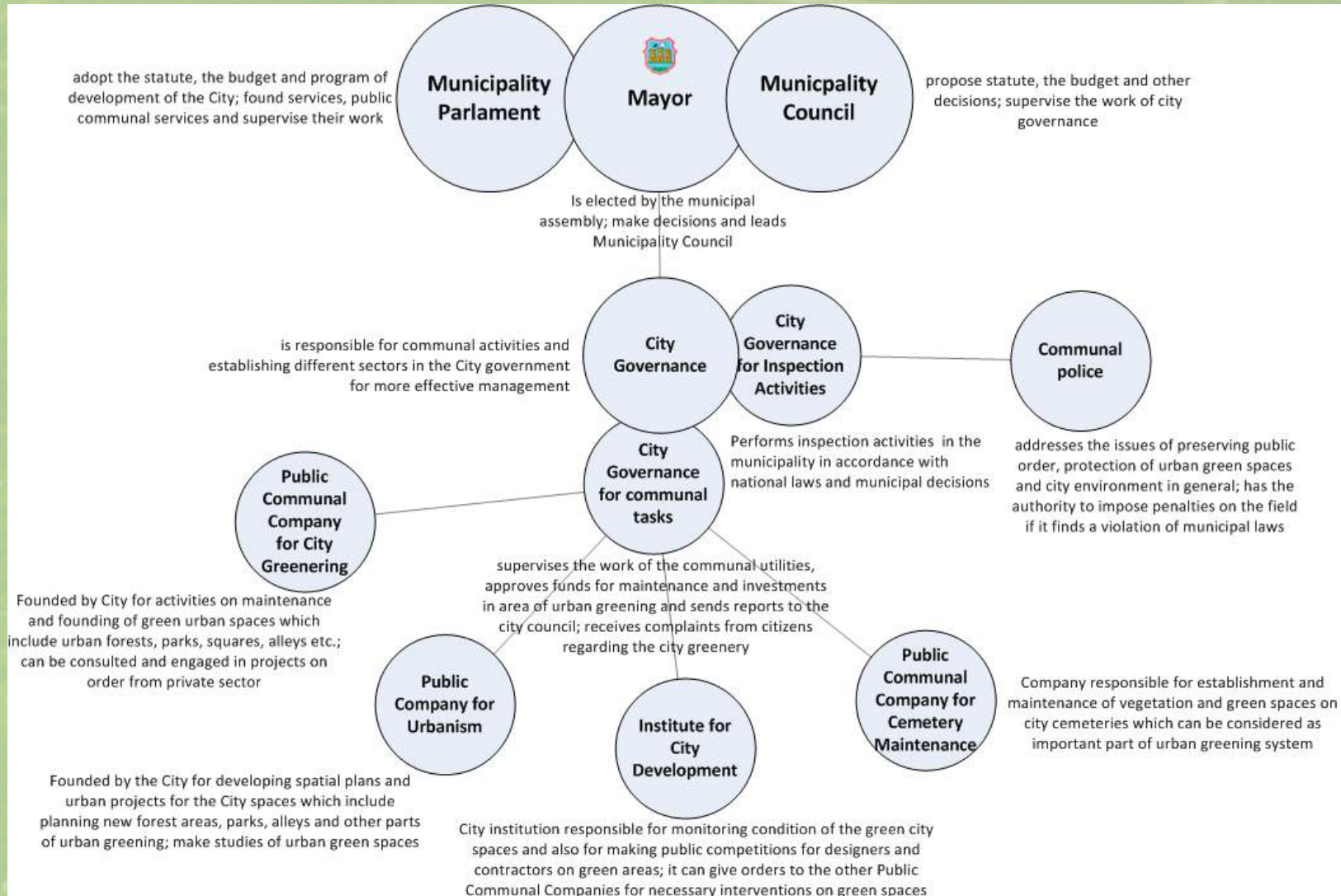
Results (selection: institutional aspects) - national level



Results (selection: institutional aspects) – provincial level



Results (selection: institutional aspect) – local level



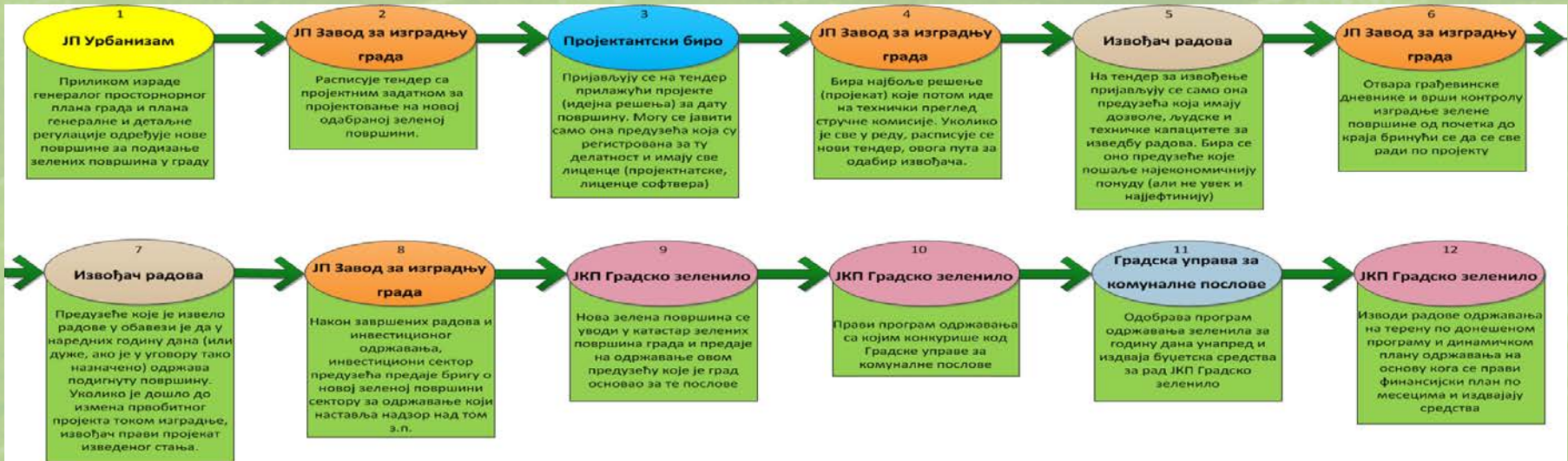
- It is surprising how **many different institutions** affect this issue
- But even **professionals** who are in charge in this field are not completely sure which institution is exactly responsible for what job.
- Some positive improvements are visible in the adoption of new, **more adequate laws**, with greater financial means

But...





vs.



... but, citizens are beginning to realize that a healthy environment is extremely important for the quality of life for all of us and that the urban forests and greening are one of the relevant factors of that environment...



Novi Sad (Srb.)



Neoplantensis (lat.)

www.novisad.rs



THANK YOU!

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Univerzitet u Novom Sadu



Institut za nizijsko šumarstvo i
životnu sredinu