



## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF RIVERS

As a response to several conflicts with local communities due to low-quality environmental impact assessments for existing small hydropower plants the Parliament of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a Declaration on the Protection of Rivers on 23 June, 2020. The Declaration is prepared by Coalition for River Protection BiH – a group of CSOs and persons who act as nature protectors. The Parliament also adopted conclusions calling for a prohibition of the construction of small hydro power plants on the territory of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is enormous victory, after many years of CSOs fight against sHPPs. Finally, rivers will be protected from ecosystems degradation. Unfortunately, in

entity Republika Srpska, the Parliament did not adopt the same Declaration.

### **Rulebook on quality systems for food products**

Livno cheese, Nevesinje potatoes and Visoko dried meat (pečenica) are the first Bosnian products protected in accordance with the Rulebook on quality systems for food products, which is in line with the legislation of the European Union. This enables the producers of these traditional products to submit applications and obtain the appropriate



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geographical indication at the level of the European Union. Products are protected by geographical indications and guaranteed traditional specialties, and are deriving from the value of their nutritional ingredients and from the specific method of production and processing, and the climate from which these products historically originate.

## Separate Waste Collection

In City of Neum, local authorities jointly with GIZ support are setting up 15 locations for separate waste collection. Waste will be collected in separate waste bins specifically for paper, plastic and metal. The activity is implemented within the

project “Integrated Waste Management & Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans”. Project will contribute to improvement of knowledge on prevention of marine waste and increased knowledge on importance of environmental protection. The waste utility company will procure waste truck, 25 metal containers for communal waste, 25 containers for PE, while for the next period it is foreseen to build the sorting centre. As part of the promotional project activities, there will be organized presentation for citizens and education for kindergartens and schools, in order to inform and instruct citizens how to separately dispose waste.



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## Waste Incinerator of Medical and Animal Origin Waste

The Municipality of Bosanski Petrovac started the project for a waste incinerator of medical and animal origin waste, which should be built on the site of the city landfill Vaganac, where all municipal waste is currently disposed. This information is confirmed by the Mayor of Municipality, Dejan Prošić, who pointed out that they had also found a strategic partner in the realization of the project - the company "Zanni" from Municipality of Lukavac, and the approval for the project was given by the Municipal Council of Bosanski Petrovac. The study showed that there will be no negative environmental effect, while expected benefit is

solution for these types of waste and employment of minimum 12 workers. Municipal councillor advises not to build that kind of the facility, since the health of habitants could be endangered by incineration and chemical reactions, and that the communal waste is bigger problem that as well has no solution.

## "Because It Concerns Us" / "Jer nas se tiče"

At beginning of July, the civic initiative "Because It Concerns Us" / "Jer nas se tiče" set up educational and promotional stands at two locations in Mostar where citizens could sign a petition to close the waste landfill Uborak near Mostar City. The president of the "Because it concerns us" initiative, Omer Hujdur, said that the citizens who sign the



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petition give their support for closing the existing landfill Uborka and opening the landfill in a new location, which will not endanger the health and life of Mostar citizens. The initiative is organized in order to educate the population about the harmful effects of landfill on the City of Mostar and the inhabitants of the Neretva Valley.

The information collected are also about the interest of Mostar residents in moving landfill from the current to another suitable location.



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## ITALY: SAVE THE DATE

**22nd August - Earth Overshoot Day 2020.** It marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. In 2020, the novel coronavirus pandemic has caused humanity's Ecological Footprint to contract. However, true sustainability that allows all to thrive on Earth can only be achieved by design, not disaster.

Read more: <https://www.overshootday.org/>

## Funding opportunities for grass-root CSOs, media and individuals (activists)

**BALKAN GREEN ACADEMY 2020/2021 - CALL FOR PARTICIPATION.** Balkan Green Foundation as part of the Regional Program Balkan Green Ideas is organizing the first Balkan Green Academy 2020/2021. The Academy consisted of modules that covers three main pillars: policy, economy and society, will facilitate discussion on actual issues related to green sustainable development in the of Western Balkan region. The Academy will use cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary approach,



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encouraging in-depth knowledge building and in the same time will combine modules that will explore the policy perspective, economical business approach and societal impact.

