



ITALY: ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY



Figure 1- Source: <https://www.energyefficiencyday.org/>

2nd October 2019, the day aimed at promoting energy efficiency's ability by highlighting how energy efficiency can cut carbon pollution and help everyone to breathe easier. Even if the day is not internationally recognised among the international environmental days yet, it is important to advocate in order to push governmental agencies to bring even more attention to the benefits of efficiency and spur more people to make easy energy-saving changes in their lives.

SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE BETWEEN EU AND TURKEY GRANT SCHEME (CSD-VI)

The global objective of this call for proposals is to develop a sustainable civil society dialogue between Turkey and EU Member states.

The specific objectives of this call for proposals are twofold:

- to increase bilateral exchanges and cooperation between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Turkey and the EU at local, regional and national levels, and
- to promote awareness raising initiatives on importance and benefits of membership of Turkey to the EU within Turkey and the EU, and on challenges and opportunities posed by Turkey's accession.



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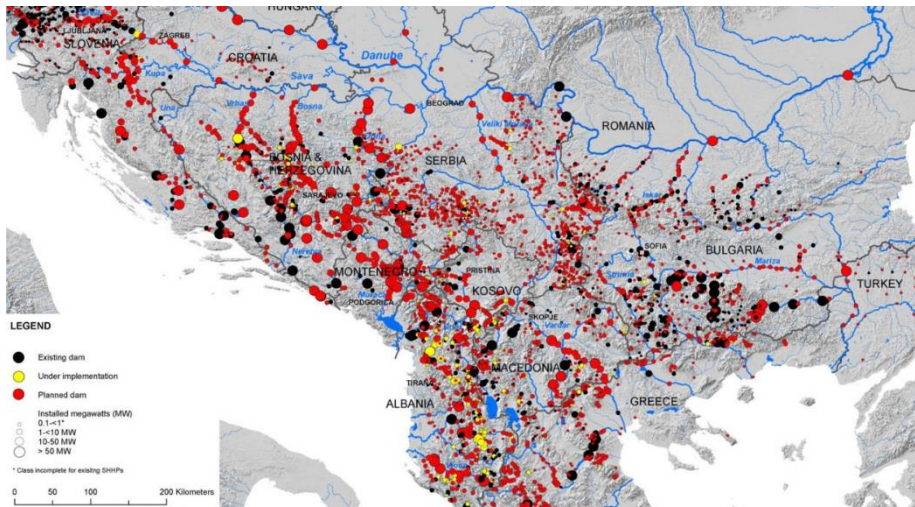


Figure 2- Source: <https://e360.yale.edu>

SPOTLIGHT ON A PARTICULAR GRASS-ROOT INITIATIVE

Environmental campaigners advocate towards the EU to have stricter rules and a more effective system of subsidies to curb the number of small hydropower projects in the Western Balkans.

This action led by Bankwatch ended with a report where it was clearly stated that some countries in the Balkan region should change their renewable energy schemes especially in order to meet the requirements to join the EU.



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ALBANIA: SOME CATEGORY OF ACTIONS COULD HARM THE ENVIRONMENT OR HUMAN HEALTH UNLESS THEY ARE CONTROLLED!

Law based, the environmental permitting is a tool/instrument that tries to balance different actions with a certain purpose of protecting environment. In Albania for environmental issues the actions are supported or limited by law no.10448, 14.07.2011 with a purpose of preventing, diminishing and keeping the pollution caused under the control from a certain categories of actions, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection in general, human health and the life quality. The scope of this law take into consideration

- The rules for permitting the development of certain activities that cause environmental pollution in the Republic of Albania and
- Measures designed to prevent such pollution and, where this is not possible, measures to reduce their gaseous, liquid and solid emissions into air, water and soil.

In accordance with law no. 10431, dated 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection", a system of three levels of environmental permits, type A, B and C is created.

A recent action coming from the Council of Ministers, "On Environmental Permits", provides for the repeal of all current 'C' type permits (Environmental Permit Type C is an application for a permit to practice activities which producing acoustic pollution), issued by regional environmental agencies.

This mean that from now on, that these permits will be given by the local government as an entity that is closer to the problems that concern the citizens today.

In this case, being closer to the problem is a way of better solving. Through these changes, the units of local self-government will pass on to the site any subject that has become a serious concern for the community in the country where these entities carry out their daily activities.



Figure 3- Source:
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine>



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SOME CATEGORY OF POLITICS COULD HELP OR HAMPER THE PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

A recent politics is: Dissolution of the Environmental Inspectorate

Strengthening The National Environment Agency's responsibilities for environmental inspections and out of 12 municipal directorates shrinking to 4, 1 representative for each region.

What does this cause?

It definitely make the whole process more centralized by giving power to only 4 representatives. Those regarding planning and decision-making, framing strategy and policies become concentrated within a particular geographical location and politically.

SOME CATEGORY OF TOOLS COULD FACILITATE THE PROCESSES OF PARTICIPATORY PLANNING IF IT WILL BE USED IN THAT SENSE.

