



MONTENEGRO: REGIONAL LEVEL

REPORT- WHO PAYS, WHO PROFITS

For small hydropower plants in the Western Balkans.

According to this analyses, between 2009 and the end of 2018, at least 380 small hydropower plants were built in the region, of which virtually all receive feed-in tariffs. This quadrupled the overall number, from 108 to at least 488.

“In 2018, 70 per cent of renewable energy support in the Western Balkans benefited small hydropower. Yet small hydropower’s contribution to electricity generation is extremely modest: In 2018, only 3.6 per cent of electricity in the Western Balkans was generated by hydropower plants under 10 MW.”

When it comes to Montenegro, in 2009 there were 7 hydropower plants in operational phase, and by the end of 2018 besides them, 15 new small hydropower plants were operational. The share of electricity produced from hydroelectric power plants is negligible and for 2018 it is only 2.7%.

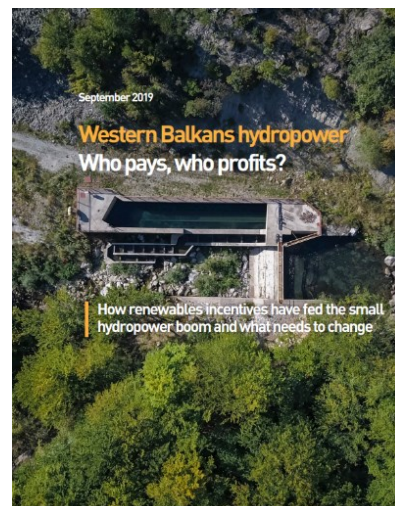


Figure 1- Source: <http://www.wwf.eu>



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Figure 2- Source: <https://www.zerowastemontenegro.me>

INTERNATIONAL COSTAL DAY- 21ST SEPTEMBER

Montenegro has joined the international campaign – International Coastal Day, by cleaning the beaches, river and lake shores in 13 locations at a time. The focus of the International is waste reduction, in particular of single use plastics.

NGO Green Home joined the action in Buljarica, which is a part of the future marine protected area Katic.

During this action waste was collected, separated and categorized by types and brand.

The obtained data will be used for analysis and further activities in the field of environmental protection.



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MONTENEGRO BECOMES THE FIRST WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRY TO ABANDON NEW COAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS



Figure 3- Source: <https://bankwatch.org>

Montenegro cancels Pljevlja II coal power plant. This making Montenegro the first Western Balkan country to officially cancel a new coal project.

Since losing its main source of funding in October 2016, the construction project for the second block of the Thermal Power Plant has become uncertain. At the end of 2018, the Government and EPCG terminated the contract with the Czech company Skoda Praha for the construction of a power plant and the project becomes more doubtful.

However, so far, the Government has not wanted to cancel the project completely and instead, projects on biomass thermal power plants and other alternative solutions have been proposed.

However, this project is economically unprofitable.

The whole of Europe is in the phase of energy transitions, and the EU's decision to hide decarbonisation comes primarily from economic rather than environmental initiatives - the policy is to finance the most cost-effective projects, and renewables are now simply cheaper than coal.



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BELGIUM: “ONE IN, ONE OUT” – AS GOOD AS IT GETS?

Environmental groups have slammed Ursula von der Leyen’s proposed “One in, one out” approach to new EU legislation describing it as the “biggest threat to EU climate and environmental action”. European Commission President-elect Von der Leyen has been praised for putting green issues at the top of her agenda and promising a ‘European Green Deal’, but groups including the EEB, WWF and Greenpeace are now warning her approach to lawmaking risks any chance of progress in areas where increased ambition is desperately needed.



Figure 4- Source: <https://meta.eeb.org>



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Von der Leyen has proposed a 'one in, one out' approach to new laws in mission letters sent to new Commissioners. She suggests that new legislation should only be made if it replaces existing rules in the same area. Green groups argue that this approach is "nonsensical" at a time that huge additional efforts are required to prevent climate breakdown. Ten of Europe's leading environmental groups and networks this week issued a statement calling for 'one in, one out' to be scrapped and replaced with a 'think sustainability first' approach. In a letter to members of the European Parliament the Green10 group warned that the principle would "not only undermine von der Leyen's own plans for a European Green Deal, it would also put at risk existing standards that protect Europeans and the environment."

