



subscribe: www.ks.undp.org

Environment newsletter No.6

No# 6 (APRIL 2012)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Modernisation of sewage water treatment in in Skenderaj/Srbica
- Kosovo in the World Water Forum
- Network of air quality monitoring to be finalized
- Landfills in Mirash damaging the environment
- Management of environmental issues related to radiation and nuclear safety
- Project of plastic cap recycling
- European Fresh Water Ecosystems threatened

Dear reader,

This edition of Environmental Newsletter, the first for 2012, is tackling very crucial momentum for environment. It appears on the aftermath of World Water Day which is celebrated since 1992 by the United Nations.

The Editor's team is joining the appeals, efforts and activities organized all around the world with the purpose of raising awareness on the protection, preservation and sustainable use of water

sources. Only three percent of world water resources is fresh water, and one percent drinkable water, whereas 97percent is located in the seas and oceans. Currently world's fresh water resources are under threat.

18 percent of world's population has no access to drinking water whereas 40 percent have no access to sewage system services. In the years to come, it is estimated that for the developing countries the issue of water supply will be even more severe due to the lack of access to sewage

services. Around two million children die as a consequence of water crisis. Furthermore Climate Change and rapidly increasing world's population set even more pressure to our scarce water resources.

Water infrastructure needs urgent investments in order to take care of our scarce resources. We can all start by making sure that the drinking water at our homes is used economically and wisely.

Editors Team

Modern plant for the sewage water treatment in Llausha



Most of the sewage waters flow directly into nature without any prior treatment in Kosovo.

Fresh water resources as well as the whole ecosystems are affected by the damage of the sewage waters in Kosovo. Fortunately the problem has been

recognized and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has started to actively improve the dire situation with the support from the Kosovo Environment Agency.

A first modern sewage treatment plant has been installed

and started working in Llausha, SKenderaj. The sewage treatment plant has capacity to serve 10 000 inhabitants.

Treatment process of the sewage is divided into three phases: mechanical, biological and chemical processes. Through these three phases the sewage water is purified and recycled so that it can finally flow into the rivers without causing environmental and human health risk.

The construction of the plant was funded by the European Union.

Kosovo at the World Water Forum

Minister Dardan Gashi leading a delegation from Kosovo participated in the sixth World Water Forum held in Marseille, France. The World Water Forum was organized under the auspices of the French President Nikolas Sarkozy. Over 140 ministerial delegations were present and other 800 participants from non-governmental organizations and representatives of water management from public and private sectors have gathered in the Forum in Marseille. Minister Gashi held a presentation in a

high level Forum session organized by the Ministry of Energy and Waters of Israel. Minister Gashi discussed about sewage water system in Kosovo and the future plans for its renovations. During his stay in France, Minister Gashi had other bilateral meetings with the representatives of various states. The World Water Forum is a high level global event aiming at mobilizing



local and national governments to address the challenges related to water issues and to place issue high on the political agendas.

FAST FACTS

*In Kosovo only 1/5 of the surface belongs to high quality lands, which at the same time are under threat by construction and residence

*1000 ha of agricultural land is lost per annum, due to illegal contraction of buildings.

*Same amount of lands is also lost due to land erosion, as 85% of Kosovo's land is arduous and prone to land erosion .

* The area suitable for growing crops, vegetables, industrial plants and other economic activities is also most densely inhabited area of Kosovo. 90% of the population of Kosovo is concentrated in those areas threatening the farming lands by construction and other economic activities.

Severe situation in waste landfill in Mirash

The Kosovo Environment Protection Agency concerns over the mismanagement of the landfills in Mirash. In a visit in the landfills the sewage treatment pumps were proven not to be functional. As a consequence sewage waters pollute the surface waters.

Another concern is related to open burning of waste, which



has a negative impact on the air quality. This situation has driven the Inspector of the Environment and Spatial Planning to initiate a violation procedure against the Company for the Management of Landfills in Kosovo, responsible for the management of this landfill.

In order to improve the situation, KEPA recommends reactivation of a lagoon to treat the landfill's sewage water and to activate the pump system in order to eliminate leaking of sewage waters from the landfills.

To prevent waste burning the inspector recommend better compressing process in order to fit all the waste in the landfills. Thirdly the Inspector introduces air and water monitoring.

Prishtina waste landfill located in Mirash near Obiliç was constructed in 2005. It has a surface of 40 hectare and collects waste from the Municipality of Prishtina, Obiliq, Lipjan, Fushë Kosova and Glogovc, bearing a capacity of 3.500 000 m³. The responsible body for the Management of the Landfills is the Company for the Management of Waste Landfills of Kosovo - CMFK, while the responsible body for the collection of waste is the Regional Company "Pastrimi".