Digitalization of the practice of obtaining environmental permits is accompanied by:

- Inaccurate information because the system requires time to be up to date and pointy (in terms of geographical coordinates)
- Avoids bureaucracy for environmental experts / easier access to information / avoids paperless use of paper
- At the public level this platform enables easier dissemination of information on environmental issues



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#NAD



Figure 4- Source: Co-Plan, Institute for Habitat Development & U.S EMBASSY in Albania



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On October 22nd we celebrate National Activism Day in Albania - #NAD2019. This dedicated day to activism aims to bring together the positive energy of activists with the experience and knowledge of local organisations, to make change possible in our local communities by engaging youth through different forms. This nation-wide, annual event is jointly organized by local and national organisations with the support and coordination of Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development and the US Embassy in Tirana on October 22nd, 2019.

The focus of #NAD2019 is to:

- Engage youth in raising and taking action to solve local community problems.
- Stimulate as many local actions as possible, whether individual or in collaboration with local communities or organisations.
- Acknowledge the hard work of people, groups or organisations from all walks of life that work to change things for the better.

#NAD2019 comes in three main components:

- Local concrete actions all over the country, organized and covered by individual young activists and/or organizations in different places, planned to happen (or culminate) on October 22nd;
- Three Thematic Marches in the city of Tirana of numerous organisations and young activists, aiming to join in the city square, at the Activism Fair.
- National Activism Fair in Tirana city square, where organisations/activists will bring together different youth groups and engage them in hands on activity showcasing their efforts to mobilise their communities.



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BELGIUM: REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO 55% BY 2030

The European Commission must increase the EU's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 55% by 2030, eight environment ministers urged Vice President-designate Frans Timmermans in a letter on October 7. The ministers represent Denmark, France, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

The current emissions reduction target is 40% from 1990 levels, which is to be achieved by 2030. But scientists and climate experts argue that it may not be enough to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, as agreed under the Paris Agreement.

At a hearing in the European Parliament, Timmermans backed the ministers' initiative. He promised to push for a 2030 climate target increase, though it wasn't clear whether this would be part of his much-awaited European Green Deal, which is expected to be presented in February 2020.

The new demands come just days after the EU's 28 environment ministers failed to commit to increasing the 2030 emissions reduction target at a meeting in Luxembourg early October. According to unnamed government officials, 10 governments blocked the negotiations, but agreed the target would need to be updated before the UN's climate conference in Chile on December 2. Representatives from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Romania are currently making progress difficult.



Figure 2- Source: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/>



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The EU governments also failed to agree on ditching fossil fuels altogether and going carbon neutral by 2050, which is supported by the overwhelming majority of countries. Media report that only three countries – Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – are unconvinced, while an increasing number of countries are stepping up national plans to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible. Finland recently vowed to do so by 2035. All eyes are currently on the Czech Republic and Poland, which “refuse to commit to new EU targets until the costs of ditching fossil fuels are explained fully.”

Poland and the Czech Republic were not alone in voicing concerns over climate-related costs. Increasing EU spending to help countries boost climate action was a major point raised by the progressive front of environment ministers in their letter to Timmermans this week.

The group urged the Commission to significantly increase share of the new EU budget for climate action, and to also improve tracking of expenditures and an effective monitoring of achievements. This will help modernise our economy and generate employment, they said.

Governments and institutions are currently discussing the plan of action for the next EU budget, which will run from 2021 to 2027 and will allocate money to spend on renewable energy, clean transport and sustainable business models. The Commission wants to increase climate spending from the current 20% to 25% – about €320 billion – of the new budget. The European Parliament and civil society groups have proposed respectively a 30% and 40% minimum spending on climate-related projects. The Parliament also supports new budget priorities that would exclude fossil fuel investments. This is a key demand in the negotiations, as both EU and national funds continue to support fossil fuel use and infrastructure at the expense of sustainable solutions.



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AIR POLLUTION REMAINS TOP PROBLEM IN THE EU: FOCUSING ON THE AGRICULTURE

The Second Clean Air Forum will take place in Bratislava on 28 November. While air quality has improved across the European Union over the past decades, air pollution continues to cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Air pollution is still the number one environmental cause of premature deaths in Europe.

If you live in a European city, you probably feel the air gets too thick at times – and not without reason: 9 out of 10 Europeans living in cities breathe air which is harmful for their health. Urban air pollution can be suffocating, and as city dwellers we often find ourselves dreaming of a countryside escape, to take a breath of fresh air away from traffic fumes. What we don't know is that a big share of the pollution that makes our air hard to breathe originates right there, in the fields.

Air pollution in cities has many sources. Road traffic, domestic heating and industrial emissions are among the first ones that come to our mind, but there is another one which is too often forgotten: agriculture.

Emissions from farming are responsible for a surprising amount of urban air contamination. In cities like Paris, they can sometimes account for more than half of background air pollution.

