



TURKEY



Proposals for amending certain Laws under the Electricity Market Law consisting of 46 articles were submitted to the Presidency of the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 27th October. The proposed articles provided exceptions and advantages to mining, natural gas and energy

projects. Some of the proposed articles had a potential to affect national habitats negatively.

TEMA Foundation campaigned against 3 articles that would give broader rights to mining companies. TEMA Foundation raised awareness in public through social media campaign by sharing various infographics about the proposed law and the articles about mining. TEMA Foundation drafted an opinion in the issue and this opinion was published in both mass media and press. TEMA Foundation has collaborated with other NGOs, conducted a hashtag campaign on Twitter and increased the visibility by making the danger of the draft law a trend topic.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





TEMA Foundation staff and the representatives were directly connected to the members of parliaments. A road map was drawn by meeting with various MPs and nature advocates. In the sub-committee meeting held in the parliament, TEMA Foundation explained why the proposed articles are problematic from an ecological point of view.

As a result of the advocacy campaign and lobbying activities of the NGOs including TEMA Foundation two of the articles were changed in favor of nature and the Parliament withdrew from the article which would give permission to the companies building facilities out of the licensed area during the general

assembly meetings held on 17-18-19 November.



Good news from the Parliament



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





TEMA Foundation continues its activities within the scope of the Participating River Basin Management Project carried out in October.

TEMA Foundation has been implementing 'Participants River Basin Management Project' since May 2019 in order to ensure the protection of water assets in Turkey and increase participation out of the society in preparation and implementation of River Basin Management Plans. TEMA Foundation representatives opened information desks at more than 50 cities in Turkey at more than 80 points with the help of the volunteers.

Karapınar'da 'Katılımcı Nehir Havza Yönetim Projesi' tanıtıldı



TEMA Vakfı Karapınar İl Temsilcisi, Karapınar'da icra ettiği faaliyetleri TEMA Vakfı tarafından finanse edilen "Katılımcı Nehir Havza Yönetimi Projesi" kapsamında halkı bilgilendirmek için Karapınar İl Temsilcisi tarafından hazırlanan "Hazırlanan Suyunu Korum" sloganıyla düzenlenen bir kampanya başlatıldı.



TEMA Vakfı Karapınar İl Temsilcisi tarafından hazırlanan "Hazırlanan Suyunu Korum" sloganıyla düzenlenen bir kampanya başlatıldı. Kampanyanın amacı, halkı bilgilendirmek ve suyunu korumaya teşvik etmektir.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





In addition, TEMA representatives and volunteers visited important water assets in their basin to raise awareness on the threats on these water assets. TEMA Foundation representatives were pointed the threats that the water sources have been facing with and invited the authorities to take steps to protect these water sources.

A gold-copper mine project is planned in Kelkit Basin and Boğalı Plateaus, which are unique in terms of microclimate and habitat features in Tokat. Tokat is located in the Mid-Black Sea Region of Turkey.

The plateaus in and around Boğalı that their altitude varies between 1500 and 2000 meters,

feed the underground and surface waters between Tokat and Amasya provinces. The area consists of valleys and pastures that provide drinking water to nearly a hundred village towns



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





kilometers in length and 2 kilometers in width between Tanoba Town and Çerkezfindıcak Village.

The project is currently in its third stage. Firstly, the project received its license in this region. Afterwards the preliminary exploration activities were made later. The company is currently preparing for drilling works after the geological process.

There is a historical mine ruins dating back five thousand years in the area. It is planned to open a gold-copper mine to search for gold and silver on these remains. The 20 thousand decare license area of the project covers an area of 10



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

November 2020

The Green Erbaa Environment Platform was established by local environmental movements and citizens on November 4, 2020. The purpose of the platform is to raise awareness and to stop the planned cyanide gold and sulfuric acid copper mine in the region. Ecology advocates are organizing petition campaigns in the region and various protests to increase visibility. The platform conducts social media campaigns on a national level. TEMA Foundation follows the issue closely through the Tokat representative and volunteers in the region.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





NORTH MACEDONIA: THE NEW NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2030 PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK OF MEASURES FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The new National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) 2020-2030¹ for the Republic of North Macedonia focuses on finding practical, acceptable and financially feasible solutions and ways to finalise the activities that remained unrealised during the period of the previous NWMP (2009-2015).

