



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Montenegro: Cutting of Cypress Tree in Bar

The Local government in Bar Municipality has adopted decision for cutting Cypress trees, which are located in the centre of the city, in the yard of the Gymnasium Niko Rolovic and represent the big green zone. Cypress trees have had 80 years. The reason for cutting is building kindergarten. Citizens of Bar have lunched the petition against the cutting and collected approximately 3.000 signatures to stop the cutting Cypress trees. Local parliament has rejected the initiative and started cutting on 17th January 2019 when the



Figure 1 - Protest of citizens in Bar; Photo by: B. Dabić



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

students of the Gymnasium Niko Rolovic were on the holiday. In total 80 trees was cut. From the 17th of January until today there are a protest of citizens and students in this Montenegrin coastal city, they are required reallocation of the kindergarten and responsibilities of local government and Ministries for the ecocide.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Remediation of the Maljevac landfill – the black ecological spot in Montenegro

Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG) has developed the Project of remediation and reclamation activities of the coal and ash disposal facility in Pljevlja, which will contribute of improving the quality of environment in the area surrounding the thermal power plant (TPP) Pljevlja

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report has been prepared for the Project remediation and reclamation activities. Public Consultation meeting for the Draft ESIA Report was held on January 15.

According to the available documentation remediation of the landfill will start during the 2019.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Common Position of the European Union for Chapter 27

The European Integration Office has published the Common Position of the European Union for Chapter 27, the preliminary and most important document for planning the obligations that need to be realized within this area in the coming period.

Figure 2 - Photo 2_Landfill Maljevac by: PV Portal



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Albania: HPPs vs. Protected Areas

In April 2018, the National Council of Territories approved the permit for the use of waters of the watershed of Holta, concerning the building of a small HPP. After obtaining the permit, the company started work, building a dam 135m away from Holta Canyon entrance. Referring to *Law no. 81/2017 "For the Protected Areas"* and special status that the canyon has as a natural monument, it is forbidden to construct buildings within a buffer zone of it, which is 200m. From field visits, it is noticed that



Figure 3 - Moments from the protest; Photo by AL-BEN Guide



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

the firm has carried out works at the entrance to the canyon. It is seen that corrosion on the river bed was performed by creating gravel for building material. A wall is built at the entrance to the canyon, making it very difficult to access the Monument of Nature.

Environmental activists announced the organization of a protest, called "Holtë and Zagori are Albania". The protest was held on January 25, 2019, at 11:00 am in Skanderbeg Square. Then the protesters marched toward the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, further towards the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The protest has as its final destination the Prime Minister. Environmentalists once warned that interference in these areas would bring irreversible consequences not only to nature and tourism, but also to community that live there.

Meanwhile at the Holtë Canyon, the Minister of Tourism and Environment and the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy organized a meeting with the community on construction issue of HPP. They emphasized the need to find a balance between economic development and natural resources. The two ministers highlighted that the work has been suspended at the moment, and all the HPP procedures have been postponed. This is an action to be undertaken for all HPPs to prevent all damages that



Figure 4 - Source: Drane Prelala

they cause. As the various



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

natural resources are changing rapidly and are suffering irreparable damage, the only solution in such cases is the awareness of society.

Belgium: Ten green tests for Romania's EU presidency

As Romania took in the January 2019 the helm of the EU's rotating presidency for the next six months, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) assesses the challenges and opportunities ahead for an environmentally sound and socially inclusive Europe.

Romania has taken over the Presidency of the EU at a time when the challenge of strengthening and implementing EU environmental policies is as great as ever. For the next six months, the country will lead on several issues that have the potential to shape the future of Europe. For this reason, the EEB calls on the Romanian government to promote a greener, more sustainable Europe, where our destructive impact on the climate, biodiversity and public health in Europe and beyond is rapidly decreased in line with citizens' expectations and scientific imperatives, through the following measures:

- Drive ambitious climate commitments to 1.5 degrees



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

- Halt biodiversity loss: Protect our land and oceans
- Transform food & farming systems through the Common Agricultural Policy
- Make the EU Budget work for people and planet
- Reduce air pollution to protect human health and the environment
- Ensure clean and sufficient water for Europeans
- Protect the public from hazardous chemicals
- Transition to an innovative, resource efficient, circular economy
- Strengthen democratic governance, the rule of law, and environmental justice
- Make Sustainable Development Goals drive the Future of Europe