Closing Date: 16th August 2020

Read more: <https://tragfondacija.org/otvoren-poziv-za-ucesce-na-regionalnoj-balkan-green-academy-2020-2021/>

**WESTERN BALKANS FUND CALL FOR INTERNS.** Through a small grant provided by the International Visegrad Fund (IVF), WBF will implement an Internship Program, aiming to provide the opportunity to up to three interns

from WBF Contracting Parties. The Program is intended as a jump-start to students/young professional to enhance their knowledge about regional cooperation and specific objectives of WBF through a four-week Program, at the WBF Secretariat premises, in Tirana, Albania

Closing Date: 21st August 2020

Read more: [http://westernbalkansfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WBF-Internship-Program\\_Guidelines-2020-1.pdf](http://westernbalkansfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WBF-Internship-Program_Guidelines-2020-1.pdf)



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## Spotlight on a particular grass-root initiative different for every issue

Balkan Green Foundation supports joint NGO proposals on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

Read more: <https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/en-us/press/140/balkan-green-foundation-supports-joint-ngo-proposals-on-the-green-agenda-for-the-western-balkans/>



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## **KOSOVO: AN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED LEADING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS**

In order to improve the energy sector in Kosovo, the Ministry of Economy and Environment - Kosovo Agency for Energy Efficiency and the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund have signed Cooperation Agreements, to support energy efficiency projects.

Kosovo is the first country in the region to establish the Energy Efficiency Fund as a financial mechanism that will support increased efficiency in the public services sector,

residential or household sector, private sector, etc.

The Minister of Economy and Environment, Blerim Kuçi said that the Kosovo Fund for Energy Efficiency has about 17 million euros available and from this moment it is functional to implement its policies and to make the realization of projects according to the plans they have made. "It is important that these funds enter into action and implementation as soon as possible with the aim of increasing



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economic development, where the beneficiaries of this fund are not only the actual ones but also private enterprises.

The allocation of funds today is important because it will enable the realization of the projects that are being developed as soon as



possible ", said Minister Kuçi. On his part, the Chief Executive of the Agency for Energy Efficiency, Arsim Kuliqi said that Kosovo is well on its way in implementing energy efficiency measures, which is evidenced by the signing of this agreement.

## **An Agreement Is Reached Between the Japanese Jica and The Ministry of Economy and Environment for The Extension of the Project "Capacity Development for Air Pollution Control in The Republic of Kosovo"**

The Ministry of Economy and Environment have held a virtual meeting with representatives



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of the headquarters of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Tokyo regarding the ongoing project "Capacity Building for Air Pollution Control in the Republic of Kosovo". While the achievements of this project were presented by JICA experts.

Representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Environment and JICA agreed to extend the project until the Pandemic situation improves, guaranteeing that there will be no change in either access or funding.



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## ALBANIA: "THE LARGEST LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF DURRËS IS CLOSED"

During June, according to decision no. 6, January 13, 2020, the National Council of the Territory decided to close the landfill in Porto Romano in Durrës and create in this area an Eco Park (*source azht.gov.al*).

After this decision, there has been a lot of uncertainty on the part of the Municipality of Durrës about the place where the generated waste will be deposited in the future. In some areas of the city of Durrës, heaps of solid urban waste have been seen, near the containers which have not been taken for disposal, not having a clear destination.

During this time, the solid waste, in addition to being partially sent to Porto Romano, has been sent to several temporary dumpsites located in Sukth and Manëz. Many residents in Manëz protested during June, due to the fact that waste is deposited near their homes and air pollution created due to the burning of this waste or even the water used for irrigation.



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*Photo of waste containers in the city of Durrës, June 2020*

*(Source:*

*<https://portavendore.al/2020/06/09/durresi-kthehet-ne-pirg-mbeturinash-porto-romano-mbylli-dyert-per-mbetjet/>)*

Although it has been discussed that these wastes are sent continuously to the Sharra landfill in Tirana, the municipality of Durrës has not provided sufficient funds to carry out this process.



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Based on the decision no. 6 dt. 16.12.2019 inert waste generated by the earthquake of November 26, 2019 in the regions of Durrës, Lezha and Tirana should be transported and deposited in the landfill of Porto-Romano, Municipality of Durrës (*source azht.gov.al*). Following this decision, the work in Porto Romano continues, to cover the existing deposited waste and further the implementation of the new project.