The main activities presented in NWMP 2020-2030 are aimed at improving the standards for household waste management in RN Macedonia, especially the problems of environmentally unsafe waste disposal at municipal non-standard landfills, which urgently need to be closed and new regional waste management centres need to be established. In addition, NWMP 2020-2030

¹ <http://www.moep.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NPUO-2020-2030-final-draft.pdf>



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





aims to regulate the management of industrial and medical waste as well as the special waste streams.

A novelty in this plan, compared to the previous national plan, is that it includes programs for special waste streams (packaging waste, waste batteries and accumulators, as well as waste electrical and electronic equipment). It aims to provide specific guidelines for achieving the goals set out in the relevant laws on special waste streams, especially in the part of the quantities released on the market of these materials and products, as well as future

forecasts and development trends in the next ten years.

In the context of the approximation of RN Macedonia and alignment with the EU goals for introducing circular economy, this Planning Document also provides a framework of measures, and envisages a period in which these activities could move forward in the country. The key measures and activities proposed in the Planning Document are divided under clusters (in line with the new Action plan for Circular Economy for a cleaner and more competitive



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





Europe²) with a starting / implementation period appropriate for RN Macedonia.

Table 1. Referent Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive country

The public Hearing on the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the National Waste Management Plan 2020-2030 was held on-line, on November 12, 2020.

KEY CLUSTERS³	EU (REALISATION DATES)	NORTH MACEDONIA (REALISATION DATES)
A SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT POLICY FRAMEWORK,	2020-2022	2022 -2024
KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS,	2020-2021	2021 -2025
LESS WASTE, MORE VALUE	2021-2022	2022 -2024

²https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9903b325-6388-11ea-b735-01aa75ed71a1.0017.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

³ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/implementation_tracking_table.pdf



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





MAKING CIRCULARITY WORK FOR PEOPLE, REGIONS AND CITIES	2020	2022
CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS,	2020-2023	2022-2025
LEADING EFFORTS AT GLOBAL LEVEL	2020-2023	AFTER THE START OF THE MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS
MONITORING PROGRESS	2021	2024

According to Minister Nurdini, who opened the public hearing, this NWWP 2020-2030 is expected to lead to the necessary improvement of the situation with waste management in RN Macedonia, and with consistent implementation of the new waste management legislation on which the MoEPP has worked in

the past four years, to enable the realisation of the foreseen goals.

Presentation of the National Waste Management Plan 2020-2030 was given by Ana Karanfilova Maznevskva, Head of Waste Management Sector, Ministry of Environment



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





and Physical Planning. A brief presentation of the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the National Waste Management Plan 2020-2030 was given by Marjan Mihajlov, Strategic Environmental Assessment Expert, followed by a discussion by the present representatives of the business community, authorized waste handlers and civil society organisations.

Representatives of the ENV.net team from Macedonia, who were invited to participate in the public hearing, provided their positions, stressing that for some of the measures concerning the circular economy the country

should push for more ambitious implementation timeframe targets, given that some issues, like the “green public procurement” provisions that entered in force as of January 2020, should not be left until 2022 to become a mandatory criterion in the public procurement.

