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# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER No.9

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Dear reader,

You are holding the first edition of the Environmental Newsletter for 2013, respectively its 9<sup>th</sup> edition in a row. As in previous years, the Newsletter Editing Team this year will put efforts to bring interesting environmental topics to the readers about the activities of different groups. Moreover, we will try to focus on the achievements made in the environmental protection sector not leaving out the work and the efforts of local and international

institutions in the improvement of the state of the environment in Kosovo. We are going to try to keep the consistency of addressing environmental events that are of interest to the public, while also launching the calendar of environmental events. The education and raising public awareness activities on the environmental protection will also be included in bulletin pages and as a part of this we are going to carry on contributing by offering practical advices and solutions to assisting in the protection of the environment. Environmental curiosities

have always stirred the attention of our readers, and therefore summarized information and interesting environmental events will remain part of our newsletter. Thanks to all those who continue to send us comments, feedback, suggestions and interesting information. We encourage them to further continue their commitment and we also call all the interested parties for cooperation.

Editorial team

## "Life without Kosova A" in children's eyes



"Life without Kosova A" is the topic of a drawing-painting competition where students of 6 primary schools participated from the Obiliq/Obilić and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje Municipalities. The competition is a part of the awareness raising campaign for the protection of the environment from power plant pollution. The campaign was initiated and supported by the European Union Office in Kosovo. Of the 500 drawings-paintings that participated in the competition and the

Blue sky, green landscapes, parks with flowers and trees, clean rivers, windmills and happy children growing up in a clean environment are the images that students would like to see in the future instead of chimney smoke, ash, grey sky and polluted rivers.

The main message coming from children's imagination is that the closure and dismantling of Kosova A power plant will result in

profile [facebook.com/jetapakosovena](https://www.facebook.com/jetapakosovena), 24 were selected and published in a catalogue. The students were required to express their vision of the future without the Kosova A power plant, through drawings and paintings.

a cleaner environment and healthier life for all. In fact, the children's vision for a life without Kosova A is not impossible and it can easily become a reality.

The closure of Kosova A power plant is planned to occur at the end of 2017 and it is estimated to cost about € 28 million. Kosovo's government has already established three working groups for the process of decommissioning of PP Kosova A, which is the first phase of the plant closure. Closing the "Kosova A" PP is also a part of Kosovo's commitments in the frame of the Energy Committee Treaty, and it is also planned within the Energy Strategy 2009-2018, adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo.

## Waste recycling generates jobs for the RAE Community

### SUMMARY

The total number of protected zones in Kosovo is 96.

These include: 11 Strict Nature Reserves, 2 National Parks, 82 Natural Monuments, 1 Nature Park and 2 Protected Landscapes.

The total area of the protected zones is 124712 ha.

This area includes 11.4% of the total territory of Kosovo.

Out of the total area of the protected zones in Kosovo, 92.9% belong to National Parks, 5.4 to Nature Monuments and less than 1% to Strict Reserves, Nature Parks and Natural Landscapes.



The project "Sustainable employment initiative for a healthy tomorrow" has started with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare are also a part of this project.

According to the analysis conducted by UNOPS and WHO informal waste collection and classification has traditionally been done by the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.

The project "Sustainable employment initiative for a healthy tomorrow" aims to register and organize the informal waste collectors in collection centres, which will serve for offering the waste collection and recycling services. Initially, it has been foreseen to create two collection centers, one in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

and one in Mitrovicë/a, for the support and employment of the RAE community informal collectors.

Such projects have been successfully implemented in the region and it is believed that in Kosovo, the project will bring results both in the environmental and social welfare sectors.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will assist in the implementation of the project over the next three years with the amount of € 500,000.

## Empowerment of women in environmental law

Various studies have valued the role of women as important and exceptional in many environmental issues as: climate change, waste management, drinking water economy, energy efficiency and other environmental aspects.

With the aim of strengthening the role of women in the area of environmental law, Regional Environmental Centre office in Kosovo has started implementing the project "Empowerment of women in environmental law". This activity is being supported by UNDP Kosovo through the "Project for promotion of gender rights."

Referring to two very important objectives of the UN Millennium Development Goals 2015: Goal 3 (Promoting gender equality and empowering women) and Goal 7 (Environmental Sustainability), the "Empowerment of women in environmental law" project aims to improve women's access to environmental law by providing relevant information on legal resources, advocating and giving incentives to undertake concrete actions through formal requests.

The project also aims to raise awareness of using the opportunities to respond to violence that is being exercised on

women about environmental information access as well as the right to participate in the decision-making process on environmental issues.

The project started to be implemented in November 2012 and will end in April 2013.



## How can we help to protect the environment?



🚗 Cars pollute the air; take a walk in short routes or use the bicycle.



