



ALBANIA: "ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN TO ELIMINATE IT"

During May 2020, after several legal and administrative changes, the Ministry of Interior has taken on additional responsibilities for the inspection of the territory and the environment. Based on this fact, by representatives of this ministry or even by the relevant ministry, inspections have been made in various areas where major problems of pollution caused by irresponsible persons or entities have been found.

An important factor during this period was the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has significantly reduced the controls of

the relevant institutions against entities that have continued the activity of eroding river beds, dumping waste in illegal landfills, etc.

The National Inspectorate of Territorial Defense is the institution that controls and takes administrative measures against entities or individuals who commit environmental crimes. This institution has started exercising its activity in this sector, according to legal provisions by intensifying field controls and fining some entities that deal with the extraction of stone from the mountain, taking aggregates or dumping waste in river beds. Administrative



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measures have also been taken for entities and state institutions that cause other pollution in the environment or do not take measures to prevent these pollutions. These entities have been fined with amounts ranging from one to two million ALL (8000-16000 euro)

In the photo, the Minister of Interior and the General Director of the State Police during the inspection in the area of Petrela near the river Erzen, where many illegal dumpsites have been created.



(source mb.gov.al - <https://mb.gov.al/2020/05/04/ministri-lleshaj-ikmt-dhe-policia-do-te-punojne-si-nje-ekip-i-perbashket-per-ti-trajtuar-krimet-ne-mjedis-ne-kompleksitet/>)



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ITALY: SAVE THE DATE

5th June - World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. First held in 1974, it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging from environmental issues to marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime. In 2020, the theme is biodiversity. Read more: <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

17th June - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. Read more: <https://www.un.org/en/events/desertificationday/>



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

EU Call for Proposals: Supporting Capacity Building and Partnership of civil society in Montenegro Civil Society Facility Programme, 2019. The global objective of this call for proposals is to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process in Montenegro by empowering civil society to actively take part in decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society. The specific objectives of this call for proposals are:

- To build the capacity of CSOs to be professional, effective and accountable independent actors.
- To contribute to the establishment of an enabling financial environment supportive of institutional sustainability of CSOs.

Country: Montenegro

Closing Date: 18th June 2020

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1590415217630&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&zgeo=11962938&aoet=36538%2C36539&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=168193>



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

Balkan Energy Prospect is among the tools created by Balkan Green Foundation, with the idea to represent an open, powerful, and informative platform for discovering and analyzing the key insights accentuating the capacities of each Western Balkans country in terms of their respective energy sectors. Ultimately, this platform is drafted with the idea to offer a brief yet comprehensive reflection of the developments in the energy sector in each of the 6 countries of the Western Balkans, respectively Albania, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.

Read <https://wb6energyprospect.com/index.php> more:



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KOSOVO: WITH THE MOTTO "HEALTHY PARKS - HEALTHY PEOPLE", MARKS THE EUROPEAN DAY OF PARKS IN KOSOVO

In honor of the European Parks Day, on May 24, 2020, symbolic environmental activities were organized in Kosovo, in areas protected by law. All activities were organized with the motto "Healthy Parks, Healthy People". The activities aimed at raising the awareness of the citizens of Kosovo regarding the importance of parks and forests for health and the need for their protection.

Kosovo has 4 parks declared as protected areas, two National Parks, National Park "Sharri" and National Park "Cursed Mountains", as well as two Nature Parks, Nature Park "Gërnia" and

Nature Park "Shkugëza". Their role and importance for public health is already proven, for the fact that they present the most frequented and most attractive areas to be visited by citizens and to benefit from the natural, health and recreational values that carry them.



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IMPROVED AIR QUALITY IN PANDEMIC TIMES

The Agency for Environmental Protection of Kosovo has published the report on the air condition in Kosovo, which assessment is based on the assessment of air quality during March-April 2020 compared to the same period of 2019. All this assessment is made in order to analyze how the measures taken by the

Government of Kosovo to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have had an impact.

