



NORTH MACEDONIA: THE MACEDONIAN GREEN DEAL

It started with the EU Green Deal....

In December 2019, the European Commission the European Green Deal, aimed to deliver achievements that would take Europe to climate neutrality by 2050 and see European Union economies producing net zero carbon emissions by that date. In other words, to “flatten the business-as-usual curve”, and re-design a growth that is mindful of our environmental limits.

The next step was to design the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans....

The EU also understood that to maximize the impact of the European Green Deal for the

whole continent, it should make the Western Balkans a part of this deal and ensure the countries are given equal opportunities and weight. This way, the EU can guide the region towards the 2030 and 2050 targets while benefiting from the added value the Western Balkans could offer, and that’s how the “Green Agenda for the Western Balkans” emerged.

The proposed policy for the Western Balkans is centered around five pillars: decarbonization, circular economy, pollution reduction, sustainable farming and biodiversity. This policy envisages on coordination with international financial institutions as well as civil society organizations, but the key for its



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success will be that any commitments to the Green Agenda take a legally binding form. Too often we have witnessed that the countries of the region are rather reluctant regulations followers, despite the ecological and health benefits of EU environmental legislation.

Time to create the Macedonian Green Deal

For successful integration of all policies and measures, it is necessary to create an authentic Macedonian Green Deal, involving domestic knowledge and expertise from all stakeholders, public institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and the academic community.

According to the government's press service, there are already several international

organizations that want to support its implementation. The government emphasizes that by creating this Macedonian Green Deal, we will show maturity and commitment, before the final outlining of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

In the past three years, nature conservation activities appear to have been overshadowed by other segments of the environment, particularly air pollution and waste. Regarding the national legislation, a new Law on Nature Protection has been drafted and is waiting for adoption by the Parliament. Procedures for declaring protected areas and national parks have been initiated (for parts of the Osogovo Mountains, Shara Mountain, Vodno Mountain); five natural rarities were declared (including the old plane



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tree in Ohrid, as a contribution to the preservation of natural values at the national level); A Plan for Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region was adopted, as an obligation of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO); The 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been prepared; and other acts and decisions related to the protection of the forest fund and other natural resources in national parks, protection of wild species, as well as active involvement in international and regional initiatives for cross-border cooperation for nature protection.

As pointed by the deputy minister of MoEPP, the concept of the Macedonian Green Deal pays

special attention to the recovery of nature with its return to urban centers. With nature-based-solutions, in urban centers, many neglected corners will be turned into nature oases. There will be much more greenery, which will beautify, but will also reduce pollution.

The fight for nature protection cannot and should not depend on the awareness, commitment and ambition of individuals. That is not enough. We need unification around a single, sustainable platform, and the Macedonian Green Deal could be just that. And we need its full implementation!



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To reduce air pollution with measures to start immediately, not in November ...

The Intersectional Working Group (IWG) for Monitoring the Ambient Air Quality responsible for defining and proposing recommendations and measures that need to be taken for improvement of air quality, held its 15th video-conference meeting, after which joint conclusions were reached, with appropriate proposal for short-term and medium-term measures. Short-term measures include: one day a week to work from home (for example Friday); one day a week without motor vehicles (for example Wednesday); one day a week to teach on-line; once a month one session

of the Government to be on-line; to the sessions of all various



government Commissions, the invited guests to participate exclusively on-line; in the third package of economic measures to help only those companies that will show that their



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business plans for future activities take into consideration the environmental protection; exemption from repayment of subsidies if the company applies the measures of the new Macedonian Green Deal and the Paris Agreement; stimulating companies to design their business models according to the principles of circular economy; placement of mini containers for medical waste; adoption and implementation of the Decree on eco-labels; and harmonization and acceptance of the proposals from the initiative: "On Bicycles" to create functional conditions for stimulating the use of bicycle traffic.

For medium-term measures, they proposed decarbonization of the heating methods (both in households and in public institutions); accelerated implementation of the Clean Air Plan; to ensure that there is no public institution that pollutes; subsidies for households to replace heating if it pollutes; protection of producers of renewable sources of energy; mass project "Renovation of buildings" for increased energy efficiency; equalizing the price of extra light fuel with diesel, etc.



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MONTENEGRO: CIRCULAR ECONOMY- CREATING GUIDELINES FOR MONTENEGRO

Organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro and UNDP, on June 5, 2020, an online workshop was organized with the topic "The process of creating guidelines for the circular economy."