For full text click here:

<https://eeb.org/publications/183/eu-governance/96666/eeb-memorandum-to-the-romanian-presidency.pdf>

Add your name to the European Initiative: “Rights for People, Rules for Corporations – Stop ISDS”

At the start of the 2019 World Economic Forum in Davos, The European Environmental Bureau and 150+ other European organisations, trade unions and social movements launched a new trade and corporate accountability campaign called “Rights for People and Rules for Corporations – Stop ISDS”. In today’s international system, corporations benefit from far reaching super-rights and have access to special tribunals to enforce them. Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) allows them to attack states outside of national courts whenever these states adopt legislation that could harm their



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

profits. This mechanism threatens democratic decision making, the rule of law, human rights, the environment, health, public services, gender equality, as well as consumer and labour rights

Meanwhile, there are still no binding international obligations to make transnational corporations (TNCs) accountable for their deeds and ensure respect of human, labour and environmental rights. Affected individuals and communities often face a denial of justice when TNCs violate their rights. This is an appalling asymmetry. In Europe, the TTIP and CETA movements put the ISDS mechanism in the spotlight and exposed its illegitimacy. We want to end this unfair system once and for all, stop its expansion in any form, and terminate existing treaties containing ISDS.

New rules are also needed to keep corporations accountable and shift the balance of power to people and the planet. There is momentum to adopt such rules at the national, European and UN level. We call on states to support the UN Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights currently under negotiations, and to enact European legislation defining the duties of transnational corporations throughout their supply chain, as well as ensuring access to justice for victims of corporate malpractice.

We call on everyone to sign and share the petition: <https://www.cidse.org/articles/business-and-human-rights/rights-for-people-rules-for-corporations-stop-isds.html>



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Electronic Newsletter

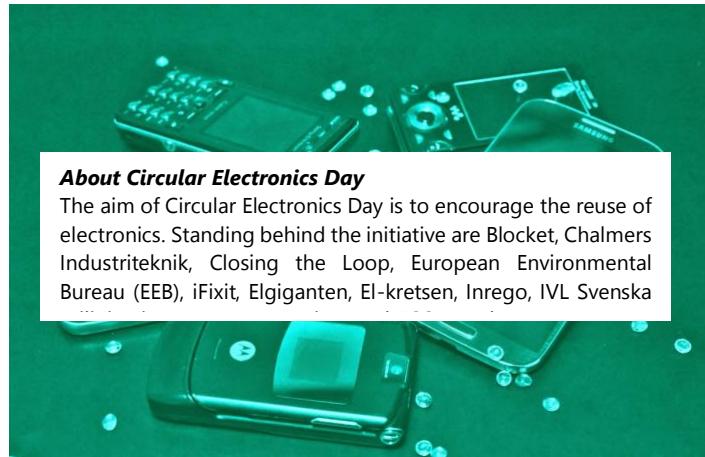
Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Circular Electronics Day aims to extend the lifespan of electronics

Today's extensive consumption of electronics lead to alarming amounts of waste and the release of substances hazardous to human health and the environment. Finite natural resources are extracted from the ground at a fast rate and reserves are running low. By prolonging product life, individuals and organizations can contribute to a more sustainable future. On January 24, Circular Electronics Day took place for the second time. More than twelve organizations internationally stand behind the initiative which aims to increase awareness of why electronic products should be given a longer life through repairs, upgrades and reuse.

50 million metric tons of electronic waste is being generated per year worldwide. E-waste contains valuable metals as well as hazardous substances that are often released into the environment s and affect human health. Even more



About Circular Electronics Day

The aim of Circular Electronics Day is to encourage the reuse of electronics. Standing behind the initiative are Blocket, Chalmers Industrieknik, Closing the Loop, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), iFixit, Elgiganten, El-kretsen, Inrego, IVL Svenska

Figure 6 - <https://medium.com/if-you-want-to/day-11-of-xmas-green->



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

waste is generated when the products are manufactured — to make a notebook computer, 1,200 kilograms of waste is produced, for example from the mining and metals industries. The environmental problems are a result of today's linear economy where raw materials are extracted to manufacture products which often have a short lifespan before they are discarded. "We need to make the transition to the circular economy where products and materials are handled in a responsible way. The aim is to maximize product lifetime and handle discarded products as valuable resources, used to manufacture new products", says Andreas Rehn, project manager of criteria development at TCO Development, the organization behind sustainability certification for IT products, TCO Certified. The organizers of the initiative encourage both individuals and organizations to contribute to a more sustainable use of electronics by sharing tips and inspiring others to reuse products with the hashtag #CircularElectronicsDay.

