



ALBANIA: WASTE TO ENERGY FOR WESTERN BALKANS CEMENT INDUSTRY" PROJECT, AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS

During 2020, Albania has become one of the many European countries in the search for opportunities for the use of waste as an alternative fuel for the cement production industries. The project, which has been implemented since March, has involved many local and central institutions, experts, professors and engineers from academia, the media and many organizations related to this field.



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The project "Waste to Energy for Western Balkans Cement Industry" is funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) and the companies Titan Antea Cement (Albania), Titan Cementarnica Usje (North Macedonia) and Titan Cementara Kosjeric (Serbia), within the developPPP.de programme.

Implementing partners of the project are Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and private cement factories (Antea Cement, Cementarnica Usje and Cementara Kosjeric), in cooperation

with the Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development, Albanian Manufacture Union (AMU), Resource Environmental Center (REC) North Macedonia and Zlatibor Regional Development Agency (ZRDA). The overall project objective is to set the preconditions for the use of household waste, industrial waste and waste tires for the cement production in Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The specific objectives:

- a) Municipal Waste quantity and quality identified;
- b) Legislation framework for co-processing of waste as alternative fuel improved;



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- c) Citizens are aware of the importance of the benefits arising from waste used as alternative fuel;
- d) Business models developed for waste segregation.

This project has started since March 2020 but due to the situation with Covid-19 there has been a postponement of project activities.

On 20th October 2020, within the project "From Waste to Energy for the Cement Industry in the Western Balkans" was held the first meeting of the national working group.

The main aim of the working group is to establish a qualified technical platform which will provide guidance and technical inputs that will contribute to supporting and fine-tuning the project activities to be undertaken by partner organizations and institutions

Part of the national working group are representatives of local and national government authorities, representatives of academia, representatives of associations operating within the country, media, representatives of EU delegation in Albania, experts with an interest in matters of 'waste to energy' and different stakeholders within the field.



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NORTH MACEDONIA: NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLANS – AN OBLIGATION FOR ALL THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY, BOTH EU MEMBERS AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN BALKANS

For the first time, both EU members and the countries of the Western Balkans are preparing national energy and climate plans. The preparation of these plans was one of the topics of the fifth meeting of the Technical Working Group for Energy and Climate within the Energy Community.

In the EU, these documents contain measures and activities proposed by member states in order to achieve energy and climate goals. The

national energy and climate plans of the countries in the region will have the same composition, but not the same goals, because they are not members of the EU.

North Macedonia was the first in the Energy Community to submit a National Energy and Climate Plan, and as stated, the country will soon receive recommendations pertaining to the plan from the Secretariat of the Energy Community.



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The Secretariat announced that the preparation of a study on modelling the EU's energy and climate goals for 2030 in the signatory countries of the Energy Community is foreseen to begin in November, 2020. In addition, the Secretariat announced the preparation of a study on energy poverty, which aims to estimate the number of households that could fall into the category of energy poor in the members of the Energy Community. The study will also contain measures to solve this problem.

With innovative solutions against climate change

One way to fight against climate the change effects is to support projects that offer innovative solutions. North Macedonia, through the Fund for Innovation and Technology Development is providing opportunities and financial support for innovative solutions that in the core of their projects have the climate change challenges.

In 2020, under the public call for tackling climate change 02-2, realised by the Fund for Innovation and Technology Development in cooperation



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with the UN Development Program, UNDP, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia and two partner organizations: Kayama Centre for Sustainable Design in Israel and Macedonia 2025, seven projects have been selected to receive financial support

The selected projects offer a variety of innovative solutions to tackle the global problem of climate change and aim to reduce the negative consequences on public health.