The French National Centre for Scientific Research even determined that 62% of the fine particles in a severe air pollution episode in Paris during spring 2014 were caused by ammonia.



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In Europe, agriculture is responsible for 94% of the emissions of ammonia, a highly polluting gas originating from farm activities, and notably from manure management and storage and fertiliser use. Once it enters the air, it threatens ecosystems by causing eutrophication of soil and water, and acidification of soil, lakes and rivers. Ammonia also causes irritation when inhaled.

By their very nature, air-borne pollutants are carried by the wind and can travel over significant distances, making their effects felt beyond the immediate area where they are released. When ammonia blows in over cities, it reacts with emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) from diesel vehicles and sulphur (SO₂) from power plants, leading to the formation of minuscule solid particles, less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter. This is also known as PM_{2.5}, and it is one of the most dangerous forms of air pollution.

Too tiny to be visible to the human eye, these particles can penetrate deep into our respiratory tract and cause lasting damage. Particulate matter can provoke lung and cardiovascular diseases, heart attacks and cancer, influence the central nervous system, and affect reproductive organs. This is why ammonia emissions alone account for about 50% of the health impacts of polluted air in urban areas.

According to Clean Air Farming, an international project supported by the European Environmental Bureau to help reduce emissions from agriculture and food waste, PM_{2.5} was responsible for 391,000 premature deaths in the EU in 2015.

While cities and governments have engaged to tackle other sources of air pollution such as traffic, and implemented remedies like limiting the circulation of the most polluting vehicles, emissions from agriculture have been largely ignored.

At the same time, data released by the European Environment Agency show that, although emissions of most air pollutants are on a downward trend across the European Union, ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector continue to rise, and could hinder member states' strive to meet EU air pollution limits.



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TOWARDS CIRCULAR ECONOMY: EU AIMING AT MANUFACTURERS.

A host of household appliances including TVs, fridges, freezers and washing machines will be easier to repair after new EU laws were formally adopted this October.

For the first time, manufacturers will be obliged to make their products easier to take apart and fix. Companies will also need to provide spare parts and instructions on how to perform repairs for any products they put on the market.

The new requirements could mean new electronic products last longer, saving consumers money and cutting harmful emissions. For now, covered by the regulation are TVs, fridges, freezers and washing machines, monitors, washer-dryers, dishwashers and lighting products.

Environmental groups have welcomed the “ground-breaking” laws, which will also make products more energy efficient, able to perform the same tasks as now but using less power.

The laws’ adoption follows the release of report last week that found that extending the lifespan of washing machines by just five years would save the EU as much carbon emissions as taking half a million cars off the roads.

The new measures are part of the EU’s Ecodesign Directive, which removes the most wasteful products from the market, replacing them with models that do the same job with less energy and fewer resources.

Together with new energy labels adopted in March, new energy efficiency requirements will help the EU save an additional 140TWh of energy a year, which corresponds to 5% of the EU electricity consumption. For consumers and companies, this means €20 billion saved on energy bills.



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KOSOVO: THE DESTRUCTION OF RIVERS CONTINUES!

During October, on the recommendation of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning the Energy Regulatory Office ERO decided to legalize the illegal operation of three hydropower plants in Peja Region: HPP Lumbardhi 2, HPP Deçani and HPP Belaja, for a one-year period, although none possess the Environmental Permit! Furthermore the fourth Hydropower plans started in Shterpe Municipality, in Brezovica.

River degradation in the three most water-rich areas in Kosovo: the Rugova Mountains, the Decani Mountains, Brezovica Mountains has been the hottest environmental topic in October in Kosovo. The commencement of the construction of several hydropower plants in Peja, Deçan and Brezovica has prompted widespread reactions from local residents, NGOs and local institutions. Numerous citizens have protested in Peja, Decan and Brezovica, demanding that construction be stopped and rivers protected.

The protest in Brezovica was violently dispersed by the Kosovo Police, injuring several protesters, including women and children. The Ombudsman has launched an investigation into the violence perpetrated by the Kosovo Police.

Residents of Brezovica villages have filed a civil lawsuit against the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, which has granted an Environmental Impact Assessment and a permit to operate private hydropower plants.



Figure 3- Degradation from Hydropower Plants projects

Source: atrc, Kosovo



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EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY CONFIRMED STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH BALKAN COUNTRIES

The Chief Executive of the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency has received a letter from the Head of the Management Board of the European Environment Agency, Laura Burke, and the Executive Director of this Agency, Dr. Hans Bruyninck, confirming the strengthening of co-operation between the European Environment Agency (EEA), and the Environmental Agencies of the Western Balkan countries.

In the framework of this strengthening of cooperation it is envisaged to propose and sign a memorandum of cooperation between the Balkan countries and the European Environment Agency, as well as the regular participation of representatives of the Balkan countries in the meeting of the AME Board, in the capacity of observer.

Among other things, this letter also announced that the 90th meeting of the European Environment Agency Board will be held in Kosovo.