Five easy steps that can extend the lifespan of electronic

1. Buy your product second hand. By asking for used products or products that are designed for reuse, both individuals and organizations can contribute.
2. Consider if it is possible to repair or sell your product. By erasing old data, refurbishing and upgrading it, you can give it a longer life.
3. If you must buy a new product, choose one that is certified according to a sustainability certification compliant with ISO 14024. Criteria must then be comprehensive, relevant and cover the product's full life cycle and compliance with the criteria must be verified by an independent part.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

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4. Purchase a high-performance product. It enables you to keep it for a longer period of time.
 5. Electronics contain valuable resources and shouldn't be treated as waste. If it's not possible to reuse or sell your old products, hand them in to a recycling facility or another collection point where the materials are taken care of. Many retailers accept that you leave your old products with them for recycling.

Republic of North Macedonia: Ban on the use of cyanide and sulphuric acid for the new mines

Almost a year after the submission of the proposal for amending of the Law on Mineral Resources the Parliament, at its session held on January 9, 2019 finally adopted the amendments that prohibit all future mines of metallic raw materials with open pits to use of cyanide and sulphuric acid in the technological processes of flotation or ore mining. Amendments to this Law, which do not apply to the existing mines, were proposed by 11 deputies from various political parties. The first attempt to pass the amendments in the Parliament at the session held on 3rd September 2018 wasn't successful, because there was no quorum for voting.

The need for amending of the Law on Mineral Resources arose from the necessity for long-term protection of the environment and health of the population living near the sites of mineral resources and mines and to prevent the use of technologies that use hazardous substances. Considering the size of our country, as well as the fact that the ecosystem is a whole, the threat is relevant to all our citizens, but also to the wider region, and transboundary.

The immediate motives for the proposed law amendments were the issued concessions for surface mines for copper and gold mines - Kazandol in Valandovo and Illovica in Bosilovo, which in their procedures will use sulphuric acid and



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

cyanide solution in huge quantities. Knowing the danger to the living world of these chemicals, a wave of protests and referendums have been organised in six municipalities to stop the mines. But there is a potential danger from another 80 already conceded concessions for geological explorations, at the end of which one can expect the same requirements for obtaining a concession for the exploitation of mineral resources. Knowing that research relates mainly to poor gold, silver, and copper ores, it is very likely to assume that they will all offer the cheapest and most dangerous techniques and technologies for their exploitation. That would mean that about 10,000 square kilometres of our country (out of total 25,000 square kilometres), could be devastated from surface mines that completely change the appearance of the land and pollute the waters, the air and the soil. Most of the population in the region lives from agriculture and tourism, which



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

would be destroyed for several hundred jobs in the mines, for a profit of 2% for the municipalities, and 98% for the concessionaires.

The amended law explicitly prohibits the exploitation and processing of mineral resources by applying cyanide, sulphuric acid and other hazardous substances. In order to prevent possible data manipulation during the concession issuing process, an amendment is made that regulates which data the applicant for a concession must submit in their request to the Ministry of Economy - about the type of the procedure for exploitation of mineral resources and the chemicals to be applied, as well as the deposited financial guarantee in case of harmful effects on the environment. The same data should also be included in the decision to grant a concession. The deadline for receiving an answer regarding the concession request from the competent institutions, as well as from the local self-governments, is extended from 15 days to 30 days, which is considered to provide a reasonable time for studying by the experts and informing the public, which will contribute to the transparency of the entire process.

The new legal solution does not apply to mines that have already received concessions and work under the supervision of the environmental authorities. After the closing of the Kazandol mine, this is another joint success of the environmentalists in the fight for a healthy life in a clean environment and for the development of the green economy. Strumica environmental organizations

announced that they would additionally give their comments on the adopted amendments to the Law. Unofficially, many activists express their concerns that the changes will not apply to the new copper and gold mine Illovica.

