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# **TAIEX EPPA**

## **Regional Workshop on**

# **Promoting good practices on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects**

**Creating a platform for national stakeholders to disseminate the multiple  
benefits of Green and Blue Infrastructure solutions**

organised in co-operation with

**EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA)**

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**27 – 28 October 2021**

**Online**

**Beneficiaries:**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North  
Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey

EPPA 81206

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\* This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Organised and funded by the  
**Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument**  
of the European Commission



## **Aim of the Workshop:**

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The Workshop aims at raising awareness on the Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) methods, benefits and barriers, through the creation of a platform of dialogue and cooperation in a region that is complex and very diverse.

There is a gap in understanding the requirements, interests and motivational behaviours of BGI users, as well as their potential for developing stakeholders dialogue, that is addressed through the best practices and lessons learned analysis of presented case studies at this workshop.

The event is aiming also to raise awareness and knowledge of the concept of ecosystem services and of the value of blue and green infrastructure in protecting, preserving and enhancing natural ecosystem, while achieving other environmental, public health, social, and economic benefits.

## **EU Member State Speakers:**

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- Mr. Gheorghe **Constantin**, Director Ministry for Environment, Water and Forests, Romania and Romanian Water and Marine Director
- Ms. Anita **Pokrovac Patekar**, Senior environmental protection inspector, Sector for international cooperation, State inspectorate, Republic of Croatia.
- Dr. Sašo **Šantl**, Project Manager and Researcher at the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

## **Local Speakers:**

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- Mr. Emsel **Ajredini**, Legal Associate, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Project, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia
- Ms. Ruzica **Brnovic**, Head of unit, Ministry of Ecology, Special Planning and Urbanism.
- Ms. Erina **Filipovska**, Associate Architect, CBIT Project, UNDP, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia
- Ms. Lorela **Lazaj**, Director Regional Administration of Protected Areas Vlore, Albania
- Dr. Tanay Sıdkı **Uyar**, Professor, Turkey

## Other Speakers:

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- Mr. Mihail **Dimovski**, EPPA Team Leader
- Mr Gabino **Gonzalez**, The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) Director
- Mr. Francois **Guerquin**, Plan Bleu Director
- Ms. Tatjana **Hema**, Coordinator, UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)
- Dr. Mihaela **Popovici**, EPPA Coordinator, Water Management Working Group
- Mr. Ventzislav **Vassilev**, EPPA Senior Non-Key Expert (SNKE) for Green infrastructure

### Legislation to be covered

EU Water policies and legislation, i.e European Green Deal, EU Green Deal for Western Balkans, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Circular Economy Action Plan, Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and the relevant transposed national legislation in the EPPA beneficiary countries.

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## Day 1: Wednesday, 27 October 2021

Chair: Mihaela **Popovici**

08:30 – 09:00	Event starts /technical introduction/solving participants' issues 8:50 – Short technical introduction to the webinar platform
09:00 – 09:20	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> European Commission
09:20 – 09:30	Introduction - EPPA tasks regarding the assistance on BGI methods, benefits and barriers (Activity 3.6) Dr. Mihaela <b>Popovici</b>
09:30 – 10:10	<b>KEY UNEP/MAP PRESENTATIONS</b> Promotion of sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean region Ms. Tatjana <b>Hema</b>
	Blue Economy case studies and recommendations Mr. Francois <b>Guerquin</b>
	<i>5-10 min Q&amp;A</i>
	<i>5 min break</i>
10:20 – 11:00	<b>ISSUES FACED ON BGI, PLANNED EFFORTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES IN THE EPPA COUNTRIES</b> Efforts toward the effective management of “Karaburun-Sazan” Marine National Park, the only marine national park in Albania Ms. Lorela <b>Lazaj</b>
	Waste management infrastructure – Montenegro Ms. Ruzica <b>Brnovic</b>
	Case studies for implementation of green & blue infrastructure Dr. Tanay <b>Sıdkı Uyar</b>
	<i>5-10 min Q&amp;A</i>
	<i>5 min break</i>
11:10– 12:30	<b>KNOWLEDGE-SHARING</b>
	Development of the green infrastructure in the Danube River Basin: Romanian regional and national perspective Mr. Gheorghe <b>Constantin</b>
	Green & blue infrastructure - sustainable development, in Croatia Ms. Anita <b>Pokrovac Patekar</b>
	Improvement of the data exchange and achieving a more efficient spatial analysis of benefits of BGI and impacts of different anthropogenic activities, in Slovenia Dr. Sašo <b>Šantl</b>
	Latest results from the EPPA Study on green infrastructure deployment and ecological connectivity status in the Western Balkans; Green and blue connections between EPPA countries and EU Member States Mr. Ventzislav <b>Vassilev</b>
12:30 – 12:40	Summary of day 1

	Ms. Mihaela <b>Popovici</b>
12:40	End of Day 1

Day 2: Thursday, 28 October 2021	
Chair: Ms. Mihaela <b>Popovici</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	Event starts /technical introduction/solving participants' issues 8:50 – Short technical introduction to the webinar platform
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction Day 2 Ms. Mihaela <b>Popovici</b>
09:10 – 09:30	<b>KEY UNEP/MAP PRESENTATION</b>  Mediterranean sustainable shipping: Ports and marinas Mr. Gabino <b>Gonzalez</b>
09:30 – 10:30	<b>ISSUES FACED ON BGI, PLANNED EFFORTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES IN THE EPPA COUNTRIES</b>  Implementation of a blue economy aiming to protect marine resources and the ecosystem in Turkey Ms. A. Özge <b>Gökçe Aktaş</b>  BGI Case studies in North Macedonia Ms. Erina <b>Filipovska</b> and Mr. Emsel <b>Ajredini</b>  Case Studies for Implementation of Blue and Green Infrastructure Microplastic Pollution in Seafood – Turkey approach Dr. Tanay <b>Sıdkı Uyar</b>
	<i>5-10 min Q&amp;A</i>
	<i>5 min break</i>
10:40 – 12:00	<b>CONTINUING KNOWLEDGE-SHARING</b>  Hydropower and Blue infrastructure: challenges and lessons learned. Good and bad practices in Bulgaria Mr. Ventzislav <b>Vassilev</b>  Recognizing and planning GBI - Blue green corridors, at different spatial levels Dr. Sašo <b>Šantl</b>  Green & blue infrastructure: a solution with possible multiple benefits for EPPA countries Ms. Anita <b>Pokrovac Patekar</b>  Romanian national approach for the coordination of green and blue infrastructure in the Black Sea basin Mr. Gheorghe <b>Constantin</b>
12:30 – 13:00	The Way Forward Conclusions and recommendations for actions and regional cooperation

	<p><b>New Activity/Action 3.6: Promote good practices on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects – linking Green infrastructure with blue infrastructure (Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and water retention measures).</b></p> <p><b>Outline of the Guideline to identify and upscale best practices in blue and green infrastructures</b></p> <p>Mr. Mihail <b>Dimovski</b> Ms. Mihaela <b>Popovici</b></p>
13:00 - 13:10	<p>Closing remarks Mihail <b>Dimovski</b></p>
13:10	<p>End of the workshop</p>

## More information on TAIEX:

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