This is the first activity that is being realized within the project of creating the Roadmap of Montenegro towards the circular economy.

The keynote speakers were Deputy Prime Minister Milutin Simovic, Chamber of Commerce President Vlastimir Golubovic, UNDP Resident Representative Daniela Gasparikova and former EU Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc, followed by Ladeja Godina Kosir, director of the Institute for Circular Change and president of the European Circular Economy Platform. More than 60 participants, representatives of institutions from the state and local level,



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international and non-governmental organizations and representatives of companies took part in the work of the gathering. Identified priority areas with already introduced smart specialization strategy:

1. Agriculture;
2. Food systems;
3. Energy sector;
4. Sustainable health tourism;

Agreement on TPP Pljevlja environmental overhaul

Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG) has signed an agreement worth over EUR 54 million on an environmental overhaul of its coal-fired thermal power plant (TPP) Pljevlja, a project that will extend the plant's lifespan by 30 years and greatly reduce its impact on the environment.



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The agreement on the environmental overhaul was signed with the DEC International-Bemax-BB Solar-Permonte consortium, which was selected as contractor for the job in late 2019. The consortium is led by China's Dongfang Electric Corporation (DEC), whose projects cover more than 80 countries worldwide.



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SERBIA: ENE20 CONFERENCE “CITIZEN SCIENCE: FOCUS ON AGENDA 2030 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

Professional association “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” and Serbian Chamber of Commerce, on June 5th 2020, have organized the 16th Environment to Europe – EnE20 Conference. Traditionally, it is an official event that marks the UN World Environment Day (WED) in the Republic of Serbia and region.

In accordance with the current circumstances around Covid19, the EnE20 conference “Citizen Science: focus on Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals” is realized online, presenting the results so far achieved in the development of citizen science concept in

Serbia. The primary focus was on young people, especially through educational institutions such as the Eco-school program. “Citizen science” is a relatively new concept in Serbia and is still in development, but it is also supported through various joint actions and initiatives of experts and scientists and formal / informal citizen activism.

This year, the co-organizers of EnE20 were the UN in Serbia , the Global Listening Center , the Center for the Promotion of Science , NALED , the French Institute in Serbia and PE Ada Ciganlija .



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Plenary lectures of experts from the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the Global Listening Center, the Center for the Promotion of Science, NALED and the Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, can be found at the link [HERE](#). Invited speakers include dr Tanja Adnadjević, dr Marjana Brkić, mr Dušan Stokić, Slobodan Krstović, Sanja Knežević Mitrović, Đurdjija Petrović, and Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov.

As a part of the celebration of the International Environment Day, as a special part of the EnE20 conference, a national debate was held for 20 students aged 11 to 18, who qualified in the essay part of the competition organized by the international organization The Trust for Sustainable Living. The aim of the debate was

to find solutions for a sustainable future by referring to Goal 17, My vision: Partnerships for a sustainable future. The emphasis of the speakers was placed on environmental problems, climate change and sustainable use of resources, so that by listening to young people and their visions, we could harmonize further economic and social development with the possibilities and potentials of the environment in which we live. From the participants in the debate, among whom were mostly elementary school students, we could hear various thoughts and ideas, which were at the same time mature and uncorrupted. These are just some of their thoughts that we will mention:



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- The most important partnership should exist between adults and young people.
- Man has always functioned in a group and people have forgotten that because of material values.
- We can not eat or breathe money. We depend on planet Earth and we depend on politicians too, so it is important that we make them better people.
- Change must start with ourselves in order to become global.



The participants in the debate were divided into four groups, two of which were for and two against. They presented their opinions and views and answered the questions they asked each other and which they received from our judges. They showed an excellent level of commitment and preparation as well as determination to present their ideas and present a plan for their implementation. In addition to



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debating against each other, they showed excellent cooperation with members of other teams at the moment when their ideas would match or build on each other. In this way, they showed that they are supporters of the idea and that the competition itself is not an obstacle to solving goals together. Their approach to the issue was an example of the awareness of young people and a good indicator that we should not lightly reject the novelties that come with them. The debate was held on Ada Ciganlija, a beach that for 9 years, including the 2020 season, received the international Blue Flag certificate, as a symbol of commitment to environmental protection and care for the health and safety of visitors during the summer bathing season.