THE FIFTH SDG BRUNCH EDITION WAS HELD IN WHICH AIR POLLUTION IN KOSOVO WAS DISCUSSED

October 30, 2019, Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) in co-organization with United Nations Team in Kosovo (UNKT) held an event titled SDG Brunch, specifically on the topic 'Air Pollution in Kosovo: a SDGs and 2030 Agenda perspective'. The event was attended by representatives of international organizations such as UNDP, UN, UNMIK, UNICEF and WHO, representatives of local institutions such as National Institute of Public Health, Agency of Air Navigation Services, etc., representatives of civil society, media and citizens.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Isme Humolli from the World Health Organization (WHO) provided some figures regarding the negative impact of polluted air on the health of Kosovo citizens. She emphasized



Figure 4-SDG Brunch edition
Source: atrc, Kosovo



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that the average life expectancy of our citizens is approximately 11 years lower than that of the European Union citizens, specifically because Kosovo has the most polluted air among European countries. In the end of her presentation Mrs. Humolli called for increased awareness and cooperation between all stakeholders and citizens. From the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mr. Arblir Pireva, presented some of the findings of the project 'Healthier Kosovo'. Mr. Pireva said that although the situation is bad and alarming on the ground, 69% of citizens, according to UNDP figures, are willing to join initiatives in solving environmental problems.

LET'S DO IT KOSOVO DECORATIVE PLANTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Let's Do It Kosovo in cooperation with the Municipality of Viti / Vitina in October organized a series of activities in 20 primary schools in the municipality, planting decorative seedlings and green plants.

The purpose of this initiative is to raise the awareness of citizens and students about the care of the environment and public spaces, especially within school premises. According to the Mayor of Viti / Vitina, 2019 has been declared an environmental and forest protection year in Viti / Vitina Municipality. According to him, only in 2019, the municipality of Viti has planted a number of new shoots, and illegal forestry measures have been taken.

KOSOVO LIVE ORGANIZATION: CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN KOSOVO

Env.Net Partner Organization in Kosovo: Kosovo Live, has completed and published the report: Survey on the perceptions and general knowledge of Kosovo residents about the concept of Circular Economy, which has been developed over a three-month period, from May to May. August 2019 by KosovoLive.

The purpose of the study is to provide an initial overview of the level of information, knowledge, perceptions and behaviors of citizens in relation to the development of the circular economy in Kosovo, as well as to provide multi-sectoral recommendations that can help foster the development of this economic model. in place.



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The data that support this research were collected through primary research, conducted through an electronically distributed survey, social media and email. This report is largely based on the primary research done for this report, due to the lack of previous reports and research specifically addressing the issue of circular economy in the country.

The survey was voluntarily completed by a total of 462 persons from these municipalities of Kosovo: Mitrovica, Vushtrri, Skenderaj, Glogoc, Prizren, Suhareka, Dragash, Malisheva, Shtime, Klina, Rahovec, Pristina, Gjilan, Kamenica, Podujevo, Fushe Kosove, Lipjan, Obiliq, Viti, Novo Brdo, Peja, Decan, Gjakova, Janjevo. While the age of the interviewees was 15-65 + years, of all levels of education from pre-university to tertiary education.



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: DRAFT OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

Project staff participated to the consultation session held in September in Banja Luka, for Draft of the Waste management plan of Republika Srpska. Project staff provided comments for the Draft of the Plan, at beginning of September, 2019, which will be useful for revision and its improvement. The comments are related to specific wording related to waste, e.g. in the Plan the word "regional dumpsite" should be replaced with "regional centres for waste management". The specific attention ad role assigned to the waste utility companies, should be described in more depth and with specified responsibilities.

Sub-grantee GEOPA held the meeting in Banja Luka. It was third meeting within the sub-grant project. The meeting was held on October 2, 2019. The lecturers were: Ms. Anja Brnić, Master of Economics who held presentation: "Circular Economy - Opportunity for Development", Ms. Amra Kurbegović presented "Law of PPP in Zenica Dobož Canton" and sub-grant Project Manager Mr. Said Bečić who presented the thematic of "Asbestos roofs in Bosnia and Herzegovina". Mr. Bečić informed the participants on the activities of submission of amendments to the Law on Use of Renewable Energy Sources and Effective Cogeneration of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Parliamentary Procedure and process of lobbying for its adoption. The participants held interactive discussion on the thematic of circular economy process in the Europe and in BiH. Some useful practical and local examples were mentioned during the presentation and discussion: EKOPAK Sarajevo – leader in packaging waste; Aida Commerce – recycling of EE waste, PET and medical waste storage, transport and recycling; ZEOS Eko sistem – EE waste management; CBOS, BH RECYCLING and FORTIN – transport and recycling of metal waste; GRIZELJ Sarajevo – producer of equipment for waste management.

Coal-fired power plant Stanari causes serious health problems of local and regional inhabitants of Stanari and Dobož (approx. 70 km from Banja Luka).

