

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE POLLUTION PLATFORM WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL WASTE CONFERENCE

**UNEP Chemicals and Pollution Action and activities in the Western
Balkans**

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26th March 2023
Vienna International Centre

Impacts of pollution – Why do we care?

- > 9 M deaths/year from pollution (close to 7 M from air pollution alone)
- Only 1% of the global population breathes fresh air
- 1.7 M human deaths from drug resistant infections. By 2050, 10 M deaths/year. Antimicrobial resistance is impacted by pollution
- Lead (Pb) poisoning leads to > 1 M/year direct deaths and adverse impacts on IQ
- > 90% of pollution-related deaths in low/middle-income countries.
- Air pollution costs > 6 % of global GDP (US\$8.1 trillion) in 2019 (World Bank).



UNEP Programme on Chemicals and Pollution Action

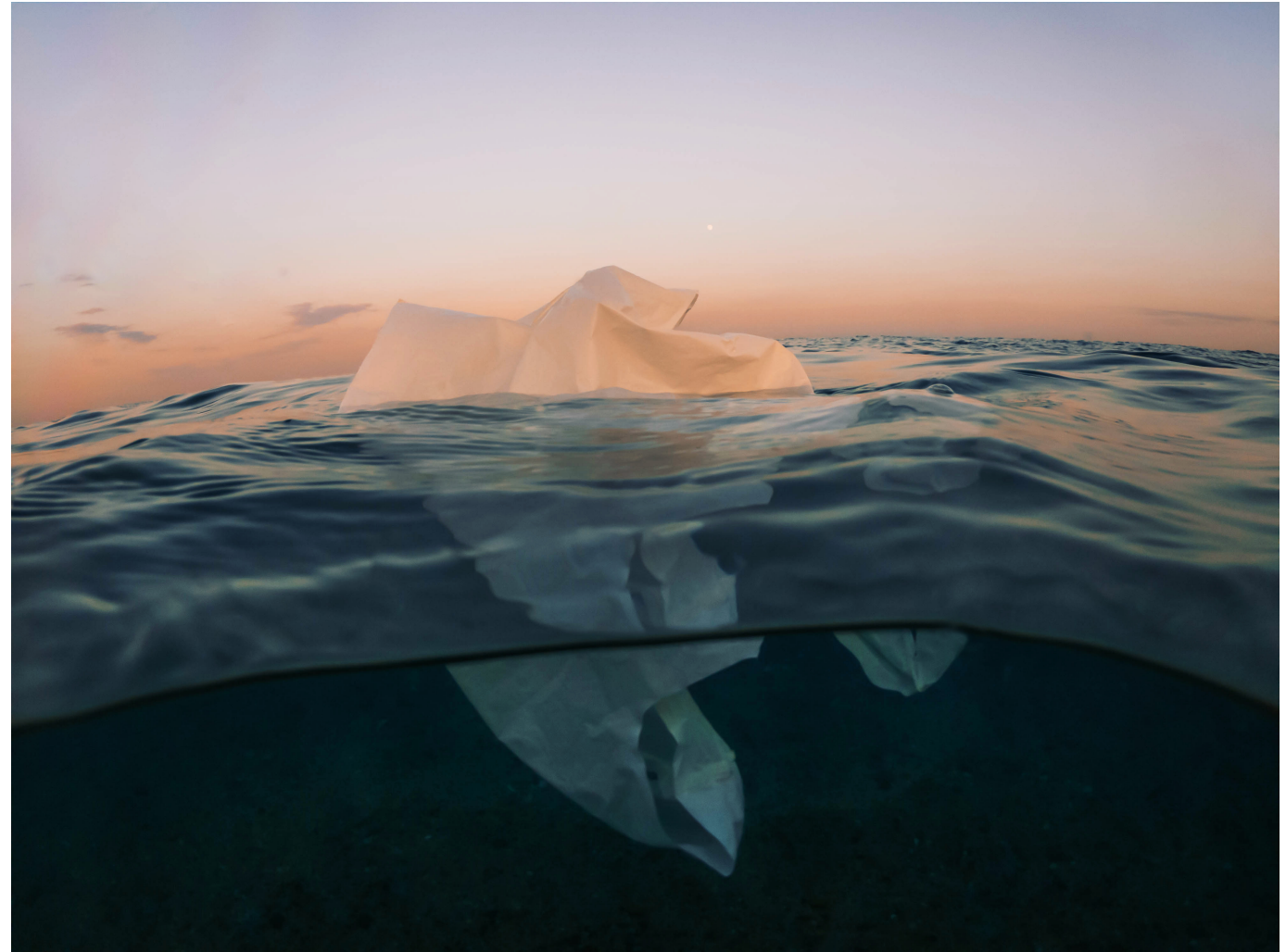
Significant progress is made towards a pollution-free planet



- ✓ Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the **sound management of chemicals and waste**
- ✓ **Waste management is improved**, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites
- ✓ **Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced**

Programmatic areas

1. Towards Zero Waste
2. Circularity in Sectors
3. Pollution and Health



1. Towards Zero Waste

Outputs:

- Capacity built through **legislative and regulatory systems**, transfer of best available techniques and technologies.
- Waste reduced and recycled in **high impact sectors** (electrics, textile/fashion) and in **selected waste types** (plastics, post disaster and conflict debris) with circular economy approaches.
- Increased availability and accessibility of **waste data** and information.
- Increased **finance and partnerships** to accelerate investment for sound management of waste and wastewater.