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## MONTENEGRO

### HPP Komarnica

The Government of Montenegro has adopted the concession plan for the use of watercourses for the construction of hydropower plants for 2020, which envisages granting only one concession – for the construction of the Komarnica hydropower plant.

The concession will be directly granted to power utility Elektroprivreda Crne Gore, a joint stock company in which the state owns 88.66% of shares.

### SHPP Ljestanica

The company Hydro Ljestanica has received the consent from the Agency for Nature and Environmental Protection for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the construction of a small hydropower plant "Lještanica" on watercourse of the river Lještanica, Municipality of Bijelo Polje. Bearing in mind that the entire process of public hearings went with with non-compliance with the law, the NGO Green Home filed an appeal against the decision.



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## NORTH MACEDONIA: Green ideas

### Story of a young innovator with green ideas and a commitment for putting circular economy in practice

**"GREEN IDEAS"** is an annual competition that supports the development of small, local and green, sustainable business ideas in Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Greece. The winners of the national competitions, 3 from each country, compete in a regional competition for prizes worth \$ 5,000 or \$ 10,000. The

regional competition has been held since 2012 as part of a program for the Western Balkans funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (USA).

ARNO (Association for development of new idea), for the sixth year in a row, administers the national competition "Green Ideas" in Macedonia and is proud



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that so far the country has regional winners and a total investment of 60,000 dollars for the development of green businesses in the country.

Among the winners of this year's national competition is Sofija Daceva, with her idea of "VAJS Additives".

## **Story of a young innovator with green ideas and a commitment for putting circular economy in practice**

Sofija Daceva has only 25 years, but also solid entrepreneurial experience. She already has two companies, through which she plans to create new and innovative products, for which she uses by-products as raw materials. At a time when the world is facing a pandemic and the challenge of how to continue living and leaving as little environmental footprint as possible, the idea that leads Sofia forward is a world with zero waste. Her company "VAJS Group", (one of the winners of this year ARNO "Green Ideas" Competition) is working on processing the pomace



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(a mixture of grapes skin and seed), one of the most abundant residues in the grapes processing and wine production industry, into a multifunctional food additive.



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## What is VAJS additive and why is it an innovative product?

In the world, over 13 million tons of pomace are produced annually, and in Macedonia alone more than 22,000 tons per year. It is a by-product that occurs in the process of wine production and although it is a very useful product, it remains unused. After more than a year and a half of research and development, the company VAJS Group has developed an innovative technological process for extracting three Sofia came up with the idea of processing the pomace while working on another, no less

healthy ingredients from the pomace: antioxidants, fibres and food colouring pigmentation. This enabled the development of a multifunctional additive from quince, also known as VAJS Additive. At present, food companies use three different additives to obtain these properties, while the VAJS additive is a product that possesses all three functionalities. This will actually be a healthier and more cost-effective solution for food industry producers.



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interesting project - the production of ice cream from wine. For this, Sofia is supported by the British Government and Warwick University where she completed her postgraduate studies in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

**For what exactly and in which industries can the additive from the processed pomace be used?**

According to the young innovator, the additive produced from pomace can have a very wide application, but of course it requires detailed research and experiments to confirm its usage potentials. At the moment their company is experimenting in three different sectors of the food industry, the baking industry, confectionery and dairy sector. The pomace has been tested in several specific products such as bread, ice cream, candy, and the latest experiment will focus on adding an additive to cheese.



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According to the obtained results, the additive has proved successful and useful in all industries, so in the first year they plan to focus only on these three sectors. They already have interest from four factories in Macedonia, and there is also interest from companies from the United Kingdom.



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## When the waste is valued as a resource....

This idea of collecting waste from wineries and then processing it into a new product is based on a similar principle like the one of the company Sunilens, which collects household waste oil and processes it into biofuel.

According to this young inventor, especially in recent years, environmental awareness is increasing, mainly due to the consequences from pollution and environment degradation we are facing more frequently than before.

In particular, for the wineries, after the production of wine or brandy, they usually

dispose of the pomace properly in a way that it ends up in the landfills, where it is often burned. This has a negative impact on the soil and the environment. Additionally, some cities in the country, as well as in the Balkans, face illegal removal of the pomace which ends up in rivers or in sewer systems. VAJS Group noted this problem and for that purpose developed a model of circular economy through which the conventional supply chain of wineries will be changed to circular, i.e. the pomace will be purchased from the wineries and it will be processed into a product useful for humans.