The first-ranked “Bank of Trees” project is an innovative way to save and invest funds by creating the first tree-based bank. The aim of the

project is increasing natural absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, while at the same time generating profit for its users

The other projects envisage advanced research and development of a new type of food in livestock (a process considered to be as one of the biggest polluters), then construction of the first concentrated solar power plant in North Macedonia, development of a new product – bio-coal and its use in agriculture, moss cultivation system and production of indoor and outdoor panels for natural air purification, hazardous waste management, waste egg shells in food



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supplements for human use, as well as solar heater and air purifier.

The amount for financing projects under this call was 5,000,000 (five million) denars (or approximately 81,000 EUR). Following the conclusion of the Commission, composed of all partners in the call, three more applicants, which received a recommendation from the Commission, were granted the opportunity for co-financing if additional funds are provided. In addition, as part of the Start-up Nation & Mentorship program, five companies will go on a study trip to Israel, having the chance to meet and exchange experiences with leading

companies, accelerators and hubs in the field of high technology and sustainability. The award is provided by: The Kayama Centre for Sustainable Design in Israel and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Three of the selected companies will receive extensive partnership, mentoring, consulting or other type of assistance during the implementation of the project from the organisation Macedonia 2025.



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Open Site Forum: Civil Society Day Festival

On October 17, 2020, over 80 civil society organizations took the benefit of the beautiful sunny day and presented their associations to the citizens in the Skopje City Park around as part of the "Civil Society Day Festival ". This year the festival was held in conditions of a pandemic, and at the same time it celebrated the successes and the answer given by the organisations in dealing with the challenges of the corona crisis. The event was a good example of how, despite the record number of participating organisation (86 civil society

organisations), it is possible to comply with security measures while showcasing the work and activities of civil society organizations.

The program, as in the previous years, consisted of numerous and diverse activities. The organisations drew the attention of the citizens that came to see the Festival through quizzes, games, workshops, exhibitions, drama performances and video screenings. Citizens had the opportunity to learn about how to become more responsible in the use of natural resources, how to become donors and contribute to their local communities, where they can seek more information about the



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different forms of human trafficking, who can give them free legal aid.

This year the Festival of Civil Society Organizations coincided with International Day for Eradication of Poverty, so some organisations took the opportunity to organise humanitarian action for collecting and distributing food and clothing to those most in need, while others focused on drawing the attention on responsible behaviour towards food, including the reduce food losses and waste, important both for alleviating the problems of hunger poverty and for reducing the pressure / footprint on the environment.

Inevitably, the main theme of this year's Festival was dealing with the pandemic, but at the same time celebrating those who were among the first that actively worked on alleviating the effects of the crisis in their communities.

4x4x4 Balkan Bridges and the team of EBV.net Macedonia used this event to promote the topics and activities that are in the focus of the project: responsible behaviour towards the environment and the use of natural resources, in order to reduce the effects of climate change and support the sustainable development of the community.



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Annual Civil Society Fair, Skopje, October 17, 2020



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Investment and loan taken for Block 7 of Tuzla's thermos-power plant will bring bankruptcy to Elektroprivreda BiH.

European Union adopted the new Green Deal with clear guidelines and plans of the EU, which means the decarbonisation of all sectors, especially energy, and no later than 2050. It means de-carbonization until 2035 or 2040, with deadlines being moved because funds are being adopted to speed up the process. Chinese company made the investment in the thermo-power plant, but it will be paid by BiH citizens since they are the guarantee. Coal prices that have been calculated as cost-effective are

unrealistic, and the price of electricity calculated in the project is also unrealistic, and the basic thing that has not been taken into account is the price of CO2 emissions that will inevitably be charged when Block 7 is put in operation. Therefore, the profitability of Block 7 will be in question, and the repayment of the loan and the survival of Elektroprivreda, which will face bankruptcy, will also be in question. There are analyses of Elektroprivreda that were presented and adopted by the Supervisory Board last year, where the information that Elektroprivreda will go bankrupt if it starts with that is clearly stated.