As it is known, the measures taken by the Government of Kosovo have resulted in a decrease in road traffic and in the dynamics of some other economic activities, which have influenced the decrease of air pollution for some parameters, especially with parameters related to road transport. .

Data from the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA), obtained from the air quality monitoring system, show a decrease in the concentrations of some air pollutants, in particular the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter. of PM_{2.5}



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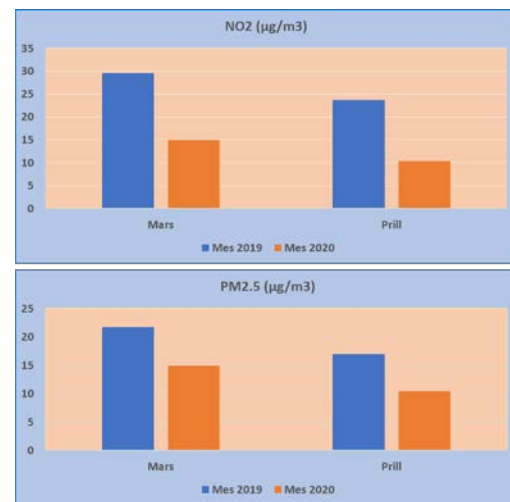




dust mainly coming due to traffic reduction and other similar activities.

KHMI data from monitoring stations show a reduction in pollution by up to 50% at the national level compared to the same period last year.

Based on the data recorded by the measuring stations at the Hydro Meteorological Institute of Kosovo, it is estimated that the average concentration of NO₂ at the level of Kosovo during March was about 15 $\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$, compared to about 30 $\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$ in March of last year. While during April the average concentration of



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NO₂ in Kosovo was about 10.4 µg / m³, compared to about 23.7 µg / m³ as it was in April last year.

Based on the data of metering stations, it is estimated that the average concentration of PM_{2.5} in Kosovo, during March of this year were 14.9 µg / m³, compared to about 21.7 µg / m³ as in March of the year passed. While during April the average concentration of PM_{2.5} in Kosovo was about 10 µg / m³, compared to about 17 µg / m³ as it was in April last year.

CONTAMINATED LAKE FROM POWER PLANTS IN OBILIQ

The blue lake is created from the waters flowing from the remnants of the coal combustion ash that is deposited through the hydraulic system from the Kosovo A and B Power Plants to the ash landfill in the former emptied surface mine of the Mirash Mine.

The lake is blue due to the basic content and the presence of various chemicals that come from the composition of KEK ash. The ash composition of the Power Plants includes mainly various oxides which in reaction with water give bases (hydroxides) and thus create the basic water environment of this lake. Among these oxides with higher content are present Calcium Oxide (CaO), Iron Trioxide



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(Fe₂O₃), Aluminum Trioxide (Al₂O₃), Magnesium Oxide (MgO) etc.

Within the composition of the ash that is deposited in the form of sludge in this area, there are also heavy metals and phenols which together with the above mentioned bases create in the chemical complex medium in the created lake.

Based on data from KEK Monthly Reports on discharged water at the metering point in this area, there are exceedances of some parameters such as PH which reaches values up to 13, then electrical conductivity, chlorides, nitrates and suspended matter in water.

Exceeding these parameters was also observed from the measurements carried out by the Hydro Meteorological Institute of Kosovo, during 2017 and 2018. From the physico-chemical analysis of lake waters carried out in the laboratory of KHMI, it was found high values of water pH and high electrical conductivity.

Based on the legislation in force, it is the obligation of KEK to make solutions to this environmental problem. One of the measures taken by KEK to manage the situation is the erection of barriers to prevent the passage of landfill water into the surrounding surface water and with special emphasis on the Sitnica River.



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Solving the Blue Lake problem is one of the environmental priorities for the future and its rehabilitation is expected to be addressed through a rehabilitation project supported by the World Bank, which is already in the development phase.