The EnE20 conference is part of a campaign related to climate change, within the EU project: “ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda” (ref. no. 2017/394-372). The aim of the project is to contribute to improving the implementation of environmental policy in line with EU standards. This will be achieved by improving and strengthening interactions between individual actors in environmental protection, creating better technical and financial environments for their operations in each of the countries in the region, as well as the region as a whole. Special emphasis will be placed on initiating discussions related to the circular economy in the region, as well as intensifying activities related to climate change.



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The project includes a number of additional activities such as inter-partner learning / exchange, networking and thematic support to third parties (local organizations, media).

In addition to the Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, the project partners are 6 organizations from the countries / territories of the Western Balkans and 2 organizations from the EU: 4X4X4 Balkan Bridges from Macedonia, Advocacy Training and Resource Center, from Kosovo, Green Home Association, from Montenegro, Lir Evolution, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, TEMA - the Turkish Foundation for Combating

Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats, from Turkey, European Environmental Bureau from Belgium and Foundation Punto, Sud, from Italy.



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KOSOVO: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING FALLS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the meeting of June 3, 2020, the Assembly of Kosovo voted the new Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The new composition of the Government has provided for a reduction in the number of ministries, and in some cases a merger of two or more ministries.

What has sparked public discussion has been the merger between the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Environmental activists and civil society organizations have seen this action as unreasonable, due to the fact that the economy in general turns out to be the biggest enemy of the environment and a minister who

protects economic development cannot at the same time protect nature.



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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY IN KOSOVO IS MARKED

World Environment Day is marked in Kosovo, through some symbolic activities, due to restrictive measures by the Government of Kosovo to prevent Covid 19.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with the WWF Adria office in Pristina, have organized a clean-up action along the Prevala-Brezovica road and the river and outdoor walks to the “Burimi I Madh” or otherwise known as the House of Observers. World Environment Day

this year is marked with the theme "Time for nature".



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ALBANIA: "Cem River in Kelmend endangered by the construction of small HPPs"

As has happened with many other projects for the construction of hydropower plants on the rivers Vjosë, Mat, Valbonë, etc. It seems that the Cem River, a rare beauty of the Albanian Alps will have the same fate.

This river originates in Kelmend of Malësis së Madhe in the region of Shkodra, has a length of about 60 km, extends in the Albanian and Montenegrin territory and is formed by the union of two branches Cem Vukël and Cem Selcë.

During 2018, 2019, the respective permits were approved for the construction of two HPPs in Murras (2mW) and Dobrinjë (1mW) using the

basin created by the flow of this river (source: azht.gov.al).

In this way, with the construction of these HPPs, the flow of this river would be completely endangered, significantly reducing the volume of water for irrigation and significantly affecting the sustainable development of the ecosystem in the area. Also endangered is the water wealth he owns, considered one of the least polluted in Albania, including flora and fauna, which include living things of special importance such as wild boar, brown bear and brown, fox murmurs, pine cones, Eurasian otters (endangered species) as



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well as about 130 bird species identified in the canyon of this river.

Photo of Cem river; (Source: Wikipedia; Sigismund von Dobschütz)



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TURKEY: CDP TURKEY CLIMATE CHANGE 10TH YEAR CONFERENCE WAS HELD

10th Anniversary of CDP Turkey was celebrated via online conference on 9 June, 2020. CDP Turkey Climate Change and Water 2019 Results and CDP Turkey 2019 Leaders has been announced during the Conference.



Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum Director Melsa Ararat and Garanti BBVA Deputy General Manager Ebru Dildar Edin presented the opening speeches. The main speaker of the Conference was Ekrem İmamoğlu, Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, stated that the pandemic reminds us how important living in a harmony with nature, and added that Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality will make a study on sustainability in climate change and water management in 2021.

He stated that municipality will cooperate with universities, experts, professional



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organizations, NGOs and the people of Istanbul in order to determine the Vision of Istanbul 2050 and to establish broad participation strategies. He also stressed the importance of considering climate crises in economic decisions.

CDP Turkey Projects Manager Mirhan Köroğlu Göğüş has shared the details of the results of CDP Turkey Climate Change and Water Report 2019. President of TÜSİAD (Turkish Industry & Business Association) Simone Kaslowski was one of the speakers as well. He emphasized that the transition to a low carbon economy model is important for sustainability.