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So far, VAJS Group has talked to several small wineries that have expressed satisfaction with this idea, as it is an ideal solution to their problem with the pomace and will have a positive result for both parties.

### **Will this waste generate a new waste?**

According to the technological process for the production of the additive, 80% of the pomace is used, and the remaining 20%, which consists

of branches, insects and other by-products and is removed before starting with the production process can be further processed and used as organic fertilizer, as this waste is of organic origin.

In fact, this is one of the goals of VAJS Group: developing a circular business model with zero percent waste, but of course it takes time and additional resources.



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## SERBIA: BATHING WATER QUALITY IN SERBIA AND THE REGION

Water is an element we are made from and for every living being in the planet water means life. Higher quality of water means better life. Same goes for bathing waters. The new EU Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC replaced the former Directive 76/160/EC having in mind that the knowledge and experience in many fields has progressed since the 1970s. It applies to surface waters that can be used for bathing except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters

artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. The new directive is intended to:

- Be based on scientific knowledge on protecting health and the environment, as well as environmental management experience
- Provide better and earlier information of citizens about quality of their bathing waters
- Move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management



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- Be integrated into all other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive.

Two main parameters for analysis (Intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli) are defined. These parameters will be used to monitor and assess the quality of bathing waters and to classify them. Member States must monitor the bathing waters every year, at least four samples

per season in no longer sampling interval than one month. After four year monitoring results gathered, Member States should assess the bathing waters at the end of every season.

In the countries of the region, the results of bathing water quality are regularly shown, which we can see in the table. Serbia does not currently have such data for all bathing waters. Sampling is performed on individual water surfaces such as: Sava Lake - Ada Ciganlija.



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**Here is a sampling table from countries in the region:**

State	Total bathing waters	Excellent quality	Good quality	Sufficient quality	Poor quality	Not classified	Monitoring calendar implemented	Monitoring calendar not implemented
<b>Albania</b>	119	70	26	5	7	11	0	119
<b>Bulgaria</b>	95	62	28	4	0	1	95	0
<b>Croatia</b>	988	945	26	5	0	12	987	1
<b>Hungary</b>	257	182	32	13	10	20	249	8
<b>Romania</b>	50	38	10	2	0	0	50	0



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"Savsko jezero" beach, popular Ada Ciganlija, raised the Blue Flag for the sixth time in a row in 2017, as a symbol of care for the environment and safety of visitors. The Blue Flag is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator meets its high environmental and quality standards. It is a trademark owned by FEE which is a not-for-profit non-governmental organisation consisting 77 member countries. FEE's Blue Flag is based on the sustainable development of beaches and marinas, which must follow strict criteria for water quality, education and information, environmental

protection and safety and the provision of services and general environmental management criteria. There are more than 4,400 Blue Flag beaches and marinas in the world, in 46 countries across Europe, South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada and the Caribbean.

The Blue Flag program has been implemented in Serbia since 2012. On 26th June 2020, the President of the Assembly of the City of Belgrade Mr. Nikola Nikodijević and director of Ada Ciganlija Robert Đukić opened the swimming season by raising the Blue Flag. EASD, national operator of Blue Flag program in Serbia, participated on behalf of ENV.net



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project and organized “Forums in open” aimed to pay citizens attention and raise their awareness on Blue Flag and EU Bathing Water Directive requirements. With media participation, as well as managers of Public Enterprise “Ada Ciganlija” and high officials from the City of Belgrade authorities, we tried to draw the attention of decision-makers to the lack of initiatives and concrete actions regarding improvement of current situation with bathing waters. No one inland beach except Ada Ciganlija – Sava Lake, fulfill requirements for Blue Flag, which is in line with Bathing Water Quality Directive. We need to pay more attention to this subject in the

process of EU integration and meeting requirements of the EU Directive for bathing water quality.

For Serbia, it is very important to continue to follow quality requirements in bathing water analysis and to start continuously to analyze water from different places. This will show how much we care and how much we can do for the environment. In Serbia there are lot of places with inland waters that serve during the summer for recreation and leisure. But it is necessary to keep such places safe for users and the environment, by responsible and sustainable management activities.