Objective:

Improve waste and wastewater management through

:

- Minimizing material input and waste and wastewater generation
- Circular processes
- Safe recovery of secondary raw materials and
- progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites

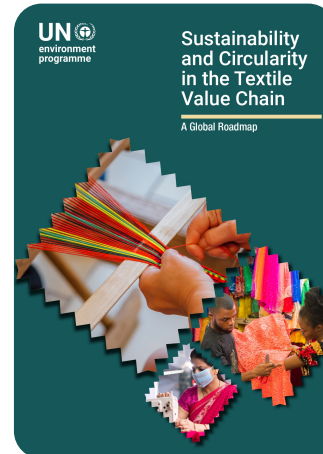


2. Circularity in Sectors

**Programme High Impact Sector (HIS) focus:
Plastics, Textiles, Mining and Electronics**

Outputs:

- Uptake of circular and sustainable practices among high-impact industry actors.
- Shift in government policy and regulatory environment
- Alignment of financing and leveraging public/private investment
- Social action and behavioral change of stakeholders
- Knowledge and science to orient decision-making



Objective:

scale up the adoption of circularity policies and practices across key high-impact sectors and systems, while also ensuring positive social and economic outcomes.



3. Pollution and Health

Objective:

Strengthen global action to prevent chemicals and pollution risks to the environment and health.

Themes:

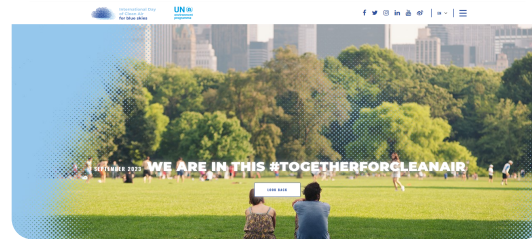
- Air pollution (primarily PM2.5)
- Chemicals posing significant threats to environment & health
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Source to sea pollution
- Disasters and conflict-related pollution



Science-policy foundation



Global action



Outreach

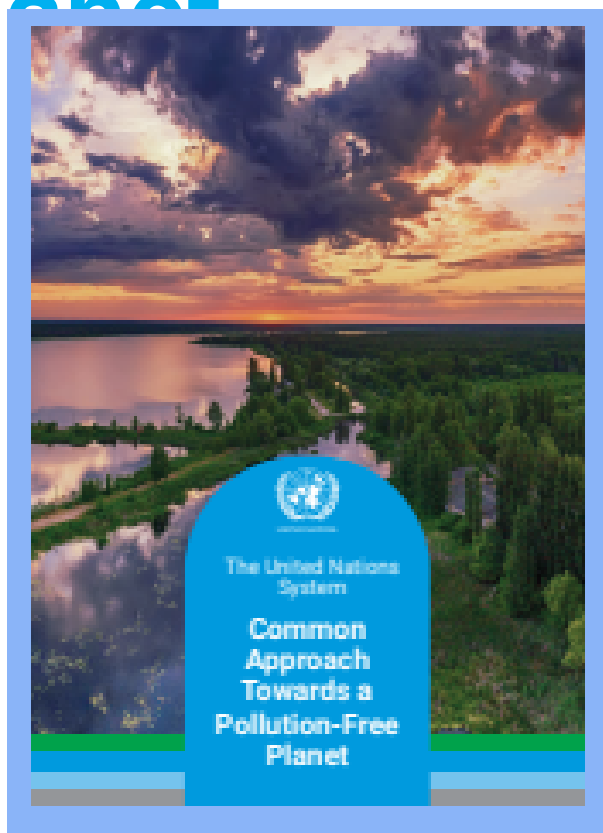


Stronger capacities and policies

Mobilization of health and other sectors



UN-wide action for a Pollution-free Planet



<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>Cleaner environments improve worker health and productivity and increase the number of days worked</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>Growing food with careful pesticide use on non-contaminated soils helps to fight hunger and ensure the provision of safe food year-round</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>Action on pollution substantially reduces the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p>
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>A clean environment enables high-quality education, and education enables acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and lifestyles</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Pollution reduction can promote gender equality, for example through reduced burden of fetching clean water, cleaner indoor air quality and better health</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>Better managed freshwater ecosystems from cleaner water and fewer chemical pollutants significantly reduce the number of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases</p>
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern energy can cut air pollution indoors, which particularly benefits women and children</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Improved worker health and well-being and toxin-free workspaces lead to increased productivity and economic growth</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Pollution avoidance through the adoption of green technologies and ecosystem-based solutions fosters innovation and sustainability in the industry and infrastructure sectors</p>
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Pollution governance and actions can ensure that no group or community bears a disproportionate share of the harmful effects of pollution</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Sustainable transport, waste management, buildings and industry lead to cleaner air in cities</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Resource efficiency and circularity in material and chemical inputs reduce pollution and waste and contribute to sustainable consumption and production</p>
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Clean energy and low-carbon policies reduce air pollution and mitigate the impact of climate change</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>Action on marine pollution reduces bioaccumulation of toxic substances and habitat destruction, and helps maintain healthy fisheries and ecosystems</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>Integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into development plans and poverty reduction strategies supports better land management and avoids pollution</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>Good pollution-related governance reduces environmental burdens and injustices and can enhance the availability of "saved" resources for the underserved</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>Global partnerships to address pollution can have positive impacts on health, jobs, worker productivity the environment and well-being</p>		



https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/UNEP_EMG_UN-system-common-approach-to-Pollution-231122.pdf