Figure 7 – Balkan Bridges 4 x 4x 4



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Kosovo: In 2019, Kosovo will help and coordinate t



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

On 09 January 2019, there was a meeting held between the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, (MESP) Fatmir Matoshi and the leader of the Let's Do It World network, Heidi Solba and Board member Anneli Ohvrii. The leader of the "Let's Do It World" network, Heidi Solba, praised Kosovo's institutions for the work done with the project "Let's Clean Up Kosovo". *"You are leading as an example among the 158 countries that are members of 'Let's Do It World'. Therefore, as an excellent result that Kosovo has provided in this regard, we invite you to be a leading state in the organization that will take place in September around the world. We are honored that Minister Matoshi will be a participant in the conference to be held in Estonia,"* Solba said.

"As a country, Let's Do It Kosovo with Let's Do It Word endorsed and supported by MESP in 2019, we will coordinate and lead the global cleaning campaign due to the results we have achieved in the campaign for environmental cleanup. This will be the best example because on September 21, when the World Day of Cleaning will be organized, we will send messages from this place. This is a good opportunity to promote Kosovo in the international arena. But until September 21 we have a lot to do," said Minister Matoshi.

Figure 8 - <https://mmph.rks-gov.net/sq/Lajmet/Matoshi-Ne-vitin-2019-Kosova-do-te-udheheq-dhe-koordinoj-fushaten-botore-re-pastrimit-2527>



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Serbia: Serbia march in protest of small hydropower plants wantonly is destroying our rivers

On January 27, starting at 13h in Belgrade, a few thousand citizens from across Serbia gathered to rally with a single demand – the immediate halt of the construction of small hydropower plants. In recent decade, this is the biggest citizens' march in Serbia focused to nature, environment and natural resources. Speakers included Predrag Simonović, professor at the Belgrade University's Faculty of Biology, who was Panelist at EnE18 Environment to Europe Conference, and also honorable member of EASD. He advocates respect implementation of the environmental and nature protection related laws.

Ratko Ristić, dean of the Faculty of Forestry, said that he visited with colleagues 46 hydro power plants in Serbia and the situation is devastating: fish ways do not work, the biological minimum is not respected, and the local population's traditional activities are hindered.



Figure 9 - <https://balkangreenenergynews.com>



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Just to remind on EASD organized *Panel on Development Responsible to Nature* (EnE18 Conference and ENV.net related event) in June 2018. Deni Porej, Director of WWF Adria, WWF Mediterranean Programme Office, who was also Panelist at EnE18 Conference share hope after march that something happened in Belgrade that gives great hope: 4000+ people from all over Serbia march in protest of small hydropower plants wantonly destroying our rivers. To note that investors in Small Hydro Power Plants, who recently founded an association, said in a press release that the "malicious campaign" is led by people who have political ambitions and seek personal promotion.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

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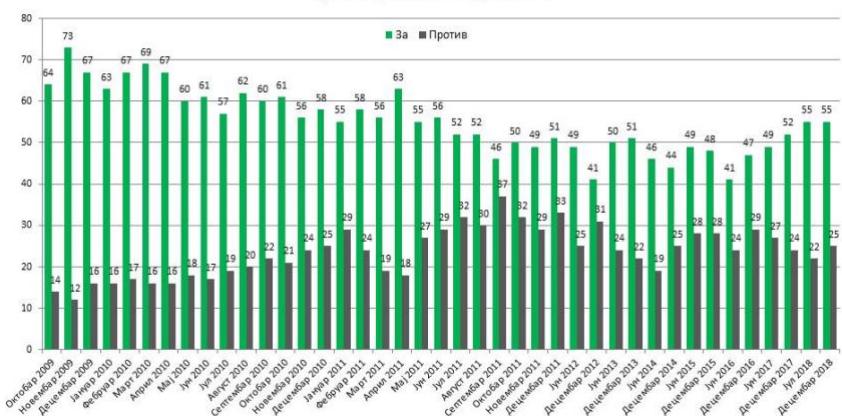


Република Србија

Министарство за европске интеграције

Подршка чланству у ЕУ

Уколико би сутра био расписан референдум са питањем: „Да ли подржавате учлањење наше земље у Европску унију“, како бисте ви гласали? (%)
Приказ кроз таласе истраживања.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

The latest December 2018 six-month survey of the Serbian Ministry of European Integration, conducted according to the Standard Eurobarometer shows that European integration is supported by 55% of Serbian citizens. The survey also has shown that 75 percent of citizens support the reform process in Serbia regardless of the European integration process. To note that sector environment is not in the focus of citizens – only 9% (with possibility of multiple answers) think that reforms in environmental sector significantly influence they everyday life.