MONTENEGRO: MONTENEGRO HAS ACCEPTED THE NEW EU ACCESSION METROLOGY

The Government of Montenegro has accepted the proposed EU accession metrology. The new methodology implies that the negotiations will be organized within six areas, namely clusters, which will cover all the former 35 chapters.

The new methodology envisages six clusters:

1) Fundamental or fundamental rights, which include the rule of law, the judiciary and democratization;



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- 2) The internal market and free movement of goods;
- 3) Competitiveness and inclusive growth within which social policy, health, science and media;
- 4) Green plan and sustainable connectivity;
- 5) Resources, agriculture and cohesion;
- 6) Foreign and security policy.

Guest lectures

Green Home has organized online guest lectures using Zoom platform. The lecture has lectured by Ines Mrdovic and the topic was "Small hydro power plants or public interest?".

Lectures has been attended by the students of law, biology, environmental protection, and NGOs.

During the lecture, participants had the opportunity to hear whether:

- Confirmed public interest in concrete projects for the construction of small hydropower plants on Montenegrin rivers;
- Concession activity of electricity generation from small hydropower plants of importance for the local population and citizens in Montenegro;
- endangered principle of public interest and financial balance of the two



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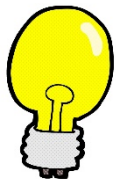


contracting parties, to the detriment of citizens, and in favor of private entities;

- endangerment and devastation of rivers, flora and fauna justification for small HPPs as projects of public interest.

Academic community, civil society and students have a big role in environmental

NORTH MACEDONIA: INNOVATION CAN SPARK NEW IDEAS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Innovation is an important stepstone for the economic development and investment of any country. Even in the latest EU

protection. So the main aim of these lectures was to improve student's knowledge about the main problems in environment and to push up them in proactive participation in environmental protection.

progress reports on innovation, the countries of the Western Balkans (Montenegro, Serbia and Northern Macedonia) are assessed as "modest to moderate" innovators.



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From that perspective, the latest initiative to create a Regional Innovation Fund should certainly encourage greater cooperation and contribute to making the region more attractive to foreign investors.

At the end of April 2020 a working meeting, organised by the Fund for Innovation and Technological Development (FITR), the Regional Cooperation Council and the World Economic Forum was held to define the next steps for the implementation of the initiative to create a Regional Innovation Fund. The meeting was attended by ministers from the region of the six Western Balkan countries, as well as representatives of the European Commission, the World Bank, directors and

representatives of the business sector. The model of functioning of FITR and the results achieved so far at the national level were presented at the meeting.

All participants supported the idea and the need for increased regional cooperation and the creation of a regional fund that would be of great importance in times of crisis as shown by the COVID 19 pandemic. The main goal of such a fund would be to support young innovators and new start-up companies, which would keep local talents in the country, but would also, encourage and attract more foreign capital inflows and increased competitiveness of the region as a whole.



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According to FIRT, by creating a regional market of over 20 million, the region will be more attractive to investors as whole rather than as fragmented markets. Thus, the region will prove that it is worth investing in it. According to their analysis, companies that have financial support show particularly high productivity growth compared to previous years. Their analyses of over 200 micro to medium companies, supported through the Fund, showed that the average profit growth in 2019 is over 70%, and the amount of funds paid to the state budget on various grounds by 25% exceeds the amount paid by the state through the Fund in support of innovation and technological development in 2019.

Representatives of the international institutions stressed that the creation of such a fund would be a very positive move forward because there is a lack of concrete regional initiatives. According to the RCC, it is crucial that it will be created in the region and for the region.

This Regional Innovation Fund should, among other things, contribute to strengthening cross-border cooperation and encourage investments in the private sector and innovation. Thereby it could open new opportunities for financing business projects in the region, especially start-up companies, which would help reduce the problem with brain drain.



