

Green Agenda for the Western Balkans - Status of Implementation

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for the Western Balkans

Background – GAWB Action Plan 2021-2030

- Coordinating role of RCC
- Importance of a whole-of-society approach
- “Living document” with two revision processes, the first revision process by end of 2024!
- Hamburg Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, 8 October

Structure – GAWB Action Plan 2021-2030

- Pillars of the Green Agenda:

1. Decarbonisation

- i. Climate Action
- ii. Energy
- iii. Sustainable Transport

2. Circular Economy

3. Sustainable Agriculture

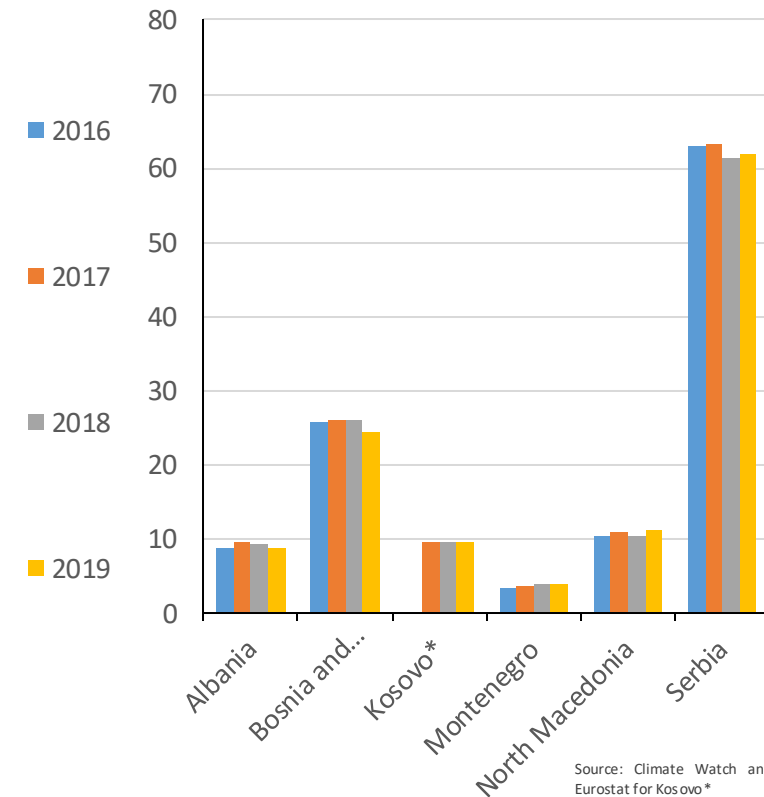
4. Depollution

5. Protection of Nature and Biodiversity

Decarbonisation

- Stable GHG emissions levels from 2016-2019
 - Serbia: highest GHG emissions
 - Albania: lowest emissions in power generation
- Uneven progress of implementation
- Agreement on energy and climate targets for 2030 within the Energy Community framework
- Energy poverty; need for long-term solutions
- **Priority areas**
 - CBAM
 - NECPs
 - Regional Adaptation Strategy (RAS) by 2026
 - Regional German – Western Balkan climate partnership
 - Declaration for Green Mobility of South East European Parties and Observing Participants

Total GHG emissions (Mt of CO₂eq)