A citizen of Stanari (who wanted to stay anonymous) describes it: "In this area, we are mostly dealing with heavy dust and noise coming from the nearby coal mine. Sometimes, especially when it's windy, you can feel it in the air and see the dust on cars and other objects. At the moment there is only one water tank truck that is circling



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around the mine, but during the hot and dry summers we have this is far from enough. Also the biggest issue here in Stanari is the relationship between the coal mine and the local authorities. if a local wants to build anything near the mine, the municipality first needs to ask EFT for its expert opinion and future excavation plans before issuing a building permit. Also, when it comes to water supply, we cannot drill for new water wells without their (EFT's) permission because of their concession for water exploration and usage for the area. Everything, just about everything here is done because and for the purpose of the mine and power plant."



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MONTENEGRO: LOW ON PROTECTION FROM NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Government of Montenegro has adopted Law on protection from negative impact of climate change.

The key goal of this document is to protect against negative effects of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the ozone layer.

This regulation will ensure the harmonization of Montenegro's national legislation with the EU acquis in the area of climate change, which was one of the prerequisites for opening Chapter 27 of EU accession talks, and create conditions for establishing a system for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, meeting the obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), meeting the Paris Agreement commitments, and meeting the Kyoto Protocol and Doha amendments.

Termination of contract for construction of 10 small hydropower plants

Government of Montenegro launches consensual termination of the contract for the construction of 10 sHPPs on six rivers on the Bistrica, Murinska, Djuricka, Komoracka, Bukovica and Trepacka rivers, in the municipalities of Bijelo Polje, Plav, Andrijevisa, and Šavnik.

They justified the decision with the following view "In some cases, this concept of development would miss its goal, which is to improve the quality of life and the development of local communities, which cannot be separated from the preservation of the unique environment".

This year, NGO Green Home filed a petition backed by 6,300 signatures to the Parliament of Montenegro to ban the construction of small hydropower plants.



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North Macedonia: Waste: WHAT WE TALK ABOUT, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT E-WASTE?

What is E-waste?

The most basic definition describes it as a waste consisting of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by its owner as waste without the intent of re-use discarded



E-waste officially got its International Date for 2019

On 21 February 2019 the communication experts of the WEEE Forum (an international association of e-waste collection schemes, and its members) gathered to discuss, among other things, the organisation of the 2019 edition of International E-Waste Day (IEWD). Following the success of the first IEWD in October 2018, it was agreed that Monday 14 October would be the date for the 2019 IEWD.

According to WEEE Forum, in 2018, Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries expressed his support for the International E-Waste Day by saying “This is exactly the sort of events that Europe needs. It raises awareness on how electronic waste is a big issue, but it goes further by highlighting what you can do to manage, reduce and recycle”. He continued “Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream all around the world. Europe produces more of this waste per capita than anywhere else. But as we all know it isn’t really a waste. It is a valuable resource and too often it goes to waste. When we recycle e-waste, it pays off for the environment, it pays off for the industry and it pays off in jobs”.



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In 2018, according to WEEE, about 50 million tonnes of e-waste were generated globally with half of this waste being personal devices such as computers, screens, smartphones, tablets and TVs, and the remainder being larger household appliances and heating and cooling equipment.

Further, they estimate that only 20% of global e-waste is recycled each year, which means that 40 million tonnes of e-waste are either placed in landfill, or burned or illegally traded and treated in a sub-standard way. This results in the huge loss of valuable and critical raw materials from the supply chain and causes serious health, environmental and societal issues.

Even in the EU, which leads the world in e-waste recycling, only 35% of e-waste is officially reported as collected and recycled. The lack of public awareness is preventing countries from developing circular economies for electronic equipment.

It is worth noting that the world still has low recycling rates despite the fact that 66% of the world's populations (countries) are covered by e-waste legislation.

Where do we stand with the e-waste legislation?

The Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment was adopted on 13 January 2012 (Official Gazette of RM 6/12). Then came several amendments to the Law ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" 163/2013, 146/2015 and 39/2016).

In March 2018, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning announces through the National Electronic Registry of Regulations (ENER) that a Draft Law Amending the Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment is being prepared.

The rationale states that the analysis of the situation with the management of electrical and electronic equipment and waste electrical and electronic equipment in the Republic of Macedonia has revealed that only partial fulfilment of the national waste collection and processing objectives prescribed in the Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic equipment has been achieved.



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Hence, the main objective of the amendments to the law is the need to differentiate the responsibilities between the stakeholders in the waste management of electronic and electrical equipment, but also the need for establishing an efficient waste stream management system that will enable the achievement of the objectives set in the law in an efficient manner, as well as minimizing the negative impacts of waste from electronic and electrical equipment by utilizing the valuable components. It will also provide for establishing a stronger cooperation between the licensed handlers, the MEPP and the local government units.

The time frame for preparation of this draft law was until 31.07.2018.

However, the general public did not see the text of this draft law (at least not in the Electronic National Registry).