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## **TURKEY: TEMA Foundation Participated in the Meeting Organized by Ministry of Environment and Urbanization**

Ministry of Environment and Urbanization organized a meeting on 06th of July to constitute a working group to review the criteria for determining the protected areas and determine the new protected areas together. Ministry representatives made a presentation about existing legislations and type of the

protection status. Chairwomen of TEMA Foundation, Deniz Ataç attended to the meeting. They requested from TEMA Foundation to be a part of the working group. We accepted Ministry's request. We assume that the group will start working in September 2020.

## **Online Information Day Event on Horizon 2020 Green Deal / 14 July 2020**



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**Ar-Ge ve Yenilik ile Dönüşüm İmkanlarında Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakat Gelişi**

**Yeni büyüme stratejisi olarak belirlenen Avrupa Yeşil Mutabakatı için Ar-Ge ve yenilik gereklileri**

- Pilot uygulamalar, tanıtım projeleri ve yenilikçi ürünler
- Yeşil ve dijital geçişin daha iyi yönetilmesi için yenilik
- Sosyal ve değer zinciri yeniliği

- İklim değişikliği ile mücadele, sektörler arası ortaklar
- Temiz, uygun fiyatlı ve güvenli enerji
- Temiz ve dengesiz ekonomide sanayi
- Enerji ve kaynak verimliliği
- Sürdürülebilir ve akıllı ulaşım
- Tarımdan sofraya
- Biyoeçeliklik ve ekosistem hizmetlerini geliştirmek
- Sıfır kirlilik, toksik olmayan ortam
- Avrupa Yeşil Ambisyonunun desteklenmesi için bilgi birikiminin geliştirilmesi
- Yatırımların iklim-eđir, sürdürülebilir bir geleceğe geçiş için geliştirilmesi
- Ahıkla ile ortaklaşa temiz enerji geçişini ve enişimin hızlandırılması

Resim: T.C. <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/Avrupa-Yesil-Mutabakat-Programi-1470512>

An Online Information Day Event on Horizon 2020 Green Deal which is the last call of the Horizon 2020 Program was organized by TÜBİTAK on 14 July 2020.

The event started with the opening speeches of TÜBİTAK President Professor Hasan Mandal, Head of EU Delegation to Turkey Ambassador Christian Berger, the Permanent Representation of Turkey to EU

Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı and the Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacı.



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Following the opening speech, Professor Mandal made a presentation on “The Green Deal Online Information for Horizon 2020 Program for Successful R&D and Innovation Towards a More Sustainable Future”. He said that the Horizon 2020 Program will end as of this year and the Horizon Europe Program will begin in 2021. Professor Mandal noted that the Green Deal Call process of the Horizon 2020 Program is seen as an opportunity for smart transformation, and this process will be realized through the co-development method. Stating that the strategic approach of TÜBİTAK Mr. Berger said that a common struggle should be made against climate change and 1 trillion-

focuses on R&D and innovation outputs and effects. Professor Mandal talked about the transformation in R&D and innovation processes. He emphasized that the transformation of the concepts included in these transformations into collaboration is the keyword of Horizon 2020.

Head of EU Delegation to Turkey, Ambassador Christian Berger, expressed his satisfaction with the high level of participation in the event, noted the necessity of developing a common vision of reconciliation Green Deal.

euro has been allocated for sustainable investment financing within the scope of the



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plan published by the European Union in order to achieve the Green Deal targets.

Berger stated that the Green Deal plan is not only aimed at providing solutions for the climate change problem but will also provide support for growth and economic recovery.

Cooperation between Turkey and EU has been long-standing and strong. Due to Turkey's take place as a member in Horizon 2020 Program serves to rapprochement between European Research Area and Turkey's Research Area, said Mr. Berger. He pointed out that this program is to create cooperation opportunities

between Turkey and the European research community.

Permanent Representation of Turkey to EU Ambassador, Mustafa Kemal Bozay stated that the world after COVID-19 is unlikely to return to the world as it used to be. Many trends already underway in the global economy are being accelerated by the impact of the pandemic. The main elements of getting involved in this change are research, development, and innovation. Mr. Bozay pointed out that Green Consensus is environmentally oriented, but it is actually a growth strategy.