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At beginning of 2019, the Presidency of BiH made a decision to request the highest bodies of Croatia to "exclude the location of Trgovska gora, Dvor Municipality as a place intended for disposal and storage of radioactive and nuclear waste from the Krško Nuclear Power Plant (NE) shared by Croatia and Slovenia, and to provide another adequate location for these purposes on its territory, which is not close to the border with BiH." Since than numerous objections and remarks were sent from BiH side, but the Croatian side has never responded. In the process of selecting a storage location, Croatia completely ignored Bosnia and Herzegovina, and sending a complanit letter will not be enough, as lawyers already

confirmed. The options of lobbying, complaining to the EU bodies are still not used.

Conservationist groups from the region and the world urged the Federation of BiH to pass a law that would forbid the construction of new small hydropower plants, and Leonardo DiCaprio backed the initiative to protect the country's rivers. They called for the implementation of an initiative that the entity's parliament adopted three months ago. If the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina fails to introduce a law on a ban on new small hydropower plants in the near future, it will put thousands of kilometres of wild rivers and the people and wildlife that depend on them at grave risk, a coalition of



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dozens of environmental protection organizations and initiatives underscored. Leonardo DiCaprio joined the call to protect the rivers and water streams in the country. The group of organizations noted that a similar resolution earlier couldn't be passed in the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, the other entity making up Bosnia and Herzegovina. They urged it to adopt such a law, too.

https://balkangreenenergynews.com/leonardo-dicaprio-backs-campaign-to-protect-bosnian-rivers/?utm_source=phplist323&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Newsletter+September+30%2C+2020+-+Balkan+Green+Energy+News

Steel producer ArcelorMittal Zenica has completed two major investments, worth EUR 7.7 million, to reduce dust emissions.

The projects will ensure the increase the environmental protection in the city of Zenica. Investments will help reduce the pollution created by the steel plant, which made Zenica one of the cities with the most polluted air in the region. The first project was the installation of a second hybrid filter in the sinter plant, and the second is the secondary de-dusting system on the basic oxygen steelmaking (BOF) plant. Together with the construction of Toplana Zenica's combined heat and power (CHP) plant will ensure that ArcelorMittal Zenica fulfils almost all of the legal obligations stated in the



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environmental permit by the end of 2020, the company stated and local media reported.

https://balkangreenenergynews.com/arcelormital-zenica-completes-projects-to-reduce-pollution-from-steel-plant/?utm_source=phplist323&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Newsletter+September+30%2C+2020+-+Balkan+Green+Energy+News

From October 2020, the authorized operator for disposal of electrical and electronic waste ZEOS eco-system is conducting an environmental-educational campaign "Where I buy, there I recycle". The campaign is organized through collection network of 12 socially responsible companies: Bau&Garten

(OBI), BINGO, Elektro Centar, ELEKTRO-JURIĆ, ELEKTRO MILAS, ELMARK GROUP, Gorenje Commerce, KONZUM, MANEDRA-COMPANY, Mercator BH, Orbiter G and Penny Plus. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness and inform the general public about the possibility of disposing of electrical and electronic waste so-called “Green furniture”, in vertical containers which can be found in the mentioned stores. In this manner, citizens get the opportunity to actively participate in reducing pollution from EE waste. The map can be found at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1Ak4YM4NAYVS30INzy->



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Farm “Spreča” is the first farm in the FBiH on which a biogas plant is being built, which will start operation next year. This farm has received an energy permit to build the plant and is the first power plant to use biogas produced from farm waste as its primary energy source. Biogas plants and energy production from biogas is a very important project in BiH from the aspect of implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC, which sets a binding target for Bosnia and Herzegovina of 40% share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption. The importance of the existence of such power plant and its impact on reducing

pollution was also emphasized, as well as the positive effects in preserving and protecting the environment and watercourses.