<https://www.unep.org/resources/e-learning/human-rights-and-pollution-videos>



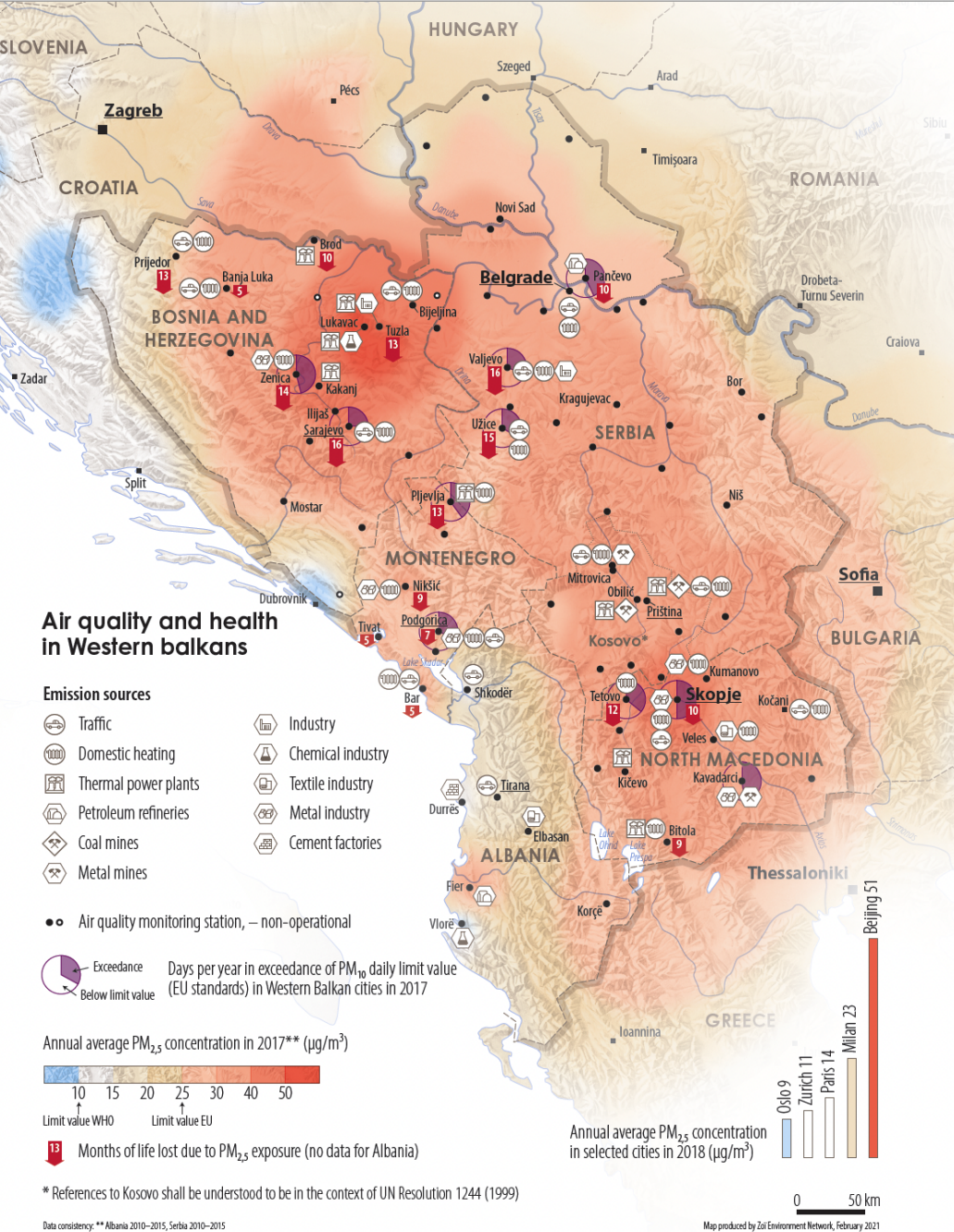
**UNITED
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ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME**