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Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology, Mehmet Fatih Kacır said that combating climate change and making Europe climate-neutral by 2050 is one of the main priorities of the European Commission. In support of this priority, the Commission is reinforcing Green Deal-related research and innovation with a dedicated call for proposals under Horizon 2020. Mr. Kacır also noted that the Eleventh Development Plan focuses on facilitating competitiveness and efficiency increase in all

fields. And our 2023 industry and technology strategy aims to increase the added value in production.

Afterward, detailed presentations were made about the subdivisions within the scope of this call.

<https://ufuk2020.org.tr/tr/haberler/ufuk2020-programi-green-deal-yesil-mutabakat-cagrisi-cevrimici-bilgi-gunu-gerceklesti>

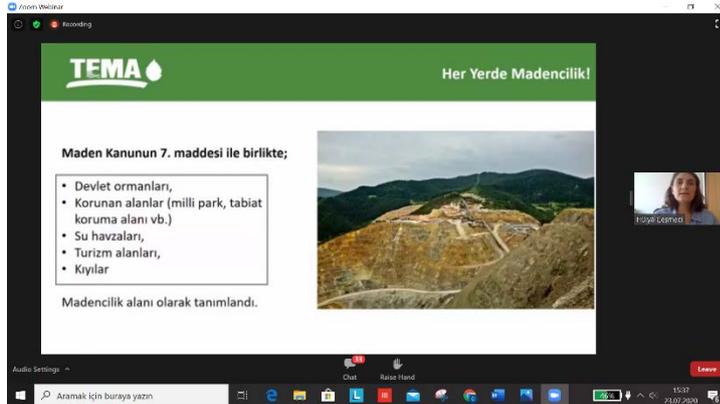


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## TEMA Published Mining Report in Ida Mountains (Kaz Dağları) Region in Turkey



Ida Mountains are located in northwestern Turkey, 20 miles southeast of the ruins of Troy, along the north coast of the Gulf of Edremit, between Balıkesir Province and Çanakkale Province. The mountains are famous with their clean water resources, forests, biodiversity and clean air. Last year a Gold Mining Company started its activities in Ida Mountains and started to cut thousands of trees in very short period. The local

movement grew rapidly to national level after people saw the photos of the region. In addition, in spite of the declaration of the mining company that they cut down 45.000 trees, TEMA Foundation revealed



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with the help of satellite imagery that the company has apparently cut down more than 200,000 trees. TEMA issued a lawsuit for cancellation of the project together with number of local CSO and local people. The project is suspended by the court until the end of the judgment. Following this project TEMA Foundation started to search for the information that how many mining permissions issued in the Ida Mountains region because even though the mentioned project suspended the mining problem have been continued for at least ten years. From this point TEMA Foundation created a map with the information received from the government institution shows that how

many mining licenses exist in the Ida Mountain region and where. As a result of five months study TEMA Foundation found out that 1634 mining license exist in Ida Mountain region and %79 of the region is covered by mining license. Furthermore, it has been found that;

%80 of the all forests in the region

%80 of the Ida Mountains National Park

% 78 of the agricultural areas of the region

%73 of the water basins of the region are covered by the mining license.



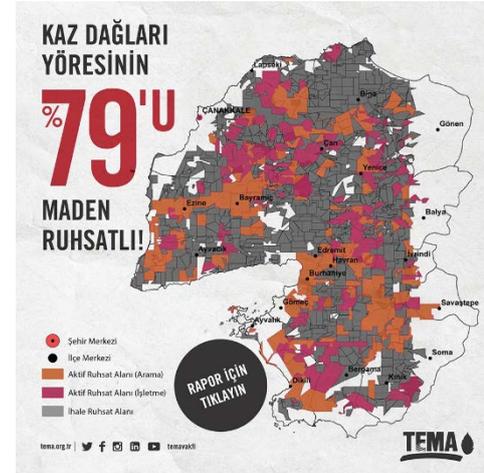
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TEMA Foundation published the findings of the research as Ida Mountain Report on 26th of July and announced the results from social media accounts. We started a campaign to raise awareness about the problems of the legislations that regulates mining activities.

In parallel we make presentations to introduce the results of the report to policy makers, business groups, local people, TEMA representatives all over Turkey and other CSO and NGO's mostly dealing with nature protection and environmental issues.