How can you protect the environment



☞ Turn off the tap while brushing teeth . It saves about 20 liters of water everyday!



☞ Wash cars and bikes with a bucket of water and sponge, instead of a hose which wastes around 15 liters of water per minute when left freely running.

Air monitoring network to be completed in 2012

Kosovo will soon have a complete network of air quality monitors in order to monitor the level of pollution in air in the urban, sub-urban and rural zones.

stations in Gjilan, Han i Elezit, Shtërpce – Brezovica, Prizren and Peja, European Commission supports to establish a modern air quality monitoring services in Kosovo.

ozone (O₃), particle materials suspended in the air (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), as well as samples for BTX (Benzene, Toluene and Xylen). Also, each of five stations will be equipped with a system for monitoring the meteorological parameters like: temperature, humidity, air pressure, wind speed and direction.

With five new air monitoring

These stations will be equipped with analyzers for the monitoring of the pollutants such as: dioxide sulphide (SO₂), dioxide nitrogen (NO₂), monoxide carbon (CO),

With these five stations, the monitoring network of the air quality consist of nine fixed stations for the automatic monitoring of air quality and one additional mobile station.



Environment Calendar

22 April

Earth Day

31 May

World No Tobacco Day

Day

5 June

World Environment Day

Day

8 June

World Oceans Day

17 June

World Day to Combat

Desertification and

Drought

Management of radiation protection and nuclear safety matters

Last year, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning established the Kosovo Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety.

The establishment of the Agency is also necessary in order to meet requirements in the process of European Integration as well as fulfilling other international obligations in the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety.

As a part of the Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety -AMRK, Kosovo is required to draft a legal framework and a strategy on radiation protection and nuclear safety, securing safe treatment of

hazardous substances.

The Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety will be the focal point to oversee the work of the operators using radioactive or nuclear material; transport of nuclear material; license the permits for the operators handling nuclear or radioactive substances.

Cooperation with national and international organizations and institutions involved in issues related to radiation protection and nuclear safety is another

Walk or use bicycle in the short routes.

objective of AMRK. The first rapprochement towards the international treaties would be the implementation of the basic principles and specific standards in the respective field.



How can you protect the environment



Turn off the engine whenever your car is stopped. You will save fuel and fresh, unpolluted air. Savings are bigger even in a short stop than fuel used for restarting the engine.



Bike or walk when possible!

This newsletter is published in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kosovo.

Editors` Team:

Afrim Berisha (MESP), Sami Behrami (MESP), Inari Penttilä (UNDP) and Burbuqe Dobranja (UNDP).

For the next edition subscribe to : www.ks.undp.org

Online version available: <http://www.kosovo.undp.org/?cid=2,176>
And www.ammk-rks.net

Kosovo Cap Project

The American University in Kosovo (AUK) Charity Club has initiated a Kosova Cap Project which aims to help people with disabilities in Kosovo who need but cannot afford purchasing wheelchairs.

The Club is collecting plastic caps of any size and color which will be further transported to Turkey for recycling. The project started in December 2011, is a continuity of a successful project in

Turkey and is being supported by the Turkish Embassy in Kosovo. Taking into consideration that 250 kg of plastic caps are needed for one

wheelchair, the Editorial Team of the Environment Newsletter wanted to contribute to this project by advocating our readers to start collecting caps in their homes and workplaces, from their relatives, friends and colleagues. By doing this we are both helping people with disabilities and protecting our environment. Our collective efforts will be needed to make this project a success. For more information and to arrange transport contact:

charityclub@aukonline.org



European fresh water ecosystems threatened

Biodiversity of lakes and rivers in Europe is diminishing. This alarming situation has been drawn by a research report published recently by the European Commission, according to which, the pollution of waters, overfishing, loss of habitation and inputs of invasive species into ecosystems and waters threatens a huge number of fishes, molluscs, snails and plants in the fresh waters around Europe.

According to the report, the fish of the fresh waters, amphibians, vascular plants and above all, molluscs are subject to a serious threat. European fresh water ecosystems are seriously threatened and

preservation actions urgently required. The report was prepared based on the study conducted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which evaluated the state of 6000 species of the rivers and lakes in Europe. According to the study, around 44 percent of all the molluscs in the fresh waters, 37 percent of the fish species in the fresh waters and

23 percent of amphibians are threatened.

In addition 20 percent of land molluscs, 19 percent of reptilians, 15 percent of mammals and 13 percent of birds are threatened equally, stated the study.



How can you protect the environment

🔧 Fix up leaking taps as one drip per second amounts of 30 liters of water per day.



🔧 Use washing machines only with full loads for optimum utilization.



🔧 A 4 minute shower uses more than 60 liters of water.