The 'one in, one out' rule is supported by groups that argue EU regulation places an administrative 'burden' on business. The current Commission under President Jean-Claude Juncker has pursued a drive for 'deregulation', attempting to cut laws that failed to provide 'added value'. Green groups say there is no evidence to support the claim that environmental legislation is a burden. They point to a special Task Force set up by the European Commission to look at how the EU could about "Doing less, more efficiently". It concluded in its final report that there is EU added value in all areas of activity and could not identify areas to re-delegate in whole or part. In fact, it concluded that the EU should intensify its action in areas such as climate change. The Green10 also pointed to evidence that only 3% of small and medium business have difficulties in complying with environmental legislation and that 41% already either do, or are thinking about moving to, doing more than is required according to minimum EU standards.



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Figure 5- Source: <https://eeb.org>

A new economy, sustainable jobs, clean air and smart investments are all part of the climate neutral future described in a new report released this September.

Leading think tanks, scientists and NGOs have compiled a comprehensive set of policy options which they argue can free all sectors of European economies from greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years.

EEB climate expert and report co-author Jonathan Bonadio said: "This report is the first time leading recommendations from think tanks, scientists, thought leaders and NGOs have been pulled together in this way to offer a sector-by-sector toolbox."

Bonadio says that what is crucial is that what emerges from the report are not titanic barriers to progress or a sense of an impossible task, but

vast opportunities to improve health, quality of life and prosperity. He describes its contents as a "cheat sheet for policy makers, who want to achieve climate neutrality and build a better future for people and the natural world."



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Destination: Climate Neutrality sets targets and initiatives in the fields of governance, finance, industry, energy, transport, agriculture, the circular economy and social policy. Its authors hope it will provide a blueprint of policy options towards a net-zero emissions EU just as a new 5-year term begins for the European Parliament and Commission.

STRIKE! DEMANDING CLIMATE ACTION

On Friday 20 September, activists around the world were taking time off school or work as part of a week-long global strike demanding climate action. In the Belgian and EU capital, the planned demonstration kicked off at 13:30. Starting at Brussels North station, protesters marched through the city centre, ending up at Schuman square in the EU quarter. On Schuman square, volunteers formed the words 'voice', 'equality' and 'climate'. The word 'climate' was chosen for obvious reasons. We are in the midst of a climate emergency, and failure to act now is likely to spell catastrophe for humanity and the natural world.

The word 'voice' signifies that everyone has the right to speak their mind and to speak up for their rights, no matter their background or circumstances, and opposes attempts to silence people, especially the vulnerable and marginalised. The word 'equality' was selected to highlight how alarmingly inequalities have widened in Europe and around the world and to demand action to create a world of greater equality and justice. These three words were selected to represent



Figure 6- Source: <https://www.pri.org>



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some of the key demands of the #StandTogetherNow campaign, which is being organised in Belgium by SDG Watch Europe to draw attention to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Climate is just one of the 17 SDGs (goal 13). This highlights how, important as it is, the climate crisis is not the only environmental problem facing humanity. It is one of a plethora of interrelated and interconnected environmental, social and economic challenges facing the world. These need to be tackled holistically with policies that limit global warming, preserve nature and ensure socio-economic justice. This global week of action strike coincided with the fourth anniversary of the SDGs, which were agreed at the UN on 25 September 2015.

Between 20 and 27 September, the EEB and other members of the MESA and SDG Watch Europe networks organised actions, raising awareness around the SDGs and campaigning for a better future for all. As a proud supporter of this campaign, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), as lead partner of the Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA) project, and other leading NGOs have teamed up with the Fridays for Future movement to co-organise the 'Global Strike for Future Belgium III' in Brussels.



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Figure 7- Source: <https://www.banktrack.org>

TURKEY: NEW UPDATE OF THE GLOBAL COAL EXIT LIST (GCEL)

The day before the Global Climate Strike, Urgewald and 30 partner NGOs have released a new update of the Global Coal Exit List (GCEL), the world's most comprehensive database of companies operating along the thermal coal value chain. "Our 2019 data shows that the time for patient engagement with the coal industry has definitely run out," says Heffa Schuecking, director of Urgewald. While the world's leading climate scientists and the United Nations have long warned that coal-based energy production must be rapidly phased out, over 400 of the 746 companies on the GCEL are still planning to expand their coal operations.