**WESTERN
BALKANS
PORTFOLIO**

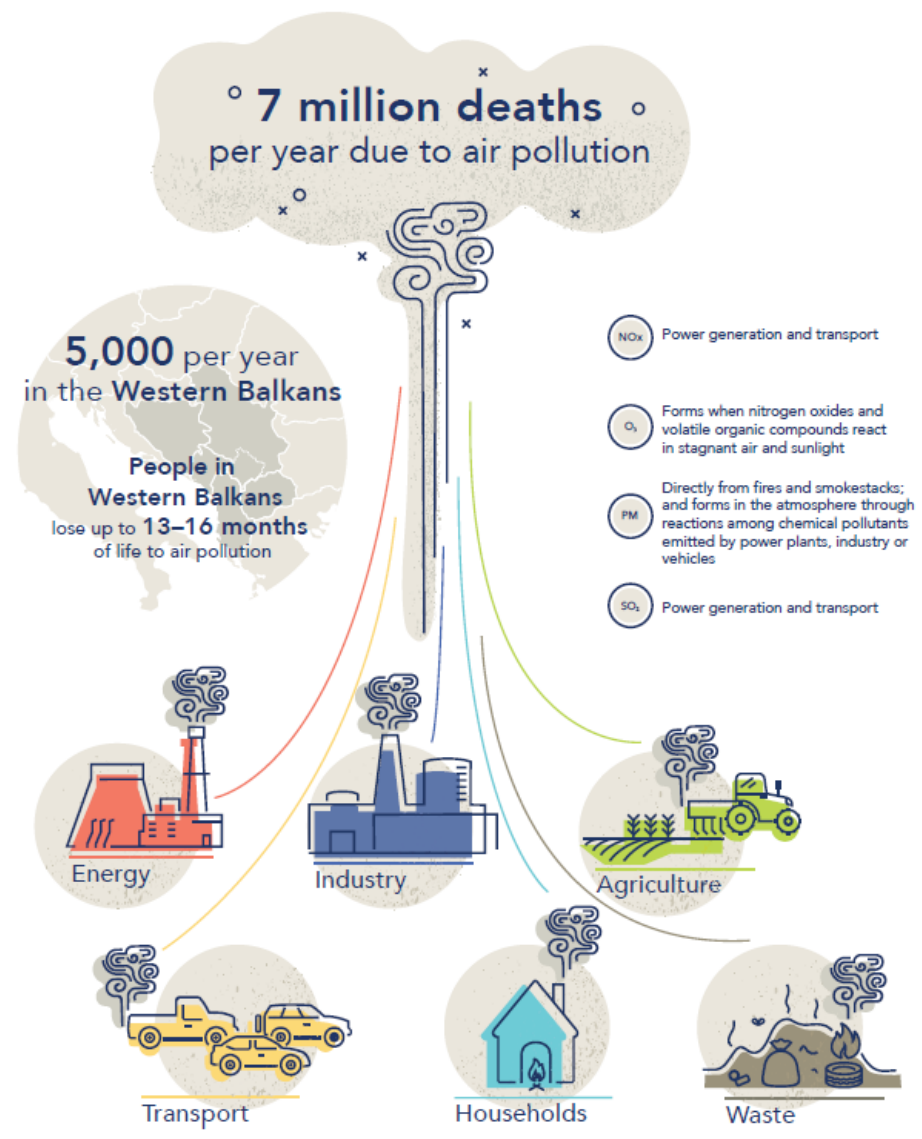
**POLLUTION
and WASTE**







First regional study that quantifies the impact of air pollution on human health, considering 19 representative towns and cities across the region



Assistance follow up



Introducing stricter emission standards for vehicles, power plants and large- and small-scale industry

Requiring industry to reduce and eliminate emissions of harmful air pollutants -

- highly polluting industrial facilities such as coke ovens, smelters, refineries, cement plants and brick kilns



Supporting the renewable energy sector and promoting the reduction of fossil fuel use to generate electricity

Informing citizens of the health risks associated with air pollution

Enabling citizens to switch to cleaner heating and cooking technologies



Creating national, regional and international frameworks to address the environmental challenges



Monitoring and raising awareness of air pollution by publishing air quality monitoring data and promoting awareness campaigns



Establishment of a stronger environment and health nexus

Joining the UNEP air quality programme, which supports governments at all levels in building evidence on the effects of air pollution





July, 2022



Waste management in the Western Balkans

COUNTRY FACTSHEETS – WASTE MANAGEMENT

Basic waste data , Strategies and legislation , Key players in waste management, Waste landfilling

Separate waste collection and treatment , Monitoring and reporting , EPR system

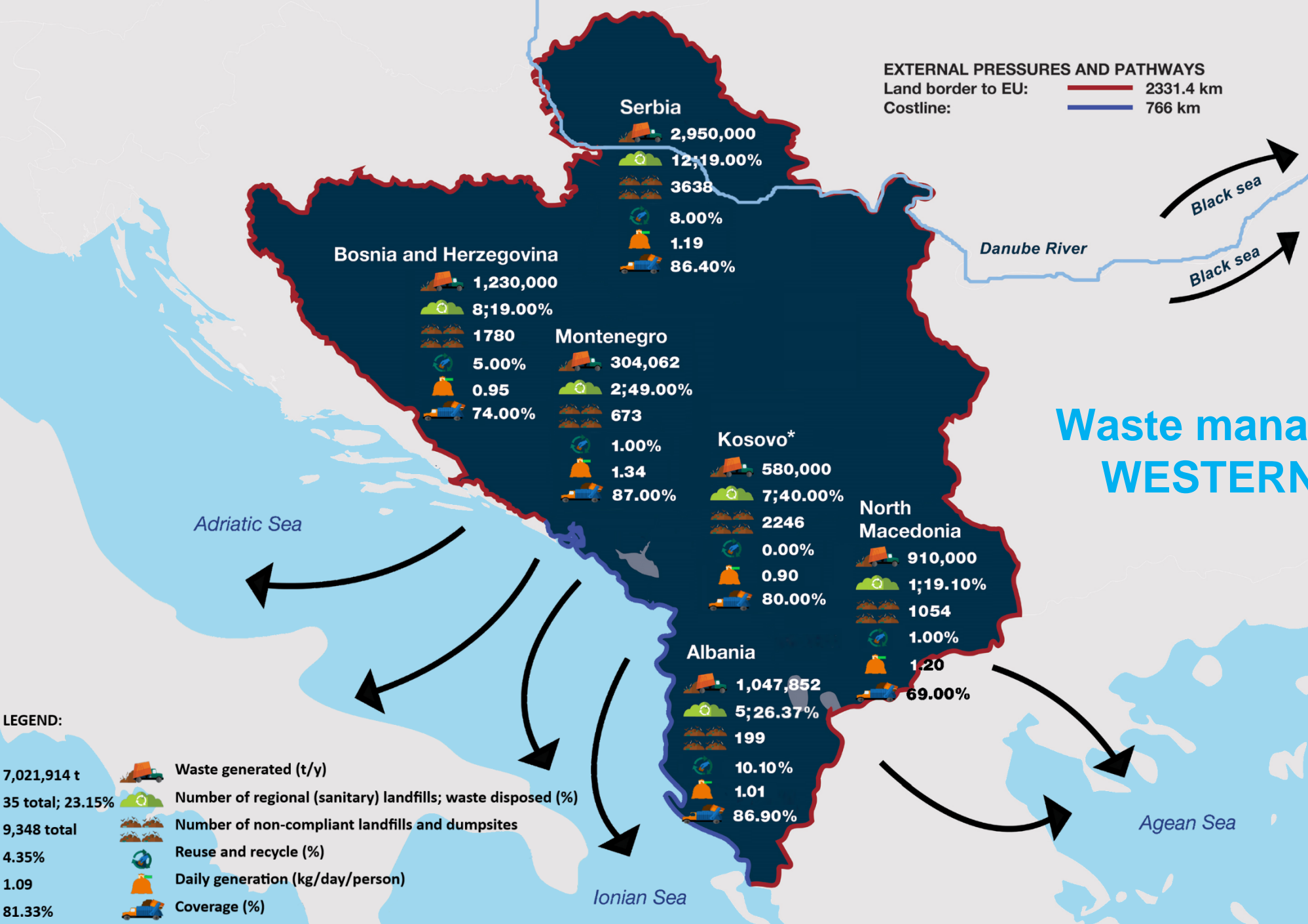
WASTE FINANCING AND MARKET IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Municipal waste fees for waste collection and treatment , Landfill taxes and gate fees, Incineration taxes , Recyclables collection and treatment fees, Market potentials