At the 58th session of the Bihać City Council, on 8th of October 2020, the Declaration on the Protection of the Una River was unanimously adopted. The declaration was proposed by Councillor Armin Amidžić. All city councillors supported this declaration, and by this supported the economic and other development of the City of Bihać based on environmental principles. It will be a moral obstacle to all future convocations when it comes to the Una River and step towards permanent institutional protection. This is continuation of the legacy left by the famous



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ecologist and founder of the Una emeralds, Boško Marjanović.

River Guardians in BiH welcome the turn in the official commitment of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding small hydropower plants (sHPPs).

Prime Minister Fadil Novalić denied any benefit from these plants, except for their owners, and clearly confirmed the long-standing position of the Guardians of Rivers that BiH is energy independent even without sHPPs, and that sHPPs are not renewable energy because they do not protect the environment. These are concrete laws and bylaws that can be implemented in a very short time, provided that there is a genuine political

will of the authorities and a sincere commitment to saving rivers and wildlife in the FBiH.

Actor and environmentalist, Leonardo Di Caprio, supported this action and stated that he supports environmental NGOs, as lover of nature he will always support conservation projects, and that clean rivers are more important than electricity.



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ITALY: SAVE THE DATE

31st October - World Cities Day. The Day is expected to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

Read more: www.un.org/en/observances/cities-day

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

The Green Deal Call. The Green Deal call will mobilise research and innovation to foster a just and sustainable societal transition aiming at 'leaving nobody behind'. Projects are expected to deliver tangible and visible results relatively quickly and show how research and innovation can provide concrete solutions for the Green Deal main priorities. This is why the call will support:

- pilot applications, demonstration projects and innovative products
- innovation for better governance of the green and digital transition
- social and value chain innovation



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Closing Date: 26th January 2021

Read more: <https://wbc-rti.info/object/call/20911>

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

New Website Dedicated to Monitoring the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Western Balkans and Turkey Launched. Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) announced that it has launched a new website, an online platform dedicated to monitoring the enabling environment for civil society development in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The Matrix presents the main principles and standards that are identified as crucial for the legal environment to be considered supportive and enabling for the operations of CSOs. As such, the aim of the Monitoring Matrix is to define an optimum situation desired for civil society to function and develop effectively and at the same time it sets a framework which can be followed and implemented by public authorities.

Read more: <http://www.balkancsd.net/new-website-dedicated-to-monitoring-the-enabling-environment-for-civil-society-development-in-the-western-balkans-and-turkey-launched/>



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MONTENEGRO

SHPP “Crnja”

The NGOs Eco-tim, the Center for the Protection and Study of Birds, Dinarides Parks, Green Home and WWF Adria have submitted a request to the Agency for Nature and Environmental Protection to cancel the existing environmental permit for the small hydroelectric power plant “Crnja” in Kolasin municipality. The valid consent for the construction of a small hydroelectric power plant (sHPP) on the Crnja watercourse was issued on February 1, 2011. Since almost 10 years later the project has not yet been implemented, and in the meantime the area has

been declared a Nature Park Komovi, the existing consent must be revoked. The declaration of an area as a nature park changes all ecological and economic parameters, so the valid ecological consent can be considered obsolete and the prescribed protection measures are not relevant. If the consent is not revoked, the implementation of this project may significantly affect the hydrology and morphology of the river and river habitats, prevention of migration of protected and other species, disruption of sediment flow, changes in ecological flow regime, and changes in seasonal flood cycles. , and all other negative



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impacts on terrestrial species and habitats. Therefore, detailed field research is needed to assess the actual impacts of the planned SHPPs in Bare Kraljske.

Guest lecture

Green Home conduct a guest lecture on "Environmental Priorities on the Road to the European Union". During the lecture, the situation in the field of environment, key issues when it comes to transposition and implementation, as well as what are the next steps that Montenegro needs to take to improve the situation in this area

The lecture was held online, and the participants were representatives of non-governmental organizations, media and students.