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GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

20-27 September 2019, 7.6 million people in 163 countries mobilized for climate action which is the biggest climate mobilization in history. From Jakarta to New York, Karachi to Amman, Berlin to Kampala, Istanbul to Québec, Guadalajara to Asunción, in big cities and small villages, millions of people joined hands and raised their voices in defense of the climate. The Global Climate Strike shows that we have the people power we need to create a just world and end the era of fossil fuels.

CLIMATE STRIKE IN TURKEY

September 20th witnessed the greatest climate action ever. Over 20 outdoor activities were held in Turkey, from Istanbul to Diyarbakir, from Mersin to Izmir. The climate crisis and the methods to deal with the crisis were discussed in many schools. Additionally, professional organizations, including the Turkish Medical Association conducted workshops and the events to raise awareness regarding climate crisis. Over ten thousand people are estimated to participate in the events Turkey wide.

PARTICIPATORY RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PROJECT'S FIRST TRAINING HELD ON 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN İSTANBUL

TEMA conducted the first event of its EU Funded Project Participatory River Basin Management Project: Water Matters carrying under the sixth



Figure 8- Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr>



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phase of the Turkey and EU Civil Society Dialogue Programme, implemented by the Directorate for European Union Affairs in late September. The 2-day training was held in Istanbul on 28-29 September. 59 participants who are local NGO and TEMA's volunteer representatives from 25 river basins and TEMA staff attended to the training covering topics such as EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), river basin planning and participatory tools.

As a leading Turkish NGO focusing on land and soil since 1992, TEMA Foundation states that desertification is often misunderstood. Desertification does not mean the transformation of the land to deserts. It means the loss of fertility and the decrease in the vital services of the soil by destroying vegetation instead. The loss of fertility of the land leads to an increase in rural poverty and the migration of people whose income depends on the land.

The causes of land degradation as well as erosion include agricultural land destroyed by non-agricultural usages (industry, urbanisation, tourism, mining, and transportation investments), wrong tillage and irrigation, stubble burning, unsustainable agricultural practices and mining projects affecting the environment.



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NORTH MACEDONIA: WORKING MEETING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL PLANNING AND CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES WORKING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT



On 06.09.2019, in the Deputy Club in Skopje the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) organised a working meeting between the key people from the Ministry and the representatives of civil society organisations that work in the field of environmental protection. At the meeting, the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, Mr. Naser Nuredini, the Deputy Minister, Mr. Jani Makraduli and the State Secretary in the MoEPP, Ms. Ana Petrovska opened a discussion on all current issues, priorities and challenges in the field of environment.

Figure 9: Representatives of the ENV.net team from Macedonia were invited to the meeting and took an active part in the discussion.

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr>

During the meeting, CSO representatives raised concerns regarding nature conservation and management of protected areas, UNESCO and Lake Ohrid, hydropower projects, alarming air pollution in major urban areas, and especially in Skopje, Tetovo and Bitola, problems related to the central laboratory measurement and accreditation stations, but also on waste management issues and the need for more serious treatment of issues related to circular economics, climate change, industrial pollution and inspection supervision.



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*Figure 10: Working meeting between MoEPP and CSOs, 6th September, 2019, in Skopje;
Source: 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges*

Substantial emphasis was given to the discussion on transparency, the importance of data availability, reporting and improvement of the national legislation, in line with the EU acquis. Both sides called for closer and constructive cooperation with all stakeholders in the field of environmental protection. Constructive criticism directed at the work of the responsible institutions can only contribute to and serve as a roadmap for improving their work. The Minister and the representatives of the Ministry present at the meeting stated (at least formally) that they are committed to transparency and inclusiveness in decision making and would gladly accept the sharing of new ideas for the betterment of the environment as a whole. Whether these commitments for transparency and inclusiveness will be implemented in practice, or as so many times before, will remain only as a declarative promise, is yet to be seen in the forthcoming period.