A panel session was held with awarded companies' leaders following the award

ceremony. The panel was moderated by Sabancı University Faculty Member Oğuz Babüroğlu. CEO of Brisa Bridgestone Cevdet Alemdar, Chairman of Tekfen Holding Murat Gigin and CEO of Migros A.Ş. Özgür Tort has participated in the panel. The panelists discussed how leading companies strategically has tackled with climate change over the past 10 years, the changes they have undergone in this process, and the opportunities brought by them. Chairman of Tekfen Holding Murat Gigin mentioned the importance of TEMA Foundation for the environmental movement in Turkey by stating that the environmental awareness is started in Turkey with establishment of TEMA in 1992.



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Global climate change, future world and turkey webinar

The webinar was organized by TEMA Foundation on the fields of “Global Climate Change, Future World and Turkey” on Thursday, June 18. The webinar published in TEMA Foundation’s YouTube channel.



Professor Murat Türkeş who is the Board Member of Boğaziçi University Scientific Committee on Climate Change and Policy Research Center was participated in the webinar.

Mr. Türkeş mentioned global climate change, drought and desertification both globally and in Turkey. He stated that natural greenhouse effect has been strengthening due to the marked increases in the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases created by various human activities since the industrial revolution. On the other hand, climate change, whether it is global or regional scale, has also been causing occurrence of the significant changes in the



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frequencies, severities, spatial distribution and timing of the extreme weather and climate events and disasters. Secular decreasing and increasing trends have been observed in precipitation amounts, which is markedly characterized with high variability in space and time, over many large regions and continents during the period of 1900 to 2020. He gave examples from all over the world by stating that considerably increased precipitation has been observed in eastern parts of the North and South America, northern Europe and northern and Central Asia, whereas decreased precipitation amounts (drying) has been observed in the Sahel, the Mediterranean basin including Turkey, southern Africa and parts of southern Asia. In addition to these considerable

consequences, substantial increases in extreme precipitation events have also been observed in many regions of the world including Turkey. Furthermore, recent findings based on the analysis of the long-term climatological and meteorological series of observations have revealed existing significant changes in some extremes, particularly in daily extreme air temperatures (e.g., maximum and minimum temperatures, tropical and summer days, etc.), in number of frost days, and length and frequencies of the heat waves since the 1950s. According to him; such changes that mostly began with the years of 1990s appeared generally as the evident decreases in numbers of the frost and snowy days and evident increases in hot days and nights along with



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average night-time minimum and day time maximum air temperatures in the Eastern Mediterranean basin and Turkey. This is especially true in tropical and subtropical regions that are vulnerable to greater intensity, frequency, and duration of extreme weather, such as hurricanes, drought, and increases in heat, as a result of climate change.

He also stated that future climate conditions will be warmer and drier in the medium-risk group countries due to factors such as population growth, increased pressures on land and water resources, and increased deforestation activities.

Mr. Türkeş emphasized the importance of choosing product patterns suitable for warmer

and drier conditions so that food safety is not affected by climate change, the importance of making land use plans, water management and conservation of biodiversity.

' Discovery of Istanbul's Biodiversity and Nature Application' webinar

TEMA Foundation Chairwoman Deniz Ataç introduced the "Doğa Kâşifi" mobile application in the webinar held on 11 June with the participation of Ünal Akkemik, Professor at İstanbul University Faculty of Forestry and TEMA Foundation Head of Education Department Esra Düzgün Baytekin. The webinar published in TEMA Foundation's YouTube Channel. "Doğa Kaşifi" means "Nature Explorer" in Turkish. It has developed



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by TEMA Foundation. It is the first citizen science mobile application developed in Turkey. Citizen Science is a system that enables citizens to participate in scientific processes by exploring and enjoying the nature, regardless of their educational background,” Baytekin noted.

Features of the application:

The application identifies trees and shrubs by different features such as leaf, flower or fruit. The users can save the species identified by them and they create their own observation list. The users visualize their observation history on the map. The users can discover more about each species and learn how to tell apart similar species from detailed species description texts and photographs

The users can get help from an expert about identifying the species confuses by them

Explores parks and the species of İstanbul City.

Highlights:

A plant identification application that anyone who wants to start observing plants but has no background in botany can use with ease.

Free and easy to use digital tool to store each users’ own nature observation records

The users can contribute to scientific research, conservation, environmental advocacy and environmental education with their observation records as this project employs open data policy.