A WAY FORWARD - Conclusions & Recommendations

EXTERNAL PRESSURES AND PATHWAYS
 Land border to EU: 2331.4 km
 Costline: 766 km

Waste management in the WESTERN BALKANS



LEGEND:

- Waste generated (t/y)
- Number of regional (sanitary) landfills; waste disposed (%)
- Number of non-compliant landfills and dumpsites
- Reuse and recycle (%)
- Daily generation (kg/day/person)
- Coverage (%)

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

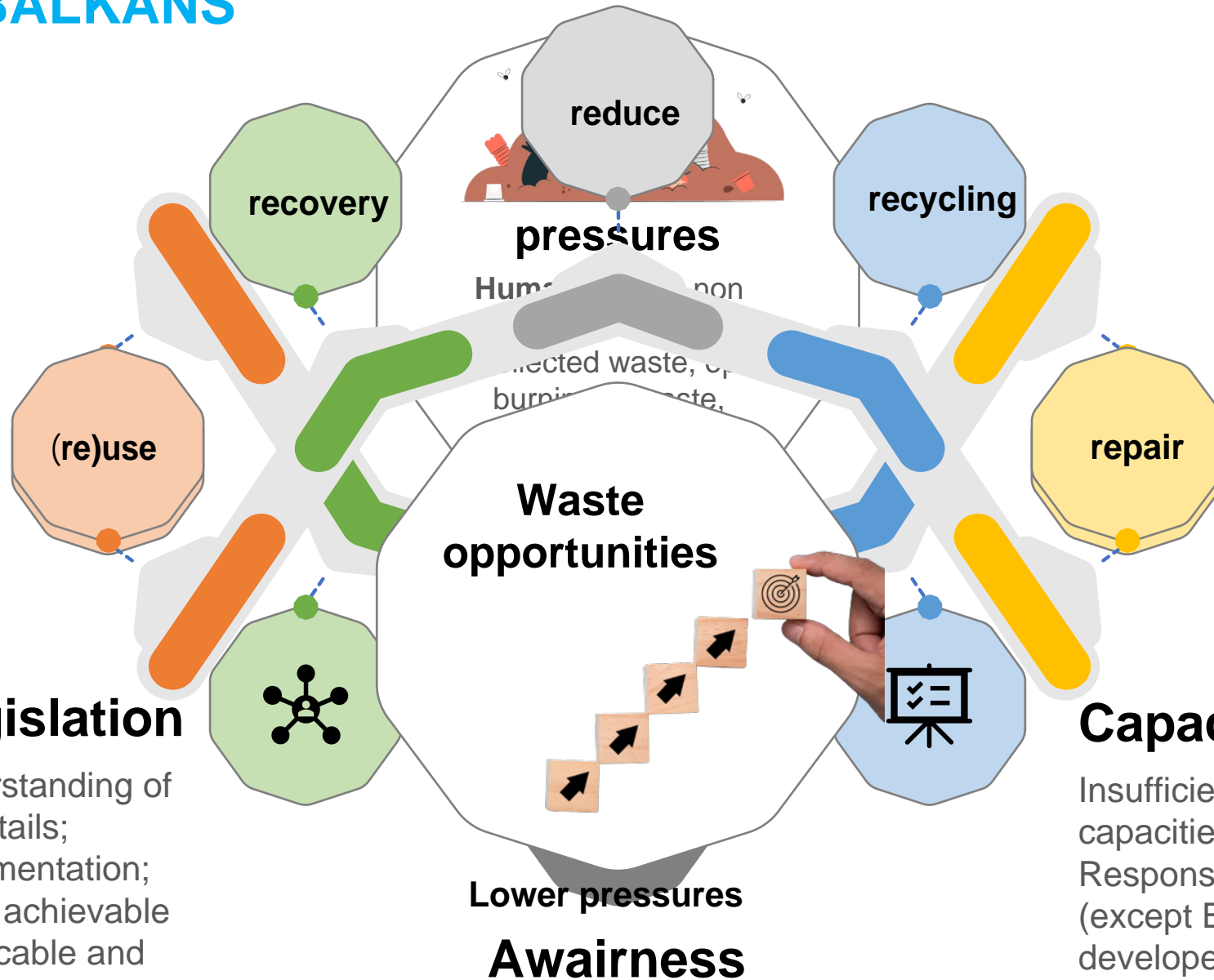
Waste management in the WESTERN BALKANS

Issues / opportunities



Data
Limited functional data management systems; limited, incomplete, inaccurate reporting; greenwashing; no measurement equipment

Legislation
Slow adoption, no understanding of what does legislation entails; outdated planning documentation; lacking measurable and achievable goals; legislation inapplicable and /or unenforced