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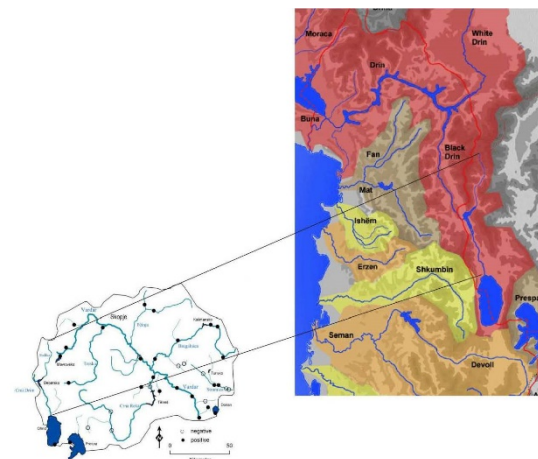




The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for the end of May 2020, at which the initial model of the Regional Innovation Fund will be presented, prepared by FITR, the Regional Cooperation Council, the World Economic Forum, and the Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia.

We expect that the plan of the Regional Innovation Fund will give a special focus to the Western Balkans Green Agenda and the circular economy concept.

Strategic Action Program (SAP) for the Drin River Basin - contribution to the



implementation of the European Union Water Framework Directive



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On April 24, 2020, high-level representatives from North Macedonia, Albania, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro, virtually signed a joint statement, thus endorsing the Strategic Action Program (SAP) for sustainable management of the extended Drin River Basin. Shared among these five countries, the Drin River Basin provides water resources for drinking, energy, agriculture, tourism and industry.

The Strategic Action Program for the extended Drin River Basin is an extremely important document for North Macedonia and the countries of the region (Greece, Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro). The document foresees improving the exchange of

information on the state and water regime in the Drin River Basin, creating conditions for sustainable use of water and ecosystems, as well as developing cooperation measures in order to minimize the risks of disasters due to extreme natural phenomena and climate change until 2030.

One of the most important aspects for North Macedonia is the management of the Lake Ohrid mouth as a sub-basin of the Drin River Basin. Within the Drin project, a draft Management Plan for the Lake Ohrid Basin has been prepared. For years, there was no quality plan for protection and management of the Lake Ohrid and all its mouths.



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The goals of the program also include improved solid waste management measures and appropriate waste disposal, reduction of pollution with nutrients originating from untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharged into the waters of the Drin Basin, and unsustainable agricultural practices, as well Drin River Basin, and a political message for regional cooperation.

The signing of SAP, in fact, opens a window of opportunities for providing funds from the donor community for the implementation of the envisaged measures. At the same time, this is country's contribution to the implementation of the European Union Water Framework Directive.

as pollution reduction with hazardous substances such as heavy metals and pesticides.

The Strategic Action Program plays two different roles: environmental, as an important step towards future joint management of the



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SERBIA: SURVEY ANALYSIS AS A RESULT OF EASD E-CAMPAIGN OF ATTENTION: IN THE STATE OF EMERGENCY BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS, WE SHOULD HANDLE THE WASTE SAFELY AND PROPERLY

The COVID19 epidemic brought us some new experiences and new insights as witnesses of a time when we were separated from nature and our immediate environment. That time brought a lot of changes, for health, economy, but also significant impacts on the environment. Within the EU project “ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda” Environmental

Ambassadors for Sustainable Development in the period March-May 2020 implemented E-campaign of attention" In the state of emergency due to coronavirus, we should handle the waste safely and properly" which have a good response among the people. Special attention is paid to the proper disposal of household waste, in conditions when people are in home isolation, and some have been



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found to be positive for coronavirus, so they are treated at home. This still means that in some places, and there is no precise data on where, or

handkerchiefs, used masks, gloves, towels). Therefore, one of the tasks of the campaign was to check the current level of awareness of citizens on environmental issues. Campaign was designed to raise the attention of both decision makers and citizens of Serbia on the management of potentially hazardous waste, during the course of the coronavirus pandemic.