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Users can contribute to expanding the database by recording plants elsewhere in Istanbul.

Ünal Akkemik, stated that “In terms of biodiversity, Turkey is one of richest countries in Europe and the Middle East There are number of different ecological regions each with its own endemic species and natural ecosystems. Turkey is home to 75% of the plant species that exist on the European continent, and one third of these species are endemic.” He also added that “İstanbul is an city of transition between Mediterranean and Black Sea climate regimes The city is located in a region that has rich biodiversity due partly to its unique location at the crossroads of two continental landmasses and two large water bodies. There are approximately 2500 flowering plants and

fern species which 58 of them are endemic in the natural flora of Istanbul.”

The coal plants that do not have necessary technologies to minimize environmental and public health risks have been granted by temporary operation certificates by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Having failed to complete the required environmental investments, 5 coal-fired power plants were closed on January 1, 2020: Kahramanmaraş Afşin A, Kütahya Seyitömer, Kütahya Tunçbilek, Sivas Kangal and Zonguldak ÇATES. In addition, some coal power plants are partly closed.



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Despite the mentioned plants have not completed the necessary environmental investments, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization have been granted 9 coal power plants with "temporary operating certificates" again upon the commitments of the companies operates these power plants. The certificated are valid until January 2021. It means that the power plant will continue their operation by causing air pollution and damaging the environment. TEMA Foundation is working closely with the other the NGOs and CSOs that are working on environment and public health for making necessary applications to the government to close the power plants that do not complete the necessary environmental investments.



Local Resistance Against Golf Hotel Projects in Ulualan

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism assigned 3000 decaire area called Ulualan to four golf hotels in Manavgat district in Antalya. The area consists of coastline and agricultural areas. Local people, municipality of Manavgat and



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local CSO's started to campaign against the decision of Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Professional bodies such as Chambers of Architectures, Chambers of Agriculture Engineers, Bar Association, different social groups and local people have come together to stand against the decision of the Ministry.

If the golf hotel projects are actualized people will not be able to use coastline and the project will destroy huge amount of agricultural land. The Manavgat Municipality filed a lawsuit against Ministry for cancelling the zoning plans that allow the construction of golf hotels. Some of the local CSOs and professional bodies are making preparations for opening lawsuits against Ministry as well. TEMA Foundation is following the grass-root movement in the area

because of three main reasons; first the projects will destroy important agricultural areas, second golf courses consume huge amount of water and for keeping the golf courses green a huge amount of pesticides are applied to the area.

The group has started a signature campaign against the project as well for stopping the projects.

Turkish NGOs Call on Chinese Banks to Stop Financing Coal

Over 20 NGOs are calling Chinese banks to withdraw their financial support to the Hunutlu coal fired power plant that is being constructed in the Yumurtalik District of Adana, Turkey.



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The organizations have highlighted the lack of compliance with law and environmental degradation and ask Chinese banks to finance clean energy instead of coal investments.

The NGOs address the negative impacts of the power plant on human health, biodiversity, agricultural production and climate. The project site is already struggling with intensely polluted air. The letter points to the excess amount of air pollution that is above the limit values even when the measurements were conducted during the summer period when the quality of air was the highest at the two locations for the EIA Report. Sugözü Beach, where the power plant is being constructed, is an important sea turtle nesting area that is under protection based on the Memorandum 2009-10 regarding

Protection of Sea Turtles, issued by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. The construction of the power plant also violates the Bern Convention, as it poses a threat to the nesting sites of green sea turtles, which has been listed among "endangered species" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The project also violates Articles 8d, 8k and 14c of the Convention on Biological Diversity of which China and Turkey are signatories of.

NGOs initiated a petition to halt the construction of the power plant where they ask the Chinese banks to withdraw from the project and instead provide financial support for sustainable and renewable energy investments in Turkey.



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ITALY: SAVE THE DATE

26th July - International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem. Adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015, it is observed to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

Read more:

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/mangroveday>

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

EU Call for Proposals to support Active Citizenship in Albania to improve the environment for active citizenship and civic participation as a driver of change at local level and national level. The objective of this call for proposals is to stimulate activism and participation in the social, economic and political life of the community as well as to contribute to improving local democracy, transparency, responsibility and accountability of local governments and institutions.