Also, we presented our concern that in the new National Waste Management Plan 2020-2030 the food waste is not considered as a specific waste stream, but is in some way incorporated into the biodegradable waste. As the food waste occurs in all stages of the food production (harvesting, conservation, etc.) and distribution

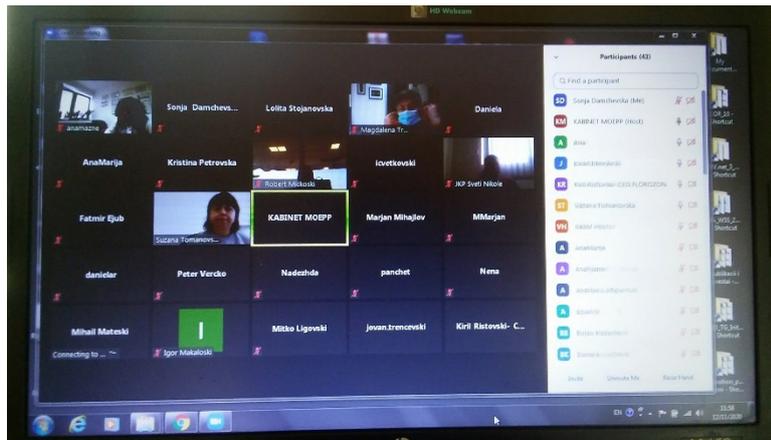


The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





(in shops, restaurants, catering facilities, at home) chain, it is principally very difficult to quantify it and monitor the trends (are they improving or deteriorating), especially, when official or officially verifiable data is not publicly available (or does not exist).



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ENV.NET T(REE) DAY

Recognising the need of increasing the green areas to improve the conditions of the ambient air quality in the urban areas in our country, the ENV.net team from Macedonia is proud to inform that, in cooperation with e-CSO Eco-life (ENV.net sub-grantee) and the local administration from Kavadarci, on November 18 2020, more than 200 hundred trees (of the types: Tuja occidentalis "emerald", Aurea Nana, Juniperus communis, Catalpa bignonioides, Celtis australis) were planted in the urban part of the Municipality of Kavadarci at 8 different locations (among which in the yard of local city hospital) designated by the professional services of the municipality.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Mayor and the Council of Kavadarci for supporting this ENV.net tree planting initiative, but even more for accepting the obligation to care for these new “green inhabitants” of Kavadarci, by putting them into their annual plans for maintenance of the city greenery.

Thank you Kavadarci! Thank you ENV.net!



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

November 2020



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ITALY: SAVE THE DATE

5th December - World Soil Day. Plants nurture a whole world of creatures in the soil, that in return feed and protect the plants. This diverse community of living organisms keeps the soil healthy and fertile. This vast world constitutes soil biodiversity and determines the main biogeochemical processes that make life possible on Earth. This year, by addressing the increasing challenges of soil management, the campaign "Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity" aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being. By encouraging people around the world to engage in proactively

improving soil health, the campaign also aims to fight soil biodiversity loss. If we do not act soon, the fertility of soil will continue to be adversely affected at an alarming rate, threatening global food supplies and food safety.

Read more: <http://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/en/>

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

Supporting the reforms in forestry in North Macedonia. The global objective of this call for proposals is to facilitate the implementation



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





of EU related strategies, policies and acquis in order to boost sustainable development of the Forestry sector in North Macedonia.

The specific objectives of this call for proposals is to provide assistance to MAFWE to progress in the reforms in the forestry sector including strategic, legal, institutional and entrepreneurial frameworks, as well as development of informational and other tools for sustainable forest management.

Closing Date: 5th February 2021 Read more: <https://www2.fundsfornegos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/european-union-seeking-proposals-for-supporting-reforms-in-forestry-north-macedonia/>

Read more: <https://www.balkangreenfoundation.org/en-us/projektet-etanishme/159/empower-engage-build-ownership/>

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

Empower – Engage – Build Ownership. Implemented by Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), the project objective is to enable Kosovo's civil society sector to fulfil its role in the democratic environment by acting as independent interlocutors, monitoring public institutions, increasing accountability and transparency in policy development and decision making processes regarding concerns of communities and civil society groups in the area of environment preservation, green energy and sustainable economic growth..