Here is some of results: Of 1913 survey participants from all around Serbia, from Subotica on the north (0.9%), through Belgrade (17.9%), to the south – Vranje (1.4%); 36.9% were participated in some environmental

how it is disposed of, household waste contains waste material that was in contact with a patient with an infectious disease (for example,



related activity before; 55.6% age 30-65 (44.1% age to 30), with different levels of



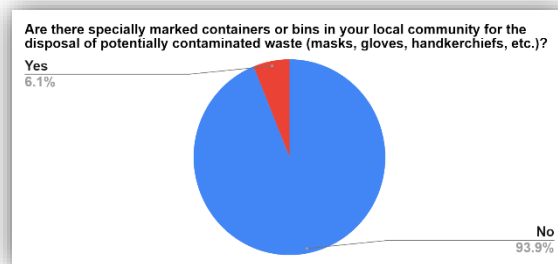
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degree. 89.6% of survey participants know that in health care institutions, waste must be

classified as non-hazardous and hazardous, but 62.6% do not know how that kind of waste is disposed. Observation and practice in the state of emergency show results that: 73% of survey participants say that people who collect waste carry masks and gloves; 95.6% of respondents did not get any special bags for potential hazardous waste and 93.9% says that there is no specially marked containers or bins for local community for the disposal of potentially



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

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contaminated waste As an indicator of personal responsibility, it was determined that more than a half respondents (59.3%) said that they separate used masks, gloves and handkerchiefs from other household waste and 36.7% of them practice double garbage bags when they do it. 79.5% of those who use double bags also tie waste from waste care institutions is treated and disposed, in particular hazardous one. Good sign is that citizens – care; majority followed safety instructions how to handle household waste (in pandemic circumstances as potentially hazardous waste), as well as how to dispose used gloves and masks within household waste. In addition, it is justifying that infrastructure and practice to waste separation on source is at very low level in local communities.

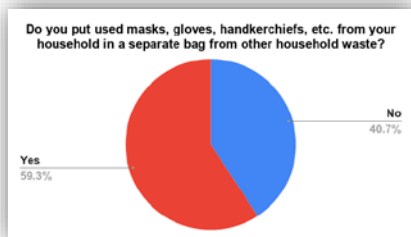
bags but 65% of respondents do not use disposable gloves when tying bags.

In order to have a healthier environment we must learn from this e-campaign outreach results. Citizens are not informed enough how



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TURKEY: Recovery Plan Has Been Proposed by the European Commission on 27 May 2020



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More than 120 NGOs and initiatives in Europe started a campaign for asking from European Union to restart its economy by launching the biggest green investment plan the world has ever seen, financed by the EU's increased budget and recovery instrument in April. The campaign has supported more than 1.3 million EU citizen so far. Details of the recovery plan shows that the Commission took the European Green Deal into consideration as it requested by the European people but with some important shortcomings. While European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that “The recovery plan turns the immense challenge we face into an opportunity, not only by supporting the recovery but also by investing in our future:

the European Green Deal and digitalization will boost jobs and growth, the resilience of our societies and the health of our environment,” about the proposed recovery plan, Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau said that “The Commission’s proposals fail to address the enormous problem of toxic pollution, which is a major threat to our health. The part of the strategy on learning lessons from the crisis doesn’t even mention habitat destruction and biodiversity loss, which have been widely touted as leading causes of new diseases.”

It is obvious and all the parties accept that the EU has willingness to actualize European Green Deal but falls short in some important



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areas. European Environmental Bureau prepared a detail table about the proposal by assessing it under eight titles as; Building Renovation, Renewables Mobility Circular Economy Nature Restoration Chemicals Industrial Transformation Economic Transformation. For the details please visit EEB's website;

<https://eeb.org/eu-plans-multi-billion-euro-green-recovery-but-falls-short-in-crucial-areas-1/>

The Commission's proposal will be discussed among the EU member states in upcoming weeks.