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SERBIA: CIRCULAR ECONOMY AS A MODEL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SERBIA

How to become a successful entrepreneur is a skill that is not often learned in schools? How to get this skill is mostly learning through unofficial education and actions outside the compulsory curriculum? Educational institutions in Serbia, in cooperation with local CSOs, supported through ENV.net sub-grants in the period 2018-2020, become pioneers in defining directions how population of youth can make products, mainly working with recyclable materials and selling them to the market.

Eco-school for primary and secondary education "Vuk Karadžić" from the City of Sombor is an institution that educates and rehabilitates children/students and adults with disabilities. The school permanently improves its work through various methods, forms of work, innovations in the teaching process and extracurricular activities. An important segment of the institution's work is the Student Cooperative "Pčelica", a student organization that has been working since 2009. In cooperation with local CSO Center for the Development of Education "Planeta", from the



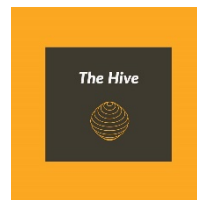
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City of Sombor, “Pčelica“get one of the ENV.net sub-grants, to implement the project "Hive - circular economy as a model of youth entrepreneurship", in the period 2018-2019.

In the beginning of the work, the Student Cooperation “Pčelica” was oriented to make New Year's greeting cards, by using paper and various glue techniques - ink, wax paints, watercolors. Through the Eco-schools program and with the support of the C&A Foundation, “Pčelica” improved the content of the work by collecting discarded clothing, old paper and cardboard and reusing them to make useful items. During this period, the Student Cooperative, as well as the institution itself, have established cooperation with numerous



Eco-schools from all over Serbia, but also with local business entities that work on Serbian territory. The first works made of discarded textiles, such as aprons, bags, coasters, pet pillows, and decorative pillows, were sailed in local manifestations, making profit for this institution, involving youth in all segments of the work.



Another very good example is cooperation established also between Eco-schools “Dimitrije Tucović” from the Municipality of Čajetina and local CSO



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“Zlatiborski krug”. Čajetina is one of the first municipalities in Serbia where the Eco-schools program has been introduced since 2013, and the elementary school "Dimitrije Tucović" has achieved significant results in this program.

Citizens' Association (CA) "Zlatiborski krug" from Čajetina, with many years of experience in the development and implementation of educational programs for children and youth, is among other things, a provider of social protection services through the Day Care Center for children with disabilities "Zračak". The coordinator of the program of the Eco-school "Dimitrije Tucović" and the president of the Citizens Association "Zlatiborski krug", Mrs. Zorica Milosavljević, explained that for

years, CA "Zlatiborski krug" has organized trainings concerning youth activism and youth entrepreneurship for students and youth from Čajetina. The opportunity for a wider actions to include not only the students from the Eco-school “Dimitrije Tucović”, but also other representatives from the local community, including users of the Day Care Center "Zračak", parents and educators, CA “Zlatiborski krug” had through the ENV.net sub-grant to implement the project "Model of circular economy in the service of the environmental protection in Čajetina Municipality".

The principal of the Eco-school "Dimitrije Tucović”, Mrs. Milka Vasiljević, says that



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through the Eco-schools program, the students have already practically worked on collecting textiles and materials that can be recycled, and together with the users of "Zračak" they made decorative items for the school fair to sold them. The realized income was used to improve the work of the Day Care Center "Zračak", which contributed to the development of social inclusion in Čajetina. Mrs. Vasiljević emphasized that the realized ENV.net sub-grant project improved the work with students and children/youth with special needs, supporting the further development of entrepreneurship. In addition to educational activities, two sewing machines were procured, to be used in the Assistance Center where creative workshops on

sustainable management of waste were held, at the same time with sewing and making various useful products.