In September 2019, the Ministry prepared a new Draft Law amending the Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment in order to bring the misdemeanour provisions into line with the new Misdemeanor Law (Official Gazette of the Republic of Northern Macedonia No. 96 / 2019). In this sense, it is expected that these amendments, in addition to the primary alignment of the Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment with the Law on Misdemeanors and Uniformity in the National Misdemeanor Policy, will enable effective fining, conduct of misdemeanour procedure and payment of fines. In addition, a proportionate determination of the amount of the fine (in correlation with the size of the legal entity, but also for the responsible natural persons in the legal entity) will allow a fair payment, whilst maintaining the penal effect of the misdemeanour fines.

It is awaiting its adoption by the Parliament.

On 30 October 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning published on the ENER a proposal for a new Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

The explanation of the problem states that according to the Law on Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, in accordance with the principle of extended responsibility of the producers, all licensed collective handlers are obliged to fulfil legal their obligations at the expense of the manufacturers. Over the past years, during the implementation of the system, the practice showed the deficiencies, such as the unfair / disloyal competition among the



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collective handlers in their fieldwork, and this, combined with low civic awareness, has resulted in partial fulfilment of the national waste collection and processing targets, as prescribed by law. Hence, the main reasons for adopting a new law are justified by the lack of precision in determining the rights and obligations of the collective and individual e-waste handlers, the partial implementation of the economic measures aimed at establishing a sound e-waste management system and the principles circular waste economy and hierarchy of waste management, the lack of adequate waste management infrastructure and violation of the principles of equal access to waste management services.

For this reason, the main objective of the new draft law is to establish efficient management system of waste electrical and electronic equipment that will minimize the negative impacts of waste on human health and the environment, by increasing the responsibility of the producers, while providing better support to local government units and citizens to implement it.

Interestingly enough, the timeframe for drafting of this law is by 31st October 2019 - only one day after the publication of its announcement.

Air pollution: A Rulebook for Ruling by the Book

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Law on Ambient Air Quality ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 67/04, 92/07, 35/10, 47/11, 59/12, 163/13, 10/15 and 146/15) on 30th October, 2019, the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, in coordination with the Minister of Health, adopted a Rulebook amending the Rulebook on the limit values for emission levels and types of pollutants emitted by stationary waste air sources.

These amendments further regulate the emission limit values, ie the maximum allowable quantities of pollutants from different fuel groups (solid, liquid, gas) in the waste gas or steam during combustion in furnaces from 1 MW to 50 MW, as well as the way of measurement (visual) of the darkness of smoke gases from furnaces on solid, liquid and gaseous fuels using the Ringelmann scale (The Ringelmann scale consists of six fields (degrees), from 0 to 5, with different achromatic shades of white to black, where each subsequent degree is 20% darker than the previous one.)



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This intervention is expected to provide better legal ground to the inspection authorities for more efficient detection and sanctioning of the air polluters. Interesting to note, however, is that this Rulebook is not a subject to harmonization with the European Union legislation.

Fresh water – we have it now, but



Figure 5- River Vardar in Skopje

Source: 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges

Our water is a limited and basic resource necessary for sustaining life, ensuring social well-being, economic prosperity and ecosystem health. According to the hydro-graphic situation in the Republic of North Macedonia, there are four catchments areas (Vardar, Crn Drim, Strumica and South Morava) and three natural lakes (Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa and Lake Dojran). Most of the waters are domiciled, formed by precipitation. Macedonia is not rich in surface waters and they mainly depend on the occurrence, duration and intensity of rainfall. As a result of the morphological, hydro-geological, and hydro-geographical structure of the relief, surface flows rapidly flow into the hydro-graphic network (rivers, streams, and lakes) and the water flows out of the country. The only exceptions are limestone areas, where water is retained for longer below the surface and feeds the river network.



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What is the correlation between climate change and water?

The climate is changing, and this is becoming more and more evident. Due to climate change, in Macedonia there will be not enough water as it used to be. According to the Second National Plan on Climate Change from 2008, the average temperature in Macedonia will rise by 1 degree Celsius by 2025 and by 1.9 degrees Celsius by 2050 with tendency to continue to rise until 2100. Water availability in Macedonia may decline by 18 percent by 2100, and water scarcity will be most distinct in the eastern parts of the country. By the end of the century, the water level of Vardar as well as the groundwater level in the river basin is expected to drop by 20 percent. Summers will be warmer and with less rainfall (rainfall is expected to drop by 15 percent by 2050) and milder winters (in the future, at lower mountains more often there will rain than snow). Let's get used to this. In the coming years and decades this will be normal. Precipitation throughout the year will not be deployed as it was until recently. For example, instead of having more raining days with moderate intensity, we will have heavy rains, followed by longer periods of drought. It will also cause more frequent floods because the soil will not be able to absorb the water. There will be more landslides and erosion; fertile agricultural land will be lost, in bad case scenarios, houses will be lost, in worst - lives.