The Administrative Court canceled the "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval" of the Çanakkale Çırpılar Coal Plant

The "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval" granted by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization for the "Çırpılar Coal Plant" Project planned in Yenice district of Çanakkale was canceled as a result of the case filed by the TEMA Foundation and Kazdağı Natural and Cultural Assets Association, a local NGO. The court canceled the approval due to below reasons:

The site selection of the coal plant was contrary to regional spatial plan, there were not enough studies to represent the region's flora and fauna,



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and detailed studies on the effects of air pollution and ground and surface waters were not carried out. Considering the effects of the climate crisis and the epidemic conditions we are in, the cancellation decision made all organizations and local people happy.

Istanbul Kanal Project Webinar by TEMA Environmental Policies Department

The webinar was organized by TEMA Foundation on May 6 to raise awareness of its local network about the Istanbul Kanal project's environmental impact and EIA

process. The webinar was presented by Kübra Ayçiçek who is an environmental engineer and working in TEMA Foundation as Project Coordinator and 77 volunteers participate in the webinar.

Kübra Ayçiçek stated that İstanbul has already have fresh water problem and the project threaten important water resources of the city, if the project is built as it is planed assentation water sources of the city will disappear. Due to the flow from the Black Sea to the Marmara Sea, freshwater assets and the terrestrial ecosystem will be salted. The wetlands and forest areas in the north of the city will be



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opened for construction. All the flora and fauna that have survived in the region until today will be removed from their habitats and excavation will damage the environment and will cause air pollution. Earthquake risk will increase as there are three earthquake fault lines in the project area. In parallel the participants of the webinar emphasized the environmental risks of the project.

The aim of the webinar was to create more awareness about the project that may have such important environmental impacts. This was the second webinar presented by Kübra Ayçiçek and in this second webinar the participants were employees, representatives and mostly volunteers of TEMA Foundation.

Webinar on the interaction among Urbanization, Climate Change and Epidemics

Climate change, urbanization and epidemics and their relation were discussed by expert and academicians in the webinar organized by TEMA Foundation's Hatay Provincial Representative Zehra Güngördü on May 4th. The reality and effects of climate change become more evident as a result of interventions such as urbanization, deforestation, using coal, natural gas and fossil fuels, as a energy source, that lead to ecosystem destruction and consequently increasing



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greenhouse gas emissions. Epidemics that climate change is one of the major drivers now, are increasing and they are likely to spread to wider areas. If both state policies and individual approaches are not intended to preventing climate change, this impact is expected to increase in the future. It is considered that climate change is not only seen as an environmental problem, it is rather a development issue and a cumulative perspective is required to handle with this problem.



It is known that epidemics have effects on the development and restructuring of cities. This pandemic process has led to the questioning of the high-density structuring scheme adopted in recent years and a structuring approach in which density has been decentralized. Accordingly, the understanding of urban



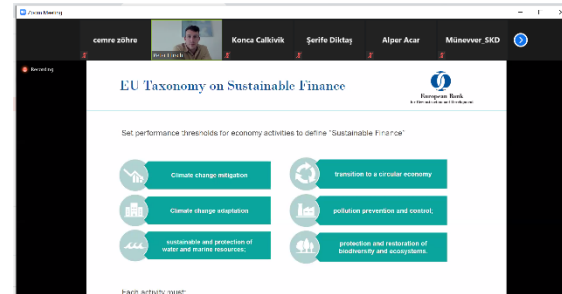
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development/growth that will emerge after the pandemic should adopt an ecological integrated approach. New age urbanism should consider factors such as climate change, air quality, waste management and prioritize the ecosystem services and benefits.