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## **The Water Management Seminar is organized by Atatürk University-One of the Sub-Grantees of Env.Net Project within the scope of Env.net Sub-grant Agreement**

The Water Management Seminar which was organized within the scope of preparation of Erzurum's Climate Action Plan was held on 28 July 2020 in cooperation with TEMA Foundation, Erzurum Governorship, Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality and Atatürk University which is a sub-grant beneficiary within the scope of the Env.net project.

In the first session, with the participation of Prof. Erdem Kocadağıstan, Assoc. Prof. Zahide

Koşan, Dr. Sefa Bilici and Prof. Hüseyin Yurtaş water consumption, water and climate change issues were discussed.

In the second session, with the participation of Aylin Okuldaş Çetin from General Directorate of Water Management, EEB (Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality) Former General Director Remzi Ertekin, DSI (The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works) Deputy Regional Director Yaşar Karagöz and Head



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The water reserve of the Eastern Anatolia Region consists of five important rivers. These are; Fırat, Dicle, Aras, Çoruh and Kızılırmak. All or some of the exit points of the Fırat, Aras and Çoruh rivers are located within the provincial borders of Erzurum. For this reason, Erzurum is considered to be rich in water reserves. But it is difficult to say the same things today, depending on changing conditions. Since the increasingly negative effects of climate change pose a risk on water resources, the necessity of using different approaches and solutions together in water management has been valid in Erzurum.

In Turkey, the policy and management of water resources are constituted with food security, economic and social development, full-membership negotiations with EU and evaluation of regional developments and it has been continuously revised in accordance with the changes in these subjects. Therefore, Turkey should harmonize the EU legislation and related other regulations to its current domestic law in the EU accession process effectively. One of the areas where alignment is important in this process is the environment. The European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD) is one of the legal regulations for the harmonization process in the EU



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accession process on the topic of the environment. Targets are determined to protect water resources and quality, increase their efficiency with the concept of basin management. Management plans are created as an implementation tool for these goals. The creation of feasible plans is effective in the success of basin management. The management plan ensures a rational, sustainable and holistic understanding in accordance with the ecological demands of the basin, and protection with all relevant stakeholders. Basin management plan reveals ways to create an appropriate balance between conservation, access, sustainable economic

development needs, and the interest of the local community.

The targets pertaining to water management in Turkey have been generally listed below:

- Protection of surface and ground waters against pollution should be ensured.
- The effective use of the country's water resources should be ensured through decreasing the loss and leakages in the current water supply facilities.
- The most appropriate system and technologies should be preferred in the establishment, maintenance and operation of infrastructural



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facilities aimed at protecting the environment such as water, wastewater and solid waste facilities.

- In order to identify urban infrastructure needs to be aimed at environmental protection throughout the country; an urban infrastructure master plan and financing strategy should be prepared that will identify the infrastructural needs of municipalities such as drinking water, sewage and wastewater treatment facilities.
- Financial and technical consultancy services provided to municipalities for the realization of urban infrastructure investments should be activated.

- Use of treated wastewaters in the agriculture and industry sector should be encouraged.

## **Spotlight on a particular grass-root initiative different for every issue**

Konya is a major city in south-western edge of the Central Anatolian Plateau and the biggest city in Turkey in terms of survey. The city is broad and flat with a lot of lowlands and plateaus. There are big agricultural areas within the borders of Konya and the city has known as the grain source of Turkey. There is a region in Konya called Ilgın. Ilgın is a very rich region from the agricultural point of view and also host for very important archeologic sites. The



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government is trying to build a coal power plant in the region since 2002 but they have not able to do it yet because both local people and organizations and also national CSOs including TEMA have opened several law cases against the planned power plant and the courts announced their decision on favor of the CSOS and local people. Nevertheless it cannot save Ilgın completely from coal activities because there is also a coal mining site very close to agricultural lands. In January the agricultural lands of the people expropriated based on the decision of the president of Turkey but the local people have gotten the notices only in June when the construction machineries were

brought to lands by the company which extend its mining activities. The local people are created an initiative to save Ilgın and their properties. They opened several lawsuits, contact with government officials but they could not get any good news so far. Now a days, they watch their properties closely to hinder any construction activity and trying to create social media movement to save the region from coal activities. We as TEMA Foundation closely watch the movement and provide support to them both from legal point of view and also for their effort to make their voices heard by the people all around Turkey.



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