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COOPERATION OF ENV.NET PARTNERS FROM REGION

On 25th September KosovoLive, one of the sub-granting beneficiaries supported via the ENV.net project call for small grants launched by ATRC, our network partner organisation from Kosovo, organised a national circular economy conference, titled Cirkonomia, aimed to inform and raise awareness about the concept of circular economy, and the collective and individual responsibility that needs to be encouraged for its development.

The Conference gathered representatives (former and present) from the governments, as well as from the civil society in Kosovo and the region, academia, private sector representatives and students. It was also interesting to hear what the findings are from the study aimed to “measure the pulse” of the general public in Kosovo concerning their knowledge and perceptions related to circular economy. Representatives from the ENV.net team from Macedonia participated at the Conference, using this opportunity to share information and good practices related to circular economy from Macedonia, but also from the other ENV.net project partners.



Figure 11: Conference in Prishtina, 25th September, 2019, in Skopje
Source: 4x4 Balkan Bridges



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FLASH NEWS!

WINTER IS COMING – TIME TO TALK ABOUT AIR POLLUTION!

Due to a number of socio-economic factors, air pollution is increasing from year to year, and the situation is deteriorating (and becomes alarming). Certain analyses and modelling of emissions of polluting substances from the household heating in Skopje indicate that pollution will increase by 30% by 2025 unless urgent systemic measures for emission reduction are undertaken. These figures will be even higher if emissions from other sectors, such as transport (with annual fastest rising share in air pollution) are added.

And with the beginning of the heating season, the problems of air pollution are again our prime-time topic.

As part of the government's plan to reduce air pollution in the larger urban centres, residents of Skopje, Tetovo, Bitola and Kicevo who decide to replace their heating on wood with inverter air conditioners will receive subsidies by the state, covering the entire amount of the purchased inverter. This measure, as stated by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, is intended to stimulate citizens to change the way they heat their homes at no cost for them.

The measure is intended primarily for low-income citizens, but also for others who decide to replace their wood stoves with inverters, thus contributing to some extent in reducing air pollution in these cities during the winter months. In addition to funds for the households, the government announced to allocate funds to 19 municipalities to

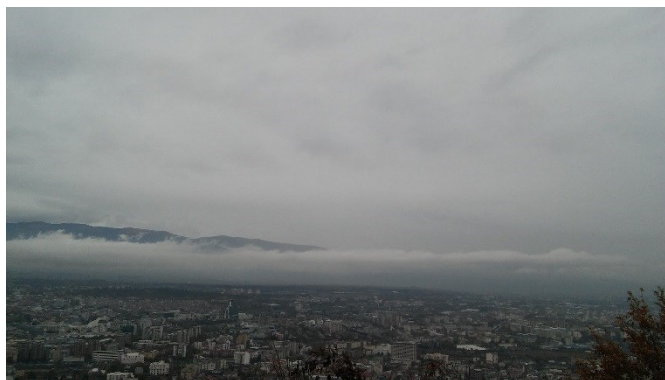


Figure 12: Skopje in November 2018

Source: 4x4 Balkan Bridges



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replace their old and non-ecological heating systems in kindergartens, schools and health facilities. Energy efficiency projects will be supported in other 16 municipalities, including the City of Skopje. Funds will be provided for air purifiers in 34 schools, as well as eco-filters for small company in the Polog region. Any measures that can help reducing the air pollution are welcome, although the question remains: why the competent authorities need to wait for the winter months to come, to react?



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT ON REGIONAL LEVEL

The Greek Prime Minister and the President of Hungary announced at the United Nations Climate Action Summit their intention to shut down coal production by 2028 in Greece and by 2030 in Hungary. The challenge for Greece and Hungary starts this year, since they have to define clear plan and its implementation, for a fair transition from coal to renewable energy sources usage, and to pay attention to workers and communities reliant on coal and define new structure for them in the process. At about the same time, Montenegro, as the first Western Balkan country, abandons plans to build a new thermal power plant. From Bankwatch announcement, Montenegro was recognized as a great example, and should serve as example to neighbouring countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, since they still insist on the construction of new coal-fired power plants, despite the fact that they are neither economically nor environmentally justified