Survey available at:

[http://www.mei.gov.rs/eng/news
/848/189/335/details/j-
joksimovic-55-of-serbian-
citizens-support-eu-integration/](http://www.mei.gov.rs/eng/news/848/189/335/details/j-joksimovic-55-of-serbian-citizens-support-eu-integration/)



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Sixth Plenary Session of National Convention on the European Union

On January 18, 2019, in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Sixth Plenary Session of National Convention on the European Union took a place.

Coordinator of the National Convention on the EU stressed that "we need this kind of dialogue with the government more than ever because there is a deep polarization, strong rhetoric, a degree of (verbal) violence we must face, and this kind of dialogue, communication and cooperation is necessary".

Serbian Prime Minister, addressing the meeting, said that 2019 will be challenging for the EU, especially because of Brexit and the European elections. She said that "we want a country that doesn't only share European values on paper, but also a European standard of living", "Serbia remains



Figure 11 - EASD



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

deeply and truly committed to the European integration process". Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia said that the EU remains engaged with the region. He reminded that Serbia has opened 16 negotiating chapters thus far and temporarily closed two, and that the focus remains on the negotiations, reforms in important areas of economy and rule of law, the freedom of media and the fight against organized crime and corruption. Serbian Minister for EU integration also address the meeting underlying realistic and optimistic approach to EU accession. Sector Environment and Climate Change challenges were presented NGO Coordinator of NCEU WG for Chapters 14 and 27. It should be noted pointed out challenges of multisector nature of environmental sector, as well as slow implementation of trans posited EU directives. It that regards, Assistant to Minister of Finance, said that subject sustainable financing of environmental sector is among the priorities of economic reforms for period 2019-2021.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Turkey: Special importance of Climate Resilience Agriculture in Çanakkale Province

On 11 January 2019, TEMA Foundation organised a panel with more than 100 participants in order to discuss impacts of climate change and agriculture linkages in Kaz Mountains, located in Çanakkale Province. Deputy Governor of Çanakkale Cezmi Batuk, Mayor of Çanakkale Ülgür Gökhan, TEMA Foundation Member of Science Committee Prof. Murat Türkeş, Chairperson of TEMA Foundation Deniz Ataç, Board Members of TEMA Foundation Pervin Olgun and Canan Barut, General Manager of TEMA



Figure 12 - Tema Foundation



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Foundation Oben Akyol, experts from Head Office, farmer Tanfer Dinler, TEMA Çanakkale Province representative Ali Dereli, representatives of local civil society organisations based in Çanakkale, coordinators of TEMA Young and volunteers joined the meeting.

Why focus on Kaz Mountains and Çanakkale?

Çanakkale is a province of Turkey located in the Northwestern part of the country. The Province has very rich forest area (54% of the province's land area). It is of great importance for agricultural activities and has one of the most major agricultural fields in Turkey. A large fraction of Çanakkale's population (more than half of the population) depends on agriculture for its livelihood. 80 per cent of Kaz Mountains and part of Kaz Mountain National Park are within the provincial borders. The Mountain area is located in one of the most important forest areas and mountain ecosystems that still maintain its integrity in the world. It also provides water resources in Biga Peninsula. It is an important habitat for wildlife.

Regarding the purpose of the panel, the agricultural sector in Turkey is extremely sensitive field of activity with its inherent structure, the issue climate change, featuring exclusive environmental, social and economic risks. In particular, the decrease in agricultural areas in Çanakkale especially due to drought and unsustainable practices affect the human life and the environment negatively. In this context, the aim of the panel was to pay attention to Çanakkale's climate resilience agriculture.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

TEMA Foundation Member of Science Committee Prof. Türkeş stated that one of the negative effects of climate change in Mediterranean Region including Çanakkale and Biga is the decrease of agricultural production and biodiversity loss. Co-founder of Agricultural Informatics and Communication Technologies (TABIT) Tülin Akın highlighted the importance of smart technology adoption, usage and role in agriculture improvement. Farmer Dinler informed the audience about Agricultural Insurance Pool (TARSIM) which was founded in 2005 by "Agricultural Insurance Code No.5363" with the aim of promoting agricultural insurance in order to protect farmers against the natural disasters and other potential risks.