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





MONTENEGRO:

NGO Green Home in cooperation with the organizations ALHem and Rural Urban organized an online event "Alternative Toys".

Almost all of us are familiar with the fact that plastic is one of the biggest environmental problems of today, and that large amounts of this material end up in nature and cause major problems for the living world. But when we talk about plastic, we often don't think about plastic toys, and the amount of plastic needed to make them.

In addition, it is very important to take care of the composition of the toys that our children play with. In a large number of cases, we reach out and buy toys without knowing exactly what they are made of, and we are simply not aware of the consequences that certain chemicals in toys have on our children.

During this event, together with the representatives of the ALHem organization, we explained which chemicals in toys are of concern and why they are harmful to children's health, but also what are the available alternatives to plastic toys.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ALBANIA: ILLEGAL CUTTING DOWN OF TREES CONTINUES

The Forest Moratorium entered into force in Albania in February 2016 which banned deforestation for the next 10 years.

This law aimed at protecting the timber of the forest fund from indiscriminate use, banning the trade of its products, banning exports, etc. This moratorium provided a fine for anyone who committed an administrative offense.

Despite this Moratorium, from which there have been partial restrictions on this phenomenon, the cutting of trees in forests in

different areas of Albania has continued uninterrupted. According to INSTAT data, after the approval of this Moratorium, from 2016 to 2017 the area of forests has decreased by 336 hectares while there has been an increase in the amount of forests and main products used by almost 13%. Also, during the years 2016-2018 there has been a significant increase in exports of wood and paper products by about 15.8%⁴.

⁴ <https://faktoje.al/shfrytezimi-abuziv-me-pyjet-rritet-edhe-pse-ka-nje-moratorium-ne-fuqi/>



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

November 2020

From the official data, it is noticed that investments in forests from 2015 to 2017 have had a decrease of about 95%. This, together with the increase of burned forest areas, have added even more problems in this sector.

During these years, significant areas of forests have been reduced, but as if that were not enough, the government has removed almost 600 hectares of land planted with trees from the forest register, which have been taken by

private companies to be used for other purposes.

In the Pogradec area, the illegal cutting of chestnut trees for several years is very problematic. A special task force for the protection of the forests of the area has been set up by the municipality and other institutions in the area



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





Photo from the chestnut cut trees in Pogradec (Source A2-CNN Albania / <https://a2news.com/2020/02/27/prerja-e-geshtenjave-ne-pogradec-ngrihet-task-force-per-mbrojtjen-e-pyjeve>)



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

November 2020

Also, in the village of Gjinar, Elbasan, known for its natural beauty and dense and virgin forest, currently sees extensive damage, a significant portion of trees burned and cut down in recent years.



Photo from the forest of Gjinar (Source Rodion Gjoka, Co-PLAN Insitute for Habitat Development / Gjinar / Elbasan 29.Nëntor.2020 - YouTube)



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





During 2020, the new law on forests was approved (law no. 57/2020 "On forests" Approved by the Assembly of the Republic of Albania on 30.4.2020⁵).

This law defines illegal logging not simply as an administrative violation, but as a criminal offense, already reflected in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania. It has been discussed for some time with stakeholders, municipalities, university representatives, forest specialists, etc. The law gives municipalities full rights over forests in their

coverage area, not only in terms of ownership but also in terms of their management, exploitation rights and benefits. The monitoring of the implementation of the law is foreseen to be done by the municipalities with the respective inspectorates, but this has caused excessive problems in the preservation of the forest fund and the strict monitoring of the violators of the law. Until we have a well-functioning whole system and the interaction of all relevant institutions, the reduction and degradation of national 'lungs' will continue.

5

<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Akte/20200507105723ligj%20nr.%2057,%20dt.%2030.4.2020.pdf>



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





KOSOVO: REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN KOSOVO FOR 2018 AND 2019

The Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Infrastructure and Environment of the Assembly of Kosovo, in its meeting of November 24, 2020 reviewed the Annual Report on the state of the environment in Kosovo.