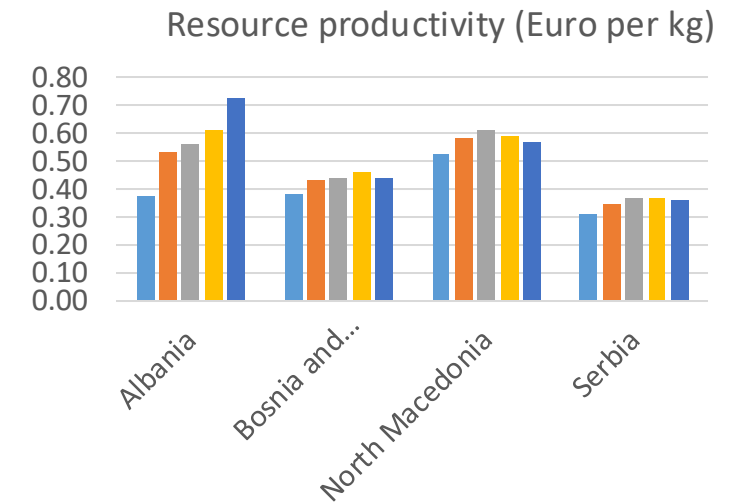
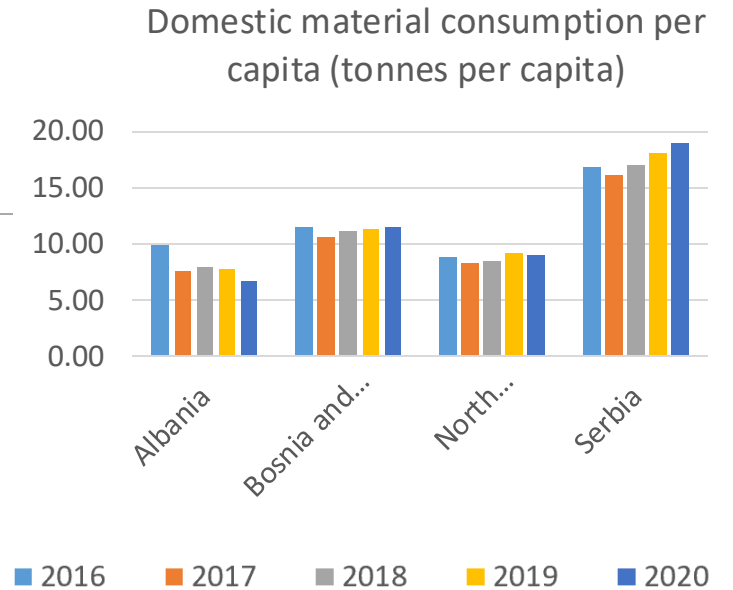


**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*

Circular Economy

- **Priority areas for RCC**

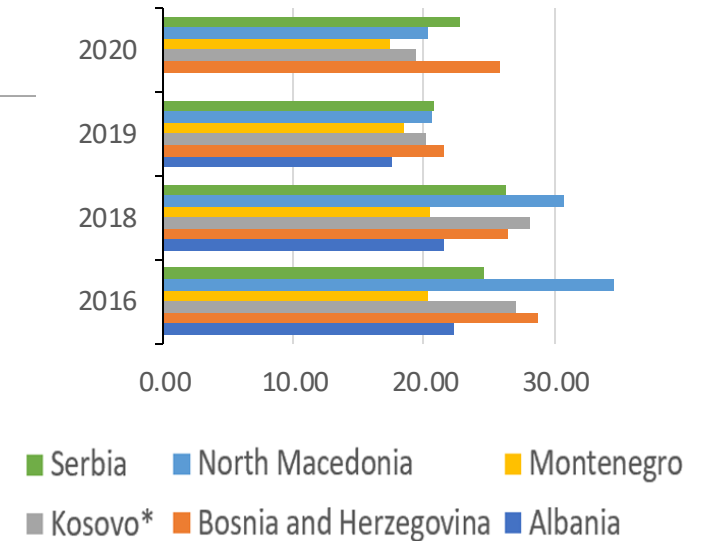
- Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Joint Statement on Preventing Plastic Pollution, including Marine Litter
- Western Balkans Green and Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform
- Raising Awareness on CE principles
- Implement circular economy roadmap and related programs



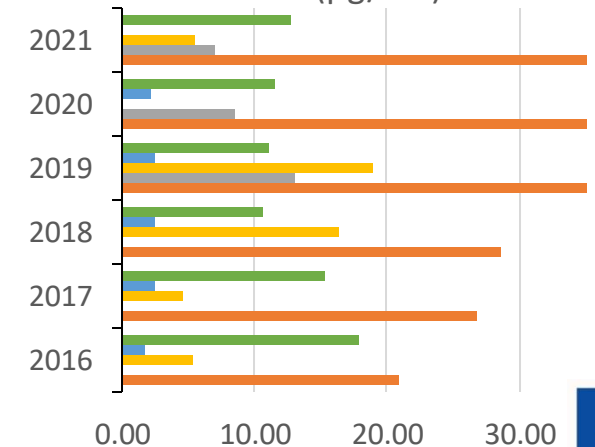
Depollution

- Air quality improvement is an urgent goal for the Western Balkans
- Prepare and sign regional agreements on transboundary air and water pollution
- Regional commitment to integrated soil protection provided in the Communiqué/Memorandum of Understanding on Soil Partnership between WB economies
- Nexus Roadmap for the Drina River Basin agreed between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia.
- Support from EU4Green project, UNICEF-SwEPA Partnership for Improved Air Quality in the Western Balkans