Sub-Grants Awarded by TEMA Foundation under the ENV.net Project

The call for sub-grants under the ENV.net Project for the 2019 year was announced by TEMA Foundation on 2 November 2018 and was open until 31 December 2018. TEMA Foundation received 47 applications in total. Following the one-month assessment process, jury members selected three projects to be awarded for the next 6 months. Projects plans of three applicants can be seen as follows:

"Hemşin Yaşam Derneği", Rize Province

Duration of Project: May-October 2019 (6 months) due to sessional agricultural activities in Hemşin.

Project Title: "Ses ver Hemşin" ("Give a Voice, Hemşin")

Hemşin Yaşam Derneği (NGO) was established by a group of young people to be involved in local activities in Hemşin. Hemşin is a district in Rize Province located in North-eastern part of Turkey. Rize is the biggest tea producing place in Turkey.



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

The foundation was established with the aim of contributing to sustainable development as well as social empowerment and participatory democracy at local level. They aim at raising public awareness on the protection of natural and cultural heritages in general.

Due to lack of awareness-related research in regard with environmental and social sustainability performance of Hemşin, they plan to organise a workshop regarding sustainable rural development, sustainable tourism, environmental education, efficient use of water resources, impacts of climate change and the preservation of cultural heritages in Hemşin. At the end of the workshop, they will share a scientific study summarising ecological problems that Hemşin is facing today and policy recommendations for a better policy development in the region. In order to discuss environmental issues with local people, they also plan to organise meetings in 12 villages based in Hemşin District. In the aftermath of the meetings, local people's suggestions for the improvement of policy development in Hemşin will be recorded by the project team. The reason why they start the project in May is that meetings with local people living in villages will be held during the tea season which begins in May and ends in October.

"Atatürk University", Erzurum

Duration of Project: February-May 2019 (4 months)

Project Title: "Üniversite Gençliği Anadolu'nun Zirvesinde İklim Değişikliğine Çözüm Arıyor" ("University Youth Looking For Solutions in Tackling Climate Change in Anatolia")



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

January 2019

Erzurum Province is located in eastern Anatolia with mountain ranges and flatlands surrounding it. In order to provide solutions for combating climate change in Erzurum, the university youth under this project will have a chance to discuss impacts of changes in climate in the Province. To be able to analyse the problems of climate change in terms of environmental, social, political, economic, technological as well as legal aspects, 60 students from different faculties including "tourism", "law", "architecture", "agriculture", "economic and administrative sciences", and "literature" will examine the causes and consequences of climate change in Erzurum by using PESTEL analysis.

In April, they will organise a three-day training programme for bachelor students. Following the kick-off meeting and panel in the first day of the programme, students' knowledge on climate change will be measured by a short survey consisting of a series of questions regarding the issue of climate change. The training programme will be related to PESTEL analysis, climate change, climate-tourism linkages, water issues, biodiversity loss, ecosystems, Turkey's economy and the like. During the last day, students will discuss climate issues by using PESTEL.

"Sinirli Sorumlu Proje Evi Üretim İşletme ve Çevre Koruma Kooperatifi", İstanbul

Duration of Project: February-July 2019 (6 months)

Project Title: "Kaz Dağları ve Edremit Körfezi'nde Çevre ve Doğa Koruma Alanındaki Sivil Toplum ve Aktivistler İçin Çevrimiçi Model Bilgi ve İletişim Ağı" ("Online Model and Communication Network for Civil Society and Activists Acting in Environment and Nature Conservation Concerns in Kaz Mountains and Edremit Bay")



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

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Since its establishment in 2005, "Proje Evi" (Project House) works for Turkey's EU accession process in the field of sustainable development, climate change, and project cycle. They work with local NGOs in order to enhance awareness on such topics. In this project, they plan to create an online database to be integrated into online environment platform called "e-patika.net" (<https://e-patika.net/>). The reason why they need data base is to identify the possible ecological risks for Kaz Mountains and Edremit Bay. They will gather detailed information for other NGOs and related organisations to create a better database of information and analysis, to provide input to policy development processes, and to develop better standards for institutions.



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