The Head of the Directorate for Environmental Monitoring in the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency mentioned the main data of the report, according to specific areas:

Air quality

- Despite the progress achieved in setting up the network for air quality monitoring, there is still a need to invest in the modernization, completion and maintenance of this network.
- The data from the monitoring speak of exceeding the maximum allowed values, for some parameters and in particular for PM10 and PM2.5, and this mainly during the winter season.
- Estimates show that the main sources of pollution are the energy sector, transport and



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





the household sector. However, a complete inventory of air emissions needs to be made, as well as a more detailed study on the distribution and concentration of pollutants.

- The implementation of low level laws, bylaws and policies for the air sector has also been noted, as is the case with policies for the control of emissions from mobile sources and those for the control of oil quality.

- Low level of implementation of legal requirements at the local level. Although the Law on Air Quality requires the drafting of Local Air Quality Action Plans, so far only a few municipalities in Kosovo have drafted and approved such a document.

Water management

- Surface water quality in Kosovo continues to be affected by pollution resulting from urban and industrial water discharges, uncontrolled dumping of waste into rivers, use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture, and damage to river beds from the use of aggregates and illegal constructions.

- Currently the monitoring of surface water quality is performed in 54 monitoring points in rivers, while the monitoring of water quantity is performed in 26 monitoring stations. There is still no regular monitoring of the water quality of lakes and groundwater, just as there is no biological monitoring of surface water.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





- The indicators presented in this report indicate the presence of organic pollutants in river waters, although it can be concluded that surface waters are not endangered by eutrophication.

Earth / soil

- Currently Kosovo does not have a program or regular monitoring of soil / soil quality. This activity is carried out mainly through projects and periodic activities.

- KEPA, has identified some locations considered as environmental hotspots, which need rehabilitation, but in the absence of budget their rehabilitation has not yet begun.

- Land reassignment, loss of agricultural land and loss of green space from construction remains one of the main environmental challenges in the land sector.

- The research on land coverage in Kosovo conducted by AMM shows that semi-natural areas represent the main category with about 57%, agricultural land with about 38%, while artificial areas are represented by over 4.6% of the total.

Protected areas and biodiversity

- Despite the continuous increase in the number of protected areas and their area, efficient management of protected areas and prevention



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





of illegal actions in these areas continues to be a problem for Kosovo institutions.

- There are still protected areas that enjoy special protection status which do not yet have relevant management bodies.
- The lack of spatial, management and regulatory plans for some of these areas is estimated to be a problem.
- From the monitoring of fauna through cameras - traps were obtained information on the presence of some rare and endangered species of fauna in Kosovo.

- The Red Book of Kosovo Fauna has been prepared and the condition of animal species has been assessed.

- There is a lack of special programs for monitoring biodiversity in general or specific species in particular.

- The implementation of some initiatives and projects for cross-border management of natural areas are considered positive and important.

Waste management

Kosovo continues to face a lack of efficient waste management. Currently at the national level about 75.6% of the generated waste is



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





collected. Most of them are disposed of in sanitary landfills, while there is still no organized system of source separation and recycling of waste.

- The management of sanitary landfills in Kosovo is not good and among the main problems are the non-functioning of landfill water pumping systems, poor compression of landfilled waste and insufficient waste coverage.

- A large number of illegal landfills in the entire territory of Kosovo has been identified, although there has been little progress in 2019 (1489 in 2019 and 2529 in 2018). Despite the continued commitment of central institutions,

municipalities and donors, illegal landfills continue to be a challenge for this sector.

- Activities for source separation and waste recycling are still on a low scale.

Public health

- The number of registered environmental diseases continues to have a linear trend in Kosovo. In some cases a significant increase in the number of some diseases related to environmental aspects has been registered.