Both projects: "Model of circular economy in the service of environmental protection in Čajetina" and "Hive - circular economy as a model of youth entrepreneurship" were financed through sub-grants, implemented by the Ambassadors of Sustainable Development and Environment within the project "ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda". Both projects have the follow-up activities as positive examples of good practices in the field of environmental protection in their local communities, taking into account that local



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decision makers recognized all these organizations as a good partner in local development, in terms of raising awareness on sustainable use of resources.



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TURKEY: ERZURUM (TURKEY) IS PREPARING ITS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Atatürk University as a sub-grantee of ENVNET Project is organized 4 workshops in October under the scope of it project “Preparation of Climate Action Plans of Erzurum. “Tourism Workshop” and “Transportation Workshop” are held on 1st of October and “Industry Workshop” and “Energy Workshop” are held on 2nd October. These workshops were the continuation of the series of workshops organized within the scope of the preparation of Erzurum's Climate Action Plan.

Erzurum Provincial Representative of TEMA, Işıl Bedirhanoğlu is supported the studies within the scope of the Erzurum Climate Action

Plan preparations, also served as the Workshop Vice President at the Industry Workshop. The university, local authority and private sector representatives participated to the workshops

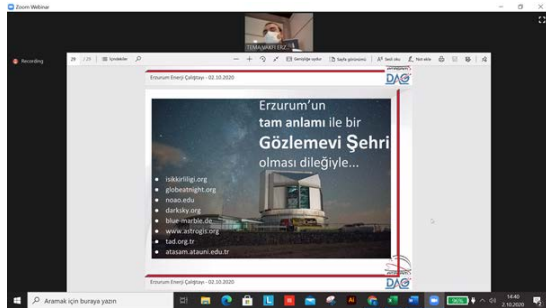


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where all relevant parties presented their work on climate change and discussed how to merge those works to prepare the climate action plan of the city.



EU Commission's 2020 Progress Report on Turkey was published on 06.10.2020

The details in Chapter 15 Energy and Chapter 27 Environment and Climate Change titles in the report are briefly stated as follows:

Chapter 15 Energy: Turkey is moderately prepared in this chapter. Good progress was made overall, in particular on security of supply, renewable energy, energy efficiency and nuclear energy. The 2019 recommendations were addressed to some extent. Turkey updated its regulatory framework on nuclear energy. Structural and staffing transition between the new regulatory body and its predecessor is yet to be completed. On hydrocarbons, Turkey continued its unauthorised drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean. In the coming year, Turkey should in particular:



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- proceed with the gas market reform by setting up a legally binding plan and a timetable for the unbundling of activities and establishing transparent, cost-reflective and nondiscriminatory pricing in the gas sector;
- cooperate in the organisation of a transparent peer review of the national stress test report of the Akkuyu nuclear plant with the Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG);
- continue supporting the development of renewable energy generation and energy efficiency by adopting clear and fair financing mechanisms.

Chapter 27 Environment and Climate Change: Turkey has some level of preparation

in this area. There was some progress, mainly in increasing capacity in waste management and wastewater treatment and legislative alignment, but enforcement and implementation still remain weak. Therefore, the 2019 recommendations remain valid. More ambitious and better coordinated environment and climate policies need to be established and implemented. Strategic planning, substantial investment and stronger administrative capacity are required as well.

In the coming year, Turkey should in particular:

- Complete alignment with the directives on waste, water and industrial pollution, and ensure that the Environmental Impact



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Assessment Directive is correctly implemented; and the right to access environmental information;

→ Ensure alignment with the EU acquis and actual implementation on public participation to the Agreement, and complete its alignment with the EU acquis on climate action.

→ Ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change, start implementing its contribution to

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/turkey_report_2020.pdf

Activities expected to take place

TEMA Foundation will organize site activities at least 80 different locations all over Turkey to raise awareness on protecting water resources and soil.

We will organize online activities and presentations about river basin management plans that have been prepared in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive.

We will organize site visits to wetlands that are under the threat of dryness in different regions of Turkey to take pictures and raise awareness about these wetlands among local people.



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