💡 Use energy saving light bulbs. They use less energy and have longer lifespan than the standard bulbs.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

7 APRIL  
World Health Day

22 APRIL  
Earth Day

31 MAY  
World No  
Tobacco Day

5 JUNE  
World  
Environment Day

8 JUNE  
World  
Oceans Day

17 JUNE  
World Day  
to Combat  
Desertification  
and Drought

## “Ecological Train” for the Germia Park

The European Commission will support Prishtina Municipality in the implementation of the "Sustainable Management Germia Park" project. The project will cost around € 510.000, with European Commission allocating € 360.000 donation while Prishtina municipality will participate in the project with € 150.000. Furthermore, the "Sustainable Management of Germia Park" project provides for the adjustment of pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, citizens' resorts and public lighting throughout the recreation area.

What makes this project particular is the construction of a path for an "Ecological Train," which in addition to being a novelty for Kosovo, aims to encourage people not to use their cars in park spaces. Germia Park was declared a protected area due to the rare natural beauty, valuable resources and aesthetic

values that are of importance in the areas of culture and education, science and recreational tourism. In 1987 the Municipal Assembly decided to protect the Germia Complex within the Regional Nature Park category. Prishtina Municipality currently manages the Germia Park through the enterprise "Hortikultura", whereas the professional supervision is carried out by the Nature Conservation Institute which operates within the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1990, Germia Park entered the international list records of protected areas by the International Union and Conservation of Nature (IUCN, 1990 United Nation List of National Parks and Protected Areas).



An important part of the protected area includes areas for recreation and holiday resorts. This area is surrounded by a beautiful oak and beech forest scenery.

These attractive natural values and the fresh air in Germia attract a large number of residents of the capital and the surrounding to spend part of the day or even the weekend there.

## Bjeshket e Nemuna, the Second National Park in Kosovo



With the adoption of the Law on "Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Park, Kosovo has been added another new legally protected area with a National Park status. This National Park includes about 60 thousand ha and expands in the territory of the following municipalities: Gjakov, Junik, Peje, Deçan and Istok. The territory that is de-

clared a National Park is characterized with rare natural values, with a large number of important forest ecosystems, significant rare habitats and rich hydrological features, geomorphological and landscape with scientific, recreational tourism and educational importance.

For this park, the abovementioned law has established protection regimes for first zone, which is part of the territory with special natural features and is considered a strict protection zone; second zone which is part of the territory

characterized by ecosystems and other natural values where activities can be carried out provided that they are not opposing the protection purposes; and third zone where a sustainable use is allowed which is intended for construction of holiday, recreation and tourism facilities and for the residents' needs of the use of limited natural resources.

The park will be managed by the "Bjeshket e Nemuna" NP Management Directorate which operates within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, or the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency respectively. Professional justification for protecting the Bjeshket e Nemuna National Park was developed in 2003 by the Nature Protection Institute.

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## Discussion on the environmental information and public participation in decision-making

The Environmental Protection Agency with the support of the European Commission through the TAIEX Instrument (Technical Assistance Tool for Information Exchange), organized a workshop on "Implementation of the EU Directive on access to environmental information and the Aarhus Convention in Kosovo".

The purpose of this workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the national Kosovar environmental institutions for implementing the EU Directive on access to environmental information and the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Kosovo, public participation in decision-making process and the right to address the court on environmental issues.

Their experience in the implementation of these two important international environmental acts was presented by six experts from different EU countries, while the meeting was attended mainly by representatives of national environmental institutions, as well as representatives and experts of the Environmental NGO.

Furthermore, it was stated that the drafting and approval of an agreement or a cooperation program between the civil society and national environmental institutions to increase the participation of the public and NGOs in environmental decision-making, is essential just as the establishment of efficient envi-

ronmental information and reporting system.



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## 2012 was in the list of 10 warmest years in the 133-year period of record keeping



American researchers say that 2012 was among the 10 warmest years that the Earth experienced since 1880. According to

researchers, this was the 9th warmest years on record. They said that temperatures would have been higher if it had not been for the La Nina weather pattern that brought cooling to some regions. They established that carbon dioxide had been the principal driver of the rise of temperatures over the past 50 years. The research indicated that all 12 years of the

21<sup>st</sup> Century rank among the 14 warmest in the 133-year period of record keeping. NASA stated that 2012 was the 9<sup>th</sup> warmest years, with average temperatures 0.6 C warmer than the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century baseline. According to researchers, most areas of the world had higher than average temperatures in 2012 while the Arctic experienced a record breaking ice melt.

More on this story: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21033083>

## How can we help to protect the environment?



By reducing the temperature in our homes for one degree, we can save 6% energy.



Water is precious; do not let it run unnecessarily.