- However, in Kosovo there is still no detailed and indicator-based study that would assess the real impact of the state of the environment on public health.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





- Drinking water control conducted by the National Institute of Public Health shows that about 99.4% of tests were in accordance with local water quality standards

Measures taken to improve the state of the environment

- Kosovo continues its commitment to harmonize national legislation with EU Directives, although its implementation remains a challenge.

- Strategies and action plans have been drafted and approved for all environmental sectors, but the level of their implementation is partial.

- Although during 2018-2019 have increased inspection and surveillance activities in the nature protection sector, environmental crime continues to be an increasing activity.

- Although the budget for the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning for capital environmental projects has increased, and also the number of projects from donors has increased.

The issue of the environment in Kosovo is still treated with low priority by the Government of Kosovo.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





REAL AIR QUALITY REPORTING COMPLETED WITH 12 MONITORING STATIONS

On November 11, 2020, in Prishtina was organized the first conference with institutional decision makers within the project "Air Quality Information Management, Behavior Change and Communication Services", supported by the Kosovo Millennium Foundation (FMC) and funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

The conference of all key actors was held with the aim of increasing cooperation and better coordination for improving air quality in the country. On this occasion, the elements of the

campaign were presented through which the citizens will have the opportunity to regularly control the air quality, provided by 12 air monitoring stations throughout Kosovo.

The Air Quality Portal, the mobile application and the subpage on the NIPH website are some of the interactive tools, developed by the Air Quality Project, which will be made available to the public to a large extent, enabling them controlling air pollution levels.

The project aims to improve public availability and analytical use of environmental data by businesses, government, civil society and NGOs, thus promoting data-driven decision-making.

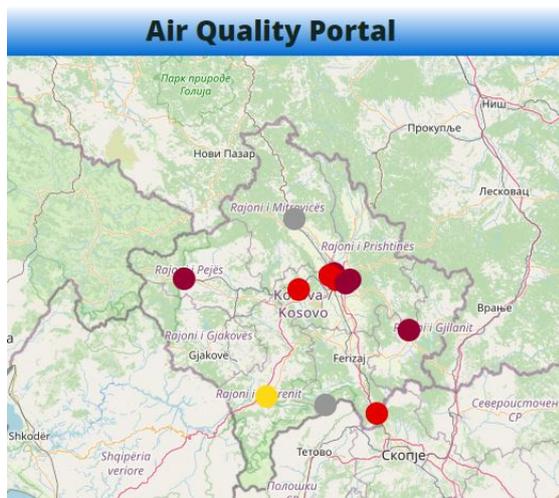


The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





<http://www.ammk-rks.net/?page=1,7,562>



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Countries in the region have committed to a number of actions like introducing carbon pricing instruments and market-based renewables support schemes, as well as phasing out coal subsidies, by signing the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. Sofia Summit was held on 10th November, 2020. The region has committed to work towards the target of making the continent carbon-neutral by 2050 together with the European Union through mainstreaming a strict climate policy and reforming energy and transport sectors. Some of the actions include:

- Align with the EU Climate Law once it is adopted with a vision of achieving climate neutrality by 2050;
- Set forward-looking 2030 energy and climate targets in line with the Energy Community framework and EU acquis, as well as develop and implement integrated Energy and Climate Plans with clear measures designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Western Balkans economies by integrating climate action into all relevant sectoral policies;
- Continue alignment with the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, as well as work towards introducing other carbon pricing instruments to promote decarbonization in the region;



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Electronic Newsletter

Western Balkans and Turkey

November 2020

- Review and revise, where necessary, all relevant legislation to support progressive decarbonization of the energy sector and secure full enforcement, notably through the Energy Community;
- Cooperate in the preparation of an assessment of the socio-economic impact of decarbonization at individual economy and regional level with a view to a just transition;
- Prioritise energy efficiency and improve it in all sectors;
- Increase the share of renewable energy sources and provide the necessary investment conditions, in line with the EU and Energy Community acquis and target;
- Strive to decrease and gradually phase-out of coal subsidies, strictly respecting state aid rules;
- Actively participate in the Coal Region in Transition initiative for the Western Balkans.