Air pollution is constant problem in BiH. Latest news are guiding to the problem of air quality in Zenica. A CSO from Zenica, Eko Forum, is constantly in process of confirming the air pollution problems that are caused by company ArcelorMittal. ArcelorMittal Zenica is the major producer of long steel products in the Balkan region, with production capacity of nearly one million tonnes per year. Eko Forum submitted first charge in 2015, requesting from the responsible persons to pay attention to the air quality in their city, to provide filters for chimneys, and to pay related penalties,



Figure 13- Source: <https://www.bigdatabih.com>



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defined by Law. Eko Forum filed a criminal complaint against responsible persons at ArcelorMittal for disrespecting the "environmental pollution" under Article 303 of the FBiH Criminal Law. The cantonal prosecutor's court initially rejected the application, but after a well-received complaint to the federal prosecutor's court, the investigation was restarted and is still ongoing. According to the regulations of the Federation of BiH daily average of SO₂ concentrations up to 125 µg m³, throughout the calendar year cannot exceed 3 days in total. At the Tetovo measuring site it was determined: 179 days exceedances during 2011, 194 days exceedances during 2012, 173 days exceedances during 2013, 252 days exceedances during 2014, 177 days exceedances during 2015, 156 days exceedances during 2016, 131 days exceedances during 2017 and 124 days during 2018.

In RS the procedure of amending the Law of environmental protection is ongoing. The Law of environmental protection of FBiH is adopted by FBiH Parliament, and is waiting for the approval of House of People. This Law was under serious delay in alignment with EU Directive, and it was prepared and denied several times through the years. Aarhus centre made this Law adoption possible, since it brought the initiative for adoption in several cities in FBiH, in order that citizens signs petition.



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KOSOVO: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2019



September 2019 - For the second year around, Balkan Green Foundation was part of the organizing team of the Kosovo Sustainable Development Week 2019.

The one-week event assembled representatives of the public and private sector, civil society, academia, donor community, sustainability initiatives and development organizations from Kosovo and the region to discuss the current state of developments regarding the sustainable development agenda. Major focus was given issues relating to environment protection, waste management and circular economy, latest trends in the energy sector in Kosovo and the region, and urban planning. Further, the program of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week 19 included open discussions on other areas of sustainable development, side events organized by CSOs, movie screenings and other cultural events, as well as, activities for youth and kids.

During the conference discussions were raised about the overall energy situation in Kosovo, challenges, general directions, development trends, energy efficiency, renewables, potentials but also challenges in this sector including the successes achieved in the energy transition.



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Kosovo Sustainable Development Week 19 was hosted by the Government of Kosovo, respectfully the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Ministry of Economic Development, in collaboration with the European Union Office in Kosovo/EU Special Representative, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Government, Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) and the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP).

IN MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES, MORE THAN 11 MILLION VOLUNTEERS ARE JOINING WORLD CLEANSING DAY

Kosovo successfully coordinated 157 countries in the "World Cleansing Day" on September 21, 2019. The number of volunteers joining the "World Cleansing Day" exceeds 18 million.

The United States of America has joined the Global Purge Campaign as this important day for the world is expected to end in Hawaii.

The purpose of this global movement is to raise awareness of the damage caused to our planet as a result of waste management, so it is imperative for individuals, companies and organizations to engage in a better, healthier world, better and safe environment.

"World Cleaning Day" has attracted an extremely high number of people who see this as an opportunity to contribute to a cleaner planet, including hundreds of companies and organizations. UNEP, UN, Habitat, Earth Day Network, Fridays for Future, Allianz, Toyota and Fujitsu are all waiting to join the cleanup actions that will take place today around the world



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL ECONOMY - CIRCONOMY

Kosovalive, implementing partner of Env-net / ATRC, organized the first national conference on the topic: Circular Economy and its importance.

Annea Hapciu, Innovation Advisor at Kosovalive presented the findings from the research on perceptions and knowledge in Kosovo about the concept of Circular Economy.

The study was conducted online with 462 respondents from across Kosovo, with an equal distribution of males and females, with different professions ranging from students to professors and citizens. The results show that: 60% had never heard of Circular Economy, 70% had never discussed Circular Economy at School / University, 36% had never heard of any of the concepts that contribute to its development.