Economy
No landfill taxes, low landfill disposal fees
Public utilities – not financially stable; no investments, no circular economy understanding/model

Capacities
Insufficient human and infrastructure capacities; No Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) systems (except BiH and Serbia); no developed internal waste market

Regional E-waste Monitor for the Western Balkans (2023)



Project objective: to assist the beneficiary countries in making digitalization policies and strategies green and sustainable as well as based on evidence, with particular focus on e-waste management

Results achieved:

- ✓ Baseline Assessment, including country profiles and regional statistics trainings with NSOs
- ✓ Regional E-waste Monitor and Media Campaign

**Innovative circular
economy approaches
to agricultural and
municipal waste
management for better
air quality in Asia
Pacific and the
Western Balkans**

(2024)

Objective: Circular economy solutions for agricultural and municipal waste management, for improved urban air quality and resilience to health, economic and social shocks in selected beneficiary countries in BiH, Serbia and India.

Outcome 1: Enhanced capacities of selected countries for development and implementation of national legislation and combined environmental and health policy solutions aimed at reducing air pollution from stubble burning and from uncontrolled burning of municipal waste

Outcome 2: Improved capacity for target countries to access/mobilize data through data monitoring, collection and mobilization in target countries for improved urban air quality and resilience to health, economic and social shocks



**Capacity
Development for the
Integration of Global
Environmental
Commitments into
National Policies
and Development
Decision Making
(2015 - 2020)**

Project objective: enhancement of the system for data collection and reporting on the environment under 3 Rio Conventions (UNFCCC; UNCBD; UNCCD)

Key (de)pollution-related achievements:

- ✓ Restoration and procurement of air quality monitoring stations in collaboration with hydro-meteorological institutes.
- ✓ Unified AQ stations into online platform (www.hidrometeo.ba) for real-time air quality data.
- ✓ Flood prevention capacity building after the 2014 floods.
- ✓ Collaboration with UN Environment and CCAC for the BreatheLife campaign in Sarajevo.

Promo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M62ZfG8X0f8&t=3s>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

**Creating an Enabling
Environment to Support
LDN Target
Implementation
Through
Strengthening
Capacities and
Establishing an LDN
Monitoring and
Reporting System in
Bosnia and
Herzegovina**

(started in 2022)

Project Objective: to foster a coherent policy environment and track progress towards achieving the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets

- ✓ **Component 1:** Creating an enabling environment for LDN
- ✓ **Component 2:** Establishing LDN monitoring and reporting system and development of LDN roadmap



Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions and SAICM in Bosnia and Herzegovina

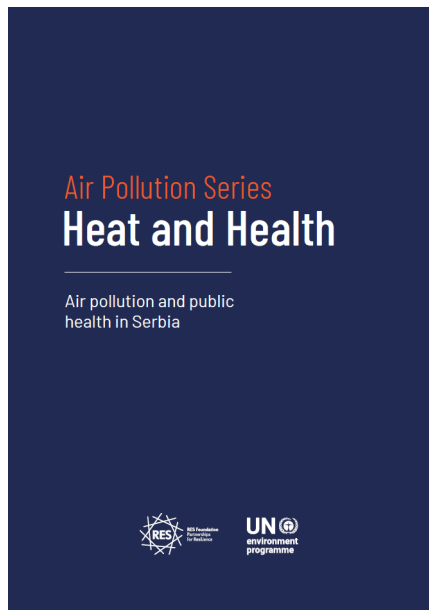
(pipeline)

Project Objective: Establishment and capacity enhancement of the institutions implementing/enforcing BRS conventions and SAICM in BH, ultimately leading to the creation of BRS CT for enhanced implementation of the BRS and eventually the Minamata Convention upon its ratification.

- ✓ **Component 1** - Policy support for development of BRS protocol and initiation of the BRS Coordination Team with aim of strengthening synergies of BRS and SAICM
- ✓ **Component 2** - Improving BRS synergic data sharing, compilation, management and reporting
- ✓ **Component 3** - Capacity building and awareness raising for synergistic approach to BRS chemicals and waste management in line with SAICM in BH



UNEP activities on Air Pollution in Serbia



UNDA14T: Nature-based solutions for enhanced resilience to COVID-19 and urban air pollution in the Western Balkans, Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific

UNDA15T: Building back safe, sustainable and resilient transport and urban mobility systems in Western Balkan and Central Asian landlocked developing regions



Enhanced Cross-sectoral Land Management through Land Use Pressure Reduction and Planning in Serbia (2015-2021)

Project Objective: development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use management, remediation, and capacity development to reduce pressures on land as a natural resource from competing land uses in the wider landscape and to support reversal of land degradation.

- ✓ **Component 1:** Improved institutional, policy and science cooperation in integrated land use planning
- ✓ **Component 2:** Support for local authorities and communities in planning and implementing integrated natural resources management
- ✓ **Component 3:** Capacity building, awareness raising and information sharing

Promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgZGmdObYZI>

Co-funded by



UNEP Special Programme Projects in the WB



SP North Macedonia: Strengthening institutional capacities for mainstreaming quadruple synergy schemes in implementation of the National Action Plans for implementation of SAICM and inclusion of Minamata convention



SP Serbia: Further strengthening of national capacity and risk management of hazardous substances throughout their life cycle



SP Montenegro: Strengthening synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions



SP Albania: Strengthening Sound Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Waste Management in Albania



GEF Chemicals and Waste Projects (Global)

Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project: **Albania**, Algeria, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, **Montenegro**, Morocco, Tunisia

Mediterranean Sea Basin Environment and Climate Regional Support Project **Albania**, Algeria, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, **Montenegro**, Morocco, Tunisia

Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts 9684 **Albania**, Algeria, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, **Montenegro**, Morocco, Tunisia, Türkiye

Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Bahamas, Bolivia, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, **Montenegro**, **North Macedonia**, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare **Albania**, Burkina Faso, India, **Montenegro**, Uganda



**South-Eastern Europe
Pollution Platform
(SEEPP)**
Overarching framework for
coordinated action and
implementation
of pollution prevention
activities

(2019-ongoing)

- **Project Objective:** To facilitate the creation of innovative partnerships on pollution in the region; To foster transboundary cooperation on pollution related policies; To support exchange of information, know-how and provide a strategic regional platform for discussion
- ✓ **Component 1: To set-up of a Sub-Regional Platform to Beat Pollution in South-East Europe**
 - Outcome 1.1: Developing ToRs, SEEPP Secretariat, Thematic Clusters
 - Outcome 1.2: Regional meeting and identification of priorities
 - Outcome 1.3: Addressing priorities - Webinars on Environment and Human Health / Pollution Pays principle; studies on air pollution and waste management in WB
- ✓ **Component 2: Feasibility Study (FS): To assess the needs for an ad-hoc pollution program for South-East Europe and role of UNEP in the Region**
 - Outcome 2.1: Development of feasibility study



South Eastern Europe (de)Pollution Platform (SEEPP) – Phase 1



12 MARCH 2019
Nairobi, Kenya
Presentation at UNEA 4



4-5 DECEMBER 2018, Belgrade, Serbia

Ministerial Conference on Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East Europe

24-25 JUNE 2019, Vienna, Austria

Platform Sub-Regional Consultation Meeting. Identification of SEEPP priorities: Environment and Health; Rule of Law





South Eastern Europe (de)Pollution Platform (SEEPP) - Phase 1



OCTOBER 2021 Webinar
Polluter Pays Principle

February - March 2022
UNEA 5

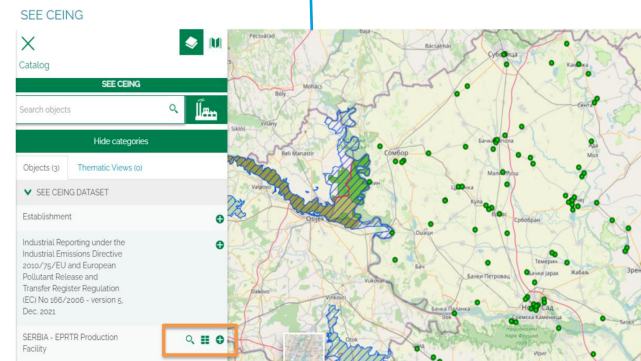
Save the Date for the
Environment and Human Health **Monday 21.06.2021**
10.00-11:30 CEST
in the **Western Balkans** :
Challenges and opportunities regional exchange webinar

Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe
organized in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme

This webinar aims at showing linkages between the environment and human health and to discuss potential solutions in the Western Balkans. A detailed programme will be provided closer to the event.



JUNE 2021 – Webinar
Environment and Health



2019 - 2021 SEE-CEING Project
exchange environmental info and good practices

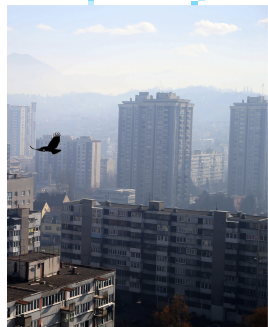


2022 Waste assessment report



South East Europe Platform to Beat Pollution –

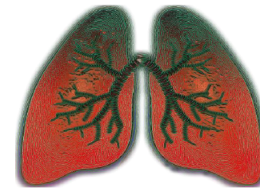
Overarching framework for coordinated action and implementation of pollution prevention activities



DISTRICT ENERGY IN CITIES INITIATIVE

District Heating Initiatives:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Serbia
- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Belgrade, Serbia



HEAT AND HEALTH

Knowledge products on health and air pollution
inefficient combustion of
s for solid fuel-burning



SEE CEING

Catalog

SEE CEING

Search objects

Hide categories

Objects (3) Thematic Views (all)

SEE CEING DATASET

Establishment

Industrial Reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU and European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Regulation (EC) No 1600/2006 - version 5, Dec 2021

SERBIA - EPRTR Production Facility

CTCN

Banja Luka receives €8.4 million loan from EBRD to fund construction of a new biomass energy plant based on CTN energy analysis

Publication date: March 10, December 2021

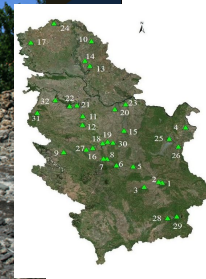
A new renewable power plant made of biomass fuel will have lower emissions than coal-fired power plants. It will improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution while saving money.

At a preliminary stage, the plant will have 100 MW installed capacity. The plant will be built in the area of the existing power plant. This will be useful to identify the new plant and its location. The plant will be built in the area of the existing power plant. This will be useful to identify the new plant and its location.