[\(https://balkangreenenergynews.com/heres-what-western-balkans-committed-to-in-sofia-declaration-on-green-agenda/\)](https://balkangreenenergynews.com/heres-what-western-balkans-committed-to-in-sofia-declaration-on-green-agenda/)



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





In Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 1st January 2021, the provision of incentives for small hydropower plants will not be extended, and the funds provided for sHPPs will be redirected as incentives to other renewable energy sources. This is based on the earlier conclusion of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH on the complete ban on the construction of sHPPs, as well as based on the request of the representatives of NGOs from the Coalition for River Protection. It was agreed to amend several rulebooks. In the field of environment and tourism, amendments to the Rulebook on plants and facilities are under revision, where federal ministry will take over the issuance of environmental permits for over

150 kW of power. Under revision is the rulebook on the manner of formation and work of expert commissions for the evaluation of studies on environmental impact assessment in the process of issuing environmental permits for plants for the production of hydroelectric energy. These amendments define the establishment of special commissions for the assessment of environmental impact studies during the construction of hydropower plants. In accordance with an earlier conclusion of the FBiH Government, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry has started amending the Rulebook on Ecologically Acceptable Flow, which will specify the method of measuring the permitted flow in



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





which a small hydro power plant may operate. In the previous three years, one permit was issued annually for these purposes, while in 2014 and 2015, 11 such permits were issued. During the meeting between governmental bodies, it was discussed on long-term measures in order to save BiH rivers, and on is the constitutional protection of water and the right to drinking water.

In the project "Integrated waste management and prevention of marine litter in the Western Balkans", 15 green islands were set up in the municipality of Neum, a waste collection vehicle was procured, municipal waste collection in rural areas was improved and ensured separate collection of

recyclable materials. Municipality Neum signed contract with Eko-život, authorized operator of the packaging waste management system. Separate waste collection in the Municipality Neum started with plastic collection at first, followed by paper and glass bottles. A baler procured during the project was put into operation, it reduces the initial volume of plastic to one tenth, which significantly reduces the cost of transport to the recycling plant. In just over 2 months, over 12,000 PET bottles, about 600 kg, were collected. It is known that one ton of recycled plastic saves an average of 2,000 litres of oil, then Neum has made a significant contribution to the circular economy.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





City of Sarajevo is again among the most polluted cities in the world. The air is very unhealthy, while the situation is a little better in Tuzla, Zenica, Ilijas and Visoko, but still unhealthy. In such situations, it is recommended to avoid outdoor activities, especially for pregnant women and the elderly. There are 100,000 individual fireplaces in BiH. Wood is the most common energy source. Coal is the most harmful causing sulphur evaporation. "According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, bituminous coal used in our country is marked as a first-class carcinogen, and that is why the WHO recommends that it should not be used for heating homes," said Anes Podić, from CSO

Eco Action. Harm to health has also been proved. Every year, 3,000 people die as a result of pollution in BiH. Individual fireplaces are a problem, and City Sarajevo is located in the valley surrounded by hills and mountains. It happens constantly strong temperature inversion whose upper limit is presenting cover to the city. In stable conditions, the cover does not allow polluted air to get above 300 meters' elevation. Individual chimneys are low, and pollution is spread in low elevation. There is a need for chimneys replacements, introduction of new systems for heating, such as geothermal heat pumps – and above all financial support to implement these measures.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borell visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in mid-November. He began his visit with a meeting with the Chairman and members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is stated that the European Commission and the EU are behind the progress of BiH, providing the necessary assistance in the current situations and in general when it comes to BiH's path to the EU. During the visit, High Representative Borrell will meet with representatives of the authorities, the opposition and civil society to discuss concrete reforms and initiatives to improve the living

standards of citizens in the European integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with key priorities of the European Commission Opinion for EU membership.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