The panelists invited to the conference, Mimoza Kusari Lila, former Minister of Trade and Industry and Valdrin Lluka, Minister of Economic Development, during the discussion showed that we have no program that empowers or stimulates the Circular Economy in Kosovo, as other countries have in the region where there is



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a possibility of recycling clothes, glass bottles and other things.

According to the former Minister of Trade and Industry Ms. Mimoza Kusari, "In the last 20 years, Kosovo has not focused on sustainable and healthy environmental development. The lack of state incentives and pronounced bureaucracy are major obstacles to the development and stimulation of the Kosovo Circular Economy.



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ALBANIA: ACT TO ADAPT

“EARTH PROVIDES ENOUGH TO SATISFY EVERY MAN'S NEEDS, BUT NOT EVERY MAN'S GREED.” Between the needs and wants of human society, Gandhi's quote can be found noticeably in today's world events related to environment and the impact that different phenomena such as Climate Change has in our society, combining this with human influence.

ALBANIA CAN'T AFFORD TO DENY CLIMATE CHANGE- OR ADAPT TO IT AS EASILY AS OTHER WEALTHIER COUNTRIES!

The nature of Climate Change impacts varies, and the form in which they materialize differs; yet, whether economic, environmental or social, they all manifest in the territory.

They are expected to have significant consequences for the development of the region because they are likely to cause floods, diminish water levels in rivers and lakes during the year, and floods in certain periods due to the addition of high intensity precipitation, changes in the season of cultivation in agriculture, habitat changes, reduction of species, increase of invasive alien species, along with the increase in infectious diseases.

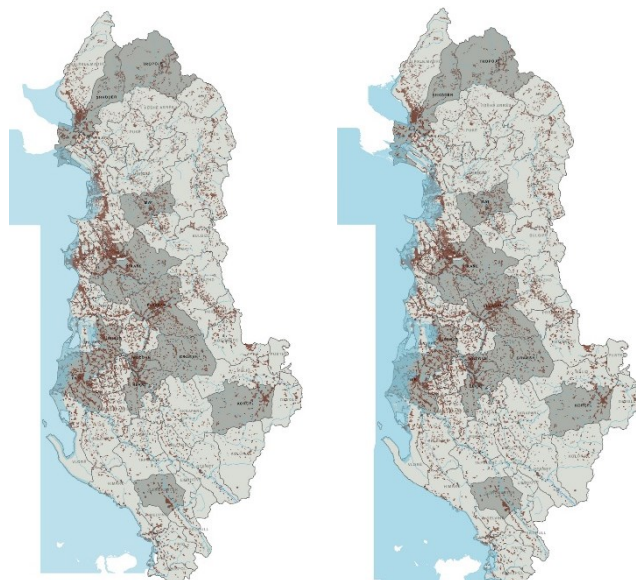


Figure 14: Climate Change Risks—Floods 1 m sea rise, if 1.5°C → 3 m sea rise, if higher than 1.5°C
Source: Addressing Climate Change in Data-Uncertain Contexts, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development



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'The social and economic impacts will largely be felt at the societal level. Communities that live with and whose existence and welfare depend directly on ecosystem services will be the ones to experience the most severe effects. Floods and water scarcity will affect not only rural communities, but urban areas as well, where population displacement may be the only solution in a case of crisis' (GoA, 2016).

Years Vitet	2030	2050	2080	2100
Annual Vjetore	-3.84 (-35.4 to 27.7)	-8.46 (-56.0 to 47.4)	-14.37 (-78.6 to 81.1)	-18.13 (-89.7 to 94.9)
Winter Dimër	-5.96 (-15.9 to 4.0)	-10 (-27.9 to 7.7)	-14.3 (-44.6 to 16.1)	-18.1 (-55.8 to 19.6)
Spring Pranverë	-2.45 (-11.9 to 7.0)	-7.26 (-25.3 to 10.75)	-14.26 (-45.1 to 16.6)	-17.7 (-55.3 to 19.8)
Summer Verë	-10.4 (-12.8 to -7.9)	-19.7 (-24.1 to -15.3)	-41.9 (-49.2 to -34.5)	-50.4 (-59.4 to -41.3)
Autumn Vjeshtë	0.5 (-10.1 to 11.1)	-2.5 (-21.3 to 16.3)	-6.9 (-38.1 to 25.2)	-9.5 (-48.1 to 29.1)

