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Европско движење Северна Македонија  
European Movement North Macedonia

## NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION IN NORTH MACEDONIA



# NEWSLETTER 3