Concerning water, experts in their climate change reports are proposing a series of actions, including introduction of drip irrigation systems, wastewater treatment technology, improvement of surface and groundwater monitoring networks, water consumption and quality, and other steps to alleviate the problems. If applied, the effects of climate change may be mitigated, and some crops may even give higher yields than at present.

The question is whether we will adjust and take action now, before it is too late.

According to the Third National Plan on Climate Change from 2013, the main actors that should take the necessary measures are the municipal water utilities. However, official data shows that they are not prepared to deal with climate change challenges. For example, Skopje public utility company annual report shows that in 2018 the city water supply system had a water loss of one-third. The report also notes that acceptable water losses in a water supply system are up to 20 percent; all above that is too much.



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SERBIA: CITIZEN SCIENCE CONCEPT IN TERMS OF ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE

“Citizen Science refers to the general public engagement in scientific research activities when citizens actively contribute to science either with their intellectual effort or surrounding knowledge or with their tools and resources”.

In last decade, direction in science development moved from traditional circle of research to the new ways, by involving the public and becoming more and more inclusive in a growing range of disciplines. Historically this is not new that universities/academic researchers need to start involving public, citizens, civil society organizations... in their own activities (like Benjamin Franklin or Charles Darwin in the topics of topics that include applied life sciences and health research. It is evident that Citizen Science grows, reflecting in creation of large datasets (especially in monitoring and observing. The main challenge and very applicative approach is to involve citizen scientist in research of the topic that is very important for every unique life and that tackle every single citizen – CLIMATE CHANGE.

It is a question how citizens can be involved. Let we see some facts regarding ongoing climate change issue globally and in Serbia. The fact known wider is that from 1850 until now, temperature raised for 1 degree. The problem is that in relatively short period of time, temperature rises continually. Regarding Serbia, developing country, some of the consequences are following:

At the yearly level, every citizen from Serbia emits 4-5 t of carbon dioxide, what is a quantity at least 10 times bigger than quantity of communal waste per citizen per year. Precipitation is at the same level, more or less, but the problem that we are faced on is that redistribution is uneven. Dried periods are increased, for the period of 83 years, there were 13 dried periods, while in last 47 years, and same number of dried periods are evidenced. Furthermore, number of precipitation days of 20, 30 i 40 mm/per day also increase, especially important is that almost 5 times increased precipitation values of 40 mm/per day, for the period 2001-2017 compared to the period 1951-1980. The problem that urban places faced with relates to the sewage system, it is not constructed to accept raised amounts of atmospheric waters. Climate change goes beyond, without come back to the previous, „climatically“ better time!



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Globally, to combat climate change, it is very important to follow Paris agreement conclusions and obligations. It should be taken into account that damages caused climate changes costs: at the EU level, from the period 2010-2016, 12,6 billions of eur (or from the period 1980-2016, costs are 436 billions of eur)

Possible practical solution is to include adaptation into future plans, construction, and agriculture through calculation of climate change parameters in order to avoid consequences of extreme climate events. That means to construct savage system to be able to accept extreme amounts of different precipitations, even it is not necessary in this moment.

What is solution and form of citizens' engagement?

There is a recent project "Territorial RRI Fostering Innovative Climate Action (Responsible Research and Innovation)" with eight partners from Europe, among them Serbia and Center for the promotion of science, under Horizon 2020. One of the pilot region will be Belgrade. This project envisages active participation of citizen, civil society organizations, scientific and research institutions in applying adaptation measures at basic level of the society. The interactive map will be produced, where citizens will be able to mark places and points in the City of Belgrade, where they are fill uncomfortable during the year, in terms of climate parameters. This will help in future planning to pay more attention of local community what adaptation and mitigation measures to apply to these areas. Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, as member of ECSA network, will use citizen science approach to contribute to better understanding what are



Figure6- Source: EASD, Serbia



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possibilities of citizen engagement exist through Eco-school network in different parts of Serbia.

Conference "Principles of circular economy in the service of environmental protection" during the annual meeting of Eco-schools coordinators as part of professional development of teachers

October 18-19, 2019, Zlatibor

Workshops within the projects "Women2030" (in partnership with the Women Engage for a Common Future WECF) and "Circular economy as a model of sustainable development of society" (supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Serbia), as supporting activities to Env.net3 project, were held on Zlatibor, within the regular annual meeting of Eco-schools coordinators. The workshops were hosted by Eco-schools „Dimitrije Tucovic" from Cajetina and Association of citizens "Zlatiborski krug". During the meeting the future projects are presented, with particular emphasis on sustainable development and circular economy.

Welcome words were given by Eco-schools coordinator Zorica Milosavljević, who is also president of the Association of Citizens "Zlatiborski krug". The audience was addressed by Bojana Bozanic, as a representative of the municipality Cajetina, one of the local community that supports the Eco-schools from the beginning of 2013. The first day of the Conference were organized in workshop, participants were divided into groups, to discuss different issues regarding SDGs and Circular economy. In order to collect sufficient information regarding the participation and position of



Figure 7- Circular orchestra at the Conference Principles of CE
Source: EASD, Serbia



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women in the environment (SDGs), the emphasis was put on women's participation in development of circular economy in Serbia. In addition, we worked on 'mapping of resources' in the virtual community, it is shown which resources are the most important in relations male / female.