SERBIA: PLANTING TREES AGAINST THE AIR POLLUTION IN BELGRADE

The beginning of the heating season in the Western Balkans brought a rise in air pollution once again. In recent days, cities in the region returned to the top of the lists measuring the most polluted air. The spike in air pollution in the Balkans is repeating at the same time as a year ago, so nothing seems to have changed despite protests from citizens, and appeals from nongovernmental organizations and experts to authorities to act. Air pollution can cause irritation and respiratory distress for the entire population, and especially for sensitive groups of people including the elderly, the ill, children, and pregnant women. The cause of air pollution was mainly the increased concentration of particulate meters PM2.5 and PM10, which are

considered the most dangerous air pollutants for human health because they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. PM comes in the form of tiny particles of organic chemicals, acids, metals and dust, emitted from fossil-fuel-burning vehicles and factories, as well as construction sites. Representatives of the City Administration for Environmental Protection said that the factors which had led to higher than permitted PM10 values during the winter months were unfavorable weather, individual heating units and stubble burning.

According to the latest report by the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), city



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





Bor is among the most polluted places in Serbia – in 2019 the quality of air in this town was in category three, the worst one. The cities and towns that were in the same category in 2019 were Kraljevo, Zaječar, Valjevo, Subotica, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Pančevo, Smederevo, Užice, Niš, Požarevac, and the municipalities of Kosjerić and Beočin. For most of them, that was not the first time. That is why the Law on Air Protection envisages that these and other local self-government units which have constant air pollution or where the measures taken are not producing results make a so-called air quality plan (AQP). These plans ought to contain data on the source of pollution and a list of measures planned to

reduce that pollution. However, less than half of the cities and municipalities that were obliged to do so actually enacted these plans, while those that do have them did not see any improvement in 2019. The City of Novi Sad adopted an AQP for 2017–2021, which includes short-term measures. However, although in the first two years Novi Sad's citizens enjoyed a period of clean to moderately polluted air, in 2019 their city ended up back on the list of most polluted cities, according to SEPA data. The annual report on the state of air quality in the Republic of Serbia in 2019 contains an analysis of the results of measurements that were conducted within the state and local networks for monitoring air quality. The



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





Report provides, in accordance with the existing applicable regulations, the only official assessment of the state of air quality in the Republic of Serbia based on the results of reference automatic monitoring. You can download the complete annual Report on the state of air quality in the Republic of Serbia in 2019:

http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh_2019.pdf

It has been noticed that trees have a remarkable range of traits that can help reduce urban air pollution, and cities around the world are looking to harness them. Trees can improve air quality in direct and indirect ways. Indirectly, they can help by shading surfaces and reducing

temperatures. If buildings are shaded by trees, it reduces the need for conventional air conditioning, and the emissions of greenhouse gases that come with it. Plus, lower temperatures decrease risk of harmful pollutants like ground level ozone that commonly spike on hot days in urban areas. But trees also play a vital role in directly removing pollutants from the air. Plants are often seen as the “lungs” of an ecosystem because they absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen, Trees are particularly effective at removing particulate matter (PM), but they also act as an ecosystems “liver” too, filtering atmospheric pollutants like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide through their leaves.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





As part of the project “ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda” (ref. no. 2017 / 394-372), which is supported by the EU, the planting of indigenous trees in Belgrade's Eco-schools was organized, in order to improve the air quality in big cities for a longer period of time. Educational institutions included in the international program Eco-Schools Serbia had the opportunity to get acquainted with some of the indigenous tree species, such as linden, ash, birch, Pančić spruce and to become "hosts" of these species in their schoolyards. Together, we will monitor the growth of planted tree trees in 12 Belgrade Eco-schools, and we hope that there will be more and more such actions to improve the air quality in our environment.



The publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of ENV.Net and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