UN Joint Programme on Air Pollution from Domestic Heating – DRAFT

THEMATIC SUBGROUP OF RESULTS GROUP 1 UNDER THE UNSD COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2021-2025

SEPTEMBER 2022

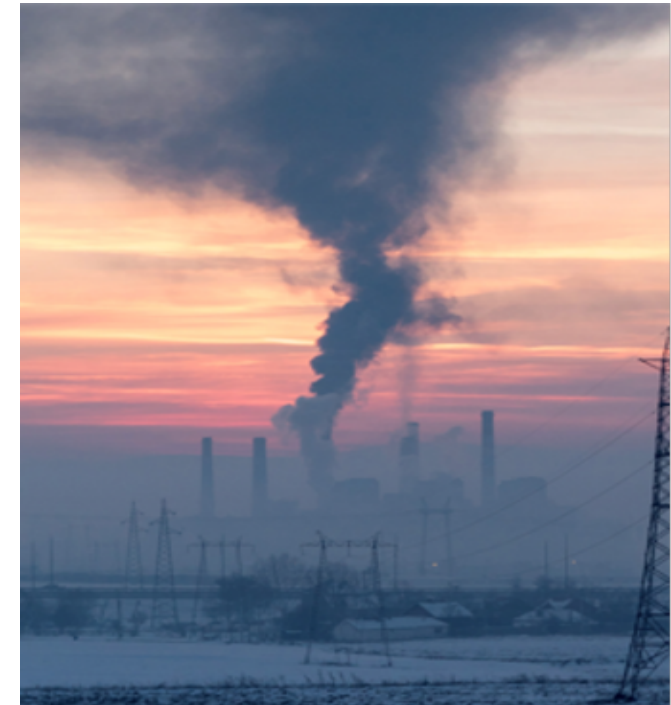


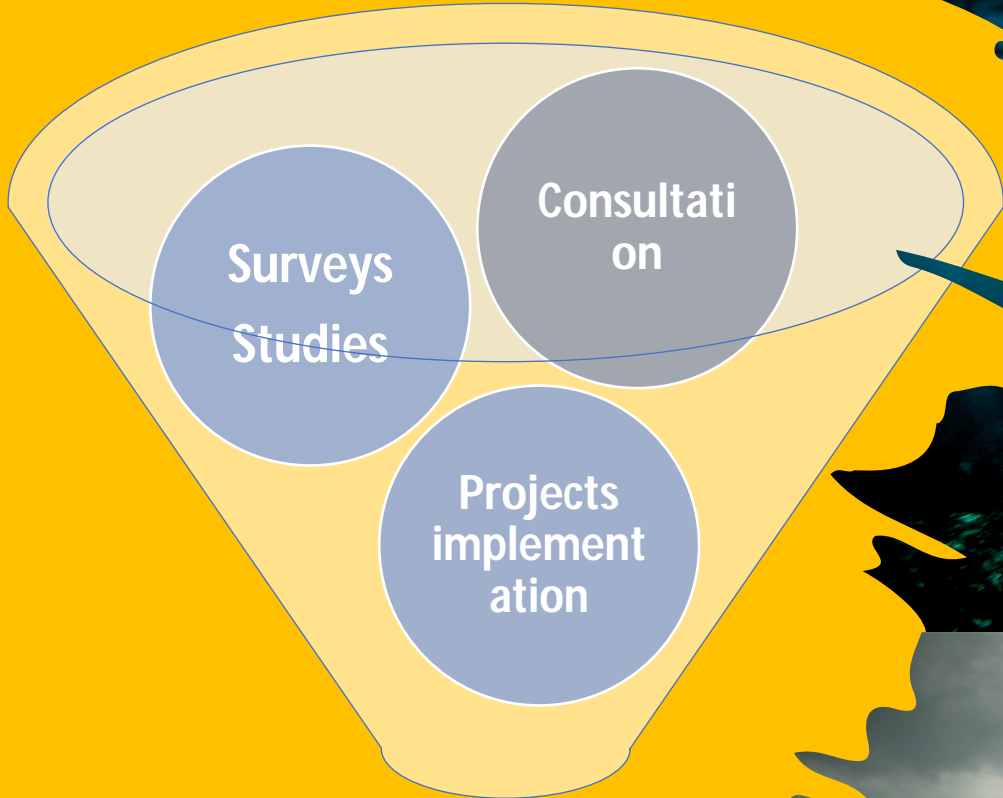
No.	Иницијативна подручја	No.	Иницијативна подручја
1	Ет'но	17	Фабрика аутомобила Смедеро
2	Мали - Печ	18	Шумадија д.о.о. - Крупањ
3	Фабрика обраде метала - Прокупље	19	Баскопа Власеница - Прокупље
4	ГРП Бео	20	Милорад - Младеновац
5	ХИ Јуна - Кулавац	21	ТЕНТ А - Обреновац
6	Град Палићка - Београд	22	ТЕНТ Б - Обреновац
7	Фабрика вагона Краљево	23	ТЕ Косовач
8	Металуршка Рафинерија	24	ХИ Зорна - Суботица
9	Валована Бумага - Кикинда	25	ХИ Копа - Задар
10	Степице - Ужич	26	ИПТ - Призрен
11	ТЕ Кошутин - Лазаревац	27	ПСК Лазар - Чака
12	РБ Кошутин - Лазаревац	28	Лазар ФСА - Владичин Хан
13	А.Д. Раднички - Сремска	29	Фабрика дрвених производа - Сремска
14	Фабрика цементних циглица - Сремска	30	21. октобар - Прокупље
15	ТЕ Младина - Сремска	31	ХИ Висока - Лазаревац
16	Палићка - Чака	32	Зорна - Оборуа металуршка - Шабац





- **Western Balkans Regional Waste Conference (26-27 March 2024)**
- Strengthening the capacity in the management of Contaminated Sites in the Western Balkans 2023 – 2026 (Launching event in March 2024)
- Develop a project pipeline for 2025 – 2026 (SEEPP Project hub)
- <https://www.unep.org/regions/europe/our-projects/equipping-southeastern-europe-join-forces-and-beat-pollution>
- <https://www.seepollutionplatform.org>





Platform project hub





Thank you

Mijke Hertoghs – UNEP
Elena Marques – UNEP
Tomas Marques - UNEP