Annual ambient concentrations of PM_{2,5} (µg/m³)

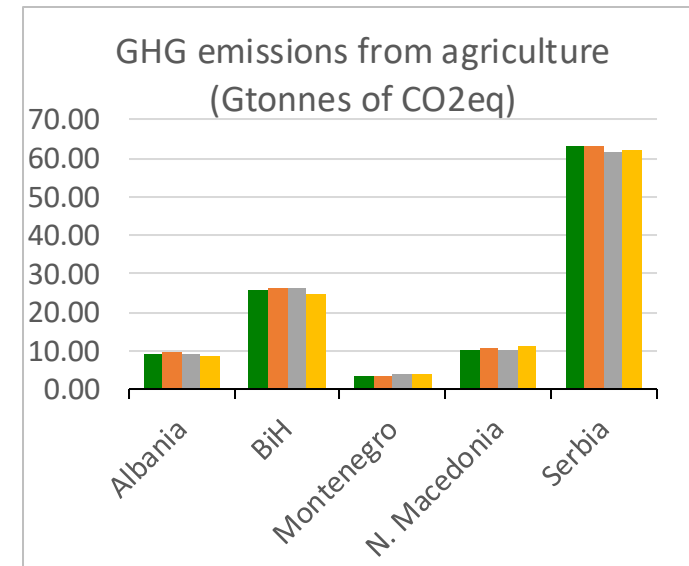
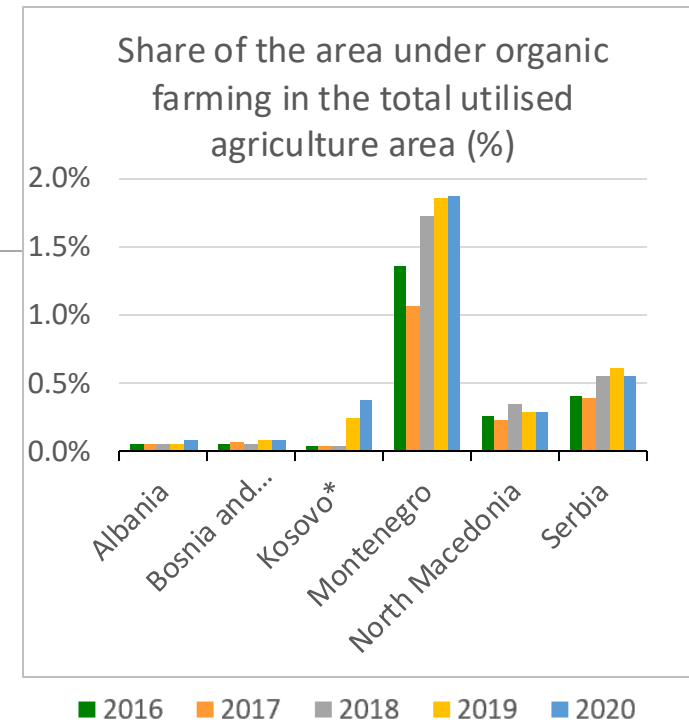


Annual ambient concentrations of SO₂ (µg/m³)



Sustainable Agriculture

- Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development
 - Agricultural Policy Forum, June 2024
 - SWG Ministerial Meetings
- Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development
- Regional Study: Impact of climate change on agriculture and recommendations for adoption of measures in the Western Balkans



Protection of Nature and Biodiversity

- Biodiversity Task Force of the Western Balkans (BDTF WB)
- Priority action: Development of the Western Balkans Biodiversity Strategic Plan
 - Analytical Framework and Roadmap for development of the WBBSP
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity
- Nature-based Solutions

Challenges to the implementation of the GAWB

- Uneven progress across the region due to varying EU accession stages and green transition priorities
- Need for enhanced regional cooperation and synchronized efforts in green transition
- Strengthening GAWB coordination, monitoring, and reporting systems at the regional level
- Developing institutional, human, and financial capacities for effective implementation and fair transition
- Raising public awareness and promoting Green Agenda-related benefits and opportunities



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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