Country: Albania



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Closing Date: 17th July 2020

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1592841804450&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&zgeo=11962938&aoet=36538%2C36539&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=169379>

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

Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN): Advocacy Platform towards the EU. For years now, BCSDN has been following the EU's approach in supporting civil society in the enlargement countries, advocating for recognizing and supporting the civil society as

a competent and democratic partner in the EU accession process.

Read more: <http://www.balkancsd.net/bcsdns-advocacy-platform-towards-the-eu/>



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, a comprehensive plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems, is published as part of the European Green Deal. The Strategy is set to establish protected areas for at least 30% of both land and sea in Europe, restore degraded ecosystems and unlock 20 billion EUR/year for biodiversity through various sources, including EU funds, national and private funding. Green Agenda for the Western Balkans to be endorsed by the relevant authorities before autumn 2020. Western Balkans hosts rich biodiversity, including many threatened, rare and endemic species, and relatively large unspoiled ecosystems.

The Energy Community Secretariat launched a public consultation on the integration of renewables self-consumers into the energy networks. The Guidelines reflect the latest legal requirements stemming from the EU's Clean Energy Package, soon to be adopted in the Energy Community. Their purpose is to provide advice to policy-makers in the Contracting Parties on the development of national legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to renewable self-consumption and empowering final customers to actively participate in the self-consumption of renewable energy.

The example of best practice in usage of energy renewable sources is using the wind power. This source was not used in last decades



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in BiH, but in recent couple of years it started to be recognized and investors are focusing their funds – especially in southern part of BiH. Wind Power A/S from Denmark is the other main contractor for the project near Mostar, besides state owned electric power utility company Elektroprivreda (EPBiH). The facility will have 15 turbines produced by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy SA in Denmark. The system will be located at an altitude of 760 metres. EPBiH has a 30-year concession for Podveležje (near Mostar), while Siemens Gamesa and Wind Power agreed to maintain the facility for five years.

On the other hand, the EPBiH is investing in sHPPs. The Centre for Environment, the Aarhus Centre Sarajevo, and Konjic-based

environmental protection association Zeleni Neretva are suing against the decision of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism to renew environmental permits for the construction of SHPP Srijanski most and SHPP Gorovnik ušće on the Neretvica River. The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism issued renewed environmental permits to the investor, and in both cases prevented public participation, which is against the law on environmental protection of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH). Two SHPPs with a capacity of 6.4 MW are the first phase of the project on the Neretvica River which envisages the construction of 15 power plants of 24.5 MW in total. The project is part of EPBiH's capital investment plan. The Center



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for Environment has also filed a complaint against the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska. According to its decision, MHE Marvel d.o.o. Kalinovik isn't obligated to conduct an impact assessment and obtain a new environmental impact study for the HES Gornja Neretva phase 1 project. It envisages the construction of three SHPPs – Grebenac Ušće, Mjedenik and Igaščica on the rivers Neretva and Igaščica, in the Gacko municipality. The ministry has instructed the investor eight years ago to prepare an environmental impact study, and in the meantime it has expired, so the investor was supposed to prepare a new one. (taken from balkangreenenergynews.com).

In RS entity, environmentally related, the draft documents were published: Report on the determined contribution of BiH for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; Roadmap and action plan for the implementation of the established contributions of BiH for the period 2020-2030; and Strategy for adaptation to climate change and low-emission development. The documents were published on the government website and available for public comments for one-month period (from 12th of May until 12th of June, 2020). The documents have been prepared in accordance with the reporting obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to this



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Convention. The holder of these reports is the UN Development Program in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP).

On the 5th of June, the World Environment day, environmental organizations from BiH stated its views regarding significant issues and dangers for environment. In order to point out the problems of building sHPPs, the Coalition for rivers of BiH started a campaign “Take a picture of dried river basins – save the rivers of BiH”, aiming to protect rivers and show habitants how to approach when the companies are starting to request the permits. The next issue identified by Eko-BiH, informal group of environmental organizations is related to

disposal of nuclear waste from Krško, Slovenia, on Trgovska gora, in Croatia. The following problem is constant urbanization, while green surfaces are destroyed, and air and water are polluted. The polluters are not punished, nor are they respecting the procedures for environmental protection, for example the thermos power plants in Zenica - polluter of the air with SO₂ and particles. Various industries are polluting the soil and water with their wastewaters without treatment. Waste management is not working properly in BiH, not citizens nor are industries managing their waste in proper manner defined by law and procedures.



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