Table 1. Forecasts of rainfall regime change (in %) for different periods in relation to 1990

Source- ME, 2016. Adapted by: Annual Review of Territorial Governance in Albania, 2018. Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development



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The current climate change discourse is mostly about developing and identifying political and legal solutions to address and minimize the problem. Hence, the focus is on further preventing the impacts of climate change, adopting mitigation measures, and ensuring the adaptation of different countries and economy sectors to changes that have already occurred or circumstances that risk becoming worse. (Gjoka, Hoxha, & Bashmili, 2018)

On the one hand, the Albanian Government has recognized climate change as being of a critical importance. However, this recognition has not yet been translated into policies at the national level. In addition, the integration of climate change into various forms of territorial governance is almost non-existent at local levels, giving others the perception that Albania has not made much progress in terms of coping with climate change. (Gjoka, Hoxha, & Bashmili, 2018)



Figure 15: Peaceful sit-down protest

Source: inmotion.al

FLASH NEWS!

The sustainable idea behind 'Think Global, Act Local' at some point has already started in Tirana, combined with Fridays for Future movement. Where acting local for some of young people is essential to have a global impact. Every Friday, organized by InMotion.al, they march in the streets of Tirana, showing their support by peaceful protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.



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ITALY: WORLD CLEAN UP DAY

21st September 2019, on that day volunteers and partners worldwide again will come together to rid our planet of trash – cleaning up litter and mismanaged waste from our beaches, rivers, forests, and streets. World Cleanup Day harnesses the power of everyday people to achieve incredible things by joining together. Its beauty lies in cooperation and collaboration: building bridges between disparate communities, and including all levels of society – from citizens to business, to government.



Figure 16- Source: <https://www.worldcleanupday.org/>

GRANT SCHEME FOR CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME III

The global objective of this call for proposals is to support the development of civil society through more active democratic participation in policy and decision-making processes. The specific objective of this call for proposals is to empower CSOs in terms of their structures and participation capacities to decision-making processes and networking skills.

The priorities of this call for proposals are:

- To improve organisational and institutional capacities of CSOs and encourage partnership among CSOs;
- To promote active citizenship and/or participation of CSOs to decision-making processes at local, national or international levels.



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GRASS-ROOTS MOVEMENTS' CREATE MULTIPLIER EFFECTS!

It is pretty known that in the Balkan region there are the last free-flowing rivers that are threatened by the construction of hydropower plants. It is probably less known that the civil society has been strongly mobilised to protect them and to actively advocate and lobby to stop the construction of additional dams and power plants. Specifically, Balkan River Defence, a four-year old grassroots movement led the process by exploring also the grounds for new collaborations with other grassroots organisations to expand the network active in that field.



BALKAN RIVER DEFENCE

Figure 17- Source: <https://balkanriverdefence.org/intellectuals/>

One of them is with the (a group of river scientists working for rivers' conservation) focused on the organization of the Students for Rivers Camp held in July 2019 to provide an opportunity for students around Europe to contribute in a joint way to the protection of Balkan rivers. For 28 students from 17 countries, with totally different backgrounds, was an intensive week, gathered in Soča valley, Slovenia to express their ideas, to learn about river conservation, to visit the Balkan regions and to experience the activism.



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Košnica



The Hive

PROJEKAT KOŠNICA

CIRKULARNA EKONOMIJA KAO
MODEL PREDUZETNIŠTVA MLADIH

- Radionice "Kvalitetno zujanje" - Iskorak ka odgovornom preduzetništvu.
- Prikupljanje otpada od odevnih predmeta, razvrstavanje istog i realizacija radionica izrade upotrebnih predmeta od prikupljenih sirovina.
- Predavanja na temu cirkularne ekonomije i preduzetništva u vannastavnim aktivnostima u osnovnim i srednjim školama.
- Prodajne izložbe upotrebnih predmeta izrađenih na radionicama.
- Otvaranje "Košnice" - socijalnog preduzeća mladih sa smetnjama u razvoju i invaliditetom.