The second day of the Conference, on 19 October 2019 in the Cultural Center on Zlatibor, the Annual Meeting of the Eco-schools coordinators and conferences "Principles of circular economy in the service of environmental protection" (Env.net 3 supported event), was held, moderated by the national coordinator of the Eco-Schools Aleksandra Mladenovic. The meeting was attended by over a hundred Eco-schools coordinators of preschool, primary and secondary schools, colleges and schools for primary and secondary education.

Prof. Dr Anđelka Mihajlov presented the sustainable development goals, some of them have already been implemented in our programs and projects. This was good opportunity to emphasis connection between SDGs and Circular economy. Eco-schools coordinators presented their activities as part of Env.net3 project, during 2018/2019: Climate caravan, with the main theme "Litter as resource", two sub-grantees presented achievements in their projects: "Beehive - circular economy as a model of youth entrepreneurship", implemented in partnership with the Center for the Development of Education "Planeta" from Sombor, dealing with programs for children and youth and with boarding ŠOSO "Vuk Karadzic" for children with disabilities, new campaign supported by C&A Foundation, which has a part related to Eco-labeling, "As a consumer, be the change!". At the end, Association Zlatiborski krug, one of the sub grantees presented their project: "Circular economy at the service of environmental protection in the municipality of Čajetina".



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TURKEY: TEMA and EEB Participated in the Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF)

Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF), is a biennial international urban forum, which has been organized by Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey) on the dates of 1-3 October 2019 in Istanbul. MARUF gathered professionals from cities, national, regional and local governments, private sector, NGOs, universities and other stakeholders that play crucial roles in the design, transformation and governance of cities with the aim of sharing knowledge, experience and of creating new opportunities. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, different approaches on urban services and urban management have been discussed in the forum. Circular economy and climate were the headlines throughout the discussions about the cities of the future. TEMA Foundation Project Coordinator Gökçe Ahi participated in MARUF sessions.

The Province of Erzurum (Turkey) is preparing its Climate Action Plan

TEMA Foundation's Representative in the Province of Erzurum organized "the City of Erzurum Climate Action Workshop" on 4th October 2019 in Erzurum located in eastern part of Turkey. The university, local authority and private sector representatives participated to the workshop where all relevant parties presented their work on climate change and discussed how to merge those works to prepare the climate action plan of the city. One of the moderators of the workshop was Ms. Deniz Ataç, the Chair of the TEMA Foundation Board.

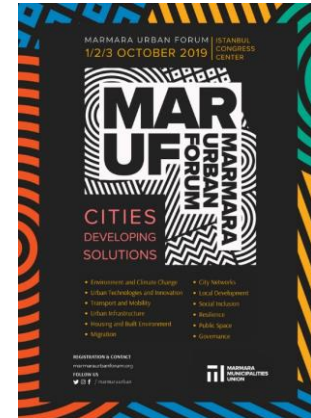


Figure 8- Source: ArchDaily



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General Directorate of Water Management briefed on draft Water Law in İstanbul

River Basin Management Training has been organized by the Turkish General Directorate (GD) of Water Management for the dates of 22- 25 October 2019 in İstanbul. 85 representatives from the local authorities and TEMA representatives have participated in the training. During the training, the experts emphasized the importance of the integrated river basin management planning for better protection of rivers and water assets. Throughout the training, the draft Water Law has also been presented by the representatives of the GD. Water Law is an important topic which TEMA and several other NGOs in Turkey have been working on and advocating for to be enacted for over 5 years. TEMA carried out its work on water as part of the Env.net Project since 2014 as well.

The law case of Çırpılar Coal Plant Project in Çanakkale (Turkey) is in progress

The second expert visit of the law suit filed by the TEMA Foundation and Kazdağı Koruma Derneği (Mount Ida Conservation Society) in 2018 against the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization to cancel the EIA approval of the plant and the coal mine was held on 19th October 2019. The main arguments of TEMA Foundation's law case are the protection of the natural assets such forest and biodiversity, and the protection of the agricultural lands against the non-agricultural uses such as mining and energy facilities. The project site is part of Mount Ida where is rich in biodiversity and under protection by international conventions. Besides, agricultural lands where is selected as project site is so rich and fertile that the town exports agricultural products such as strawberry and red peppers, to foreign countries. Therefore, the case has huge local public support from the local communities. 71 of the 75 village heads of the district where is the coal plant is planned, signed and sent a petition to the Ministry asking the cancellation of the plant project. Besides, the first expert report of the lawsuit had concluded that the EIA approval of the project violated the law however it was cancelled upon the objections of the Ministry. The case is in progress.



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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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