Circular Economy Webinar Series- Part 4 by BCSD Turkey



In the webinar organized on 12 May, the participants were briefed about the European perspective. The panelist presented what Europe's circular economy action plans and targets are. With the transition to the circular economy; It is anticipated that we will have gains such as protecting the value of products,



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materials and resources in the economy as long as possible, minimizing waste generation, boosting our competitiveness with new business opportunities and innovative products and services, and providing economic, social and environmental benefits. Looking at the Dutch policy example, a 50% reduction is targeted in the use of raw materials by 2030. Circular economy is seen as an economy model that the producer will be responsible for the product produced throughout its life. As stated by the Consul General of the Netherlands, Europe has adopted the economy model based on the principle of sustainability in many fields (textile, electronics, construction, automotive, waste etc.) and added the climate neutral

economy to its 2050 target together with the "European Green Deal".

In the "End of Waste" project which was funded by the EBRD in Turkey and carried out between December 2017 and March 2019, secondary raw material samples are examined and It was used for the first time in the iron, steel, aluminum and glass industries. It is aimed to create a circular economy action plan with the "Technical Support for the Evaluation of the Circular Economy Potential" project supported by IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance).

As mentioned in the presentation of Interactive Environmental Consulting Manager Oğuz



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Akınç from Kibar Holding, management support, analysis of consumer demands, life cycle analysis, innovation and digital transformation are needed in order to circular economy initiatives to succeed. Turkey's circular economy targets should proceed in parallel with Europe where it is in constant contact with imports and exports.

Local People and Initiatives Managed to Stop the Coal Plant Project in Denizli Avdan!

A 300 MW Coal plant was planned to be built in Avdan District of Denizli.



The Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) process of the project started in 2016. The EIA report has been finalized in 2020 and found sufficient by the EIA Investigation and Evaluation Commission on April 8th, 2020. According to EIA legislation people and institutions have only 10 days for submitting



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their objections to the report. In spite of pandemic conditions, 83 objections were submitted to the Local Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Urban planning. Apart from the legal process, local people, communities and NGO's such as chamber of architects and engineers, Denizli Bar Association, farmers created successful collaboration in a very short time and started a social media campaign against Coal Plant Project together with the online signature champion. Their voice has been heard everywhere in Turkey. As a result of their strong resistance the representatives of the ruling party announced the cancellation of the project on May 30th, 2020. The legal process

for the cancellation is not completed yet but both local communities, people, a considerable number of politicians and also TEMA will be following the process closely.

Istanbul City Council Climate Crisis Working Group Meeting

Istanbul City Council has set up a working group on Climate Crisis, which was held on 14 May 2020. The climate crisis we face become urgent.

Participants were; academicians, climate activists, NGO representatives, researches. The main topics covered are:



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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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- How to carry out the works in the pandemic process,
- What could be done to increase the compliance of the public and municipalities with this process
- Building connections and partnerships among local authority and academia
- University should be selected to work on the climate crisis.



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The pandemic situation with COVID-19 continued by mid-May.

In BiH economy started to operate from 18th of May. Set of measures by Government were mitigated. The economic activities will not be in the same line as before the crisis (public transport is not operating in full – some lines are not working yet, some businesses remained closed because of inability to endure the whole situation). Many activities were rescheduled and meetings, conferences, teaching and seminars were organized online, and it is foreseen that this will happen in the following month or two. Governments of entities made some

programs to support businesses (regarding the payments for salaries, taxes of space rentals, and similar).

Bosnia and Herzegovina is implementing sets of measures in order to fulfil the conditions for EU candidate. Specifically, in RS entity by decision of Constitution Court of BiH the death penalty is abolished. It is foreseen to amend the Law on public procurements. The set of 115 short-term priorities, from Action plan adopted as response to the EU Opinion on BiH, are being addressed and implemented. Besides administrative issues, the state should provide more freedom to the media, support to SMEs, and support to civil society development.



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Circular economy practice in BiH are more and more recognized and respected. Best practices are seen in numerous examples of companies that are dealing with recycling. This is primary for companies dealing with packaging waste, which is in BiH legislation defined that is responsibility of product producer. These companies are operating in line with legislation, recycle paper, metal, plastics, wood and glass. For example, company Ekopak collected over 12500 tons of packaging waste.



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