Figure 18- Source: EASD, Serbia

SERBIA: "THE HIVE" - CIRCULAR ECONOMY AS A MODEL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR THE YOUTH

Project: "The Hive" - circular economy as a model of entrepreneurship for the youth, is running by Education Development Centre "Planet" in cooperation with School for Primary and Secondary Education with a dormitory "Vuk Karadžić", Sombor, under the sub-granting scheme of the project "ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda".

The project aim is to develop entrepreneurial competition among youth related to environmental protection, as well as promotion of circular economy model, in the frame of extra-curricular activities in schools.

Through cooperation with elementary and secondary schools from the City of Sombor and the wider, the activities that have been implemented since February 2019 include:

- Engaging students' Parliament in project activities;



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- The action of collecting used textiles - collection of old used cloths in all classes from 1st to 4th grade (for secondary schools) and the 1st to the 8th grade (for primary schools)
- Educational workshops regarding introduction of the concept of circular economy among students and its importance, as well as regarding models of work in the field of circular economy through waste management.

During February and March of 2019 promotional project activities included: development of promo video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grZEDuRngf8>, producing promotional keyrings (gifts for workshop participants) and development of promo posters roll up.



Figure 19- Source: EASD, Serbia

During the period March-June a total of 11 workshops have been realized, entitled "Quality buzzing", in primary and secondary schools, with participation of 155 students, 7 teachers and 1 parent. Six educators participated in all workshops, depending on theme: work with glass, cardboard, decoupage technique, discharge of used textile-cutting and developing a new products, working with cardboard and old paper - making decorative boxes with old canvas...

The main topic of the workshops was practical implementation of the circular economy concept, e.g. separation and reuse of different (raw) materials: paper, cardboard, glass and textiles. Workshops were creative and educative and consisted of two parts: the theoretical part on sustainable development, ecological footprint, circular economy and practical part: making new products from available materials. Before the workshop, raw recyclable materials were collected - paper and textiles mainly, in



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order to produce a variety of new products, such as aprons, stands for pens, boxes etc. Continuation of the workshops will be in the second half of September, in the rest of the secondary and primary schools in Sombor. Several sales exhibitions were also organized, where products created in the workshops were showcased.

FINALIZATION OF NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR CHAPTER 27



Figure 20- Source: EASD, Serbia

In the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, a closed meeting of the Working Group for Chapter 27 and the National Convention on the European Union was held. Environmental ambassadors of sustainable development, in the preparatory phase for this meeting, on behalf of Env.net project, prepared and submitted paper on current and future policy of Serbia regarding climate change, as well as a view what could be obstacles to the full implementation of the Directive on Industrial Emissions. Due to the sensitive issues related to the negotiating position for this chapter, the meeting was closed to the media. According to EU rules on confidentiality, the information regarding transitional periods in this draft document, have to be considered confidential.



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NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR CHAPTER 27 - THE CURRENT PHASE

The second draft of negotiating position for Chapter 27 was submitted to the European Commission in December 2018. After the comments received from EC, minor improvements were done and the final draft positions document was prepared. The ongoing process include consultations with Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities, local governments, NGOs and businesses sector under the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. The priority list of projects for sectors was made, within the Priority Investment Plan by 2027. There are various sources of project financing: EU, IPA and structure funds should cover up to 50% of assets, followed by loans from international, commercial and development banks, bilateral grants, private sector, local / state budgets, the Green Fund and Fund for water.

Action plan for strengthening the administrative capacities implies a lack of a significant number of people at different levels of government and segments of the environment. There is a need to strengthen inspection and institutional capacity of local governments and the province. Assistance is needed in professional contribution, especially at local and regional level, in the nomination of the new themes that may not be a priority now.

The final draft negotiating position is currently under procedure of consultation process with responsible institutions and ministries. It is expected to finalize this process by the end of November 2019. The final version will also be presented to the National Convention on the EU, and by the end of December it is envisaged that the negotiating position will be submitted to the European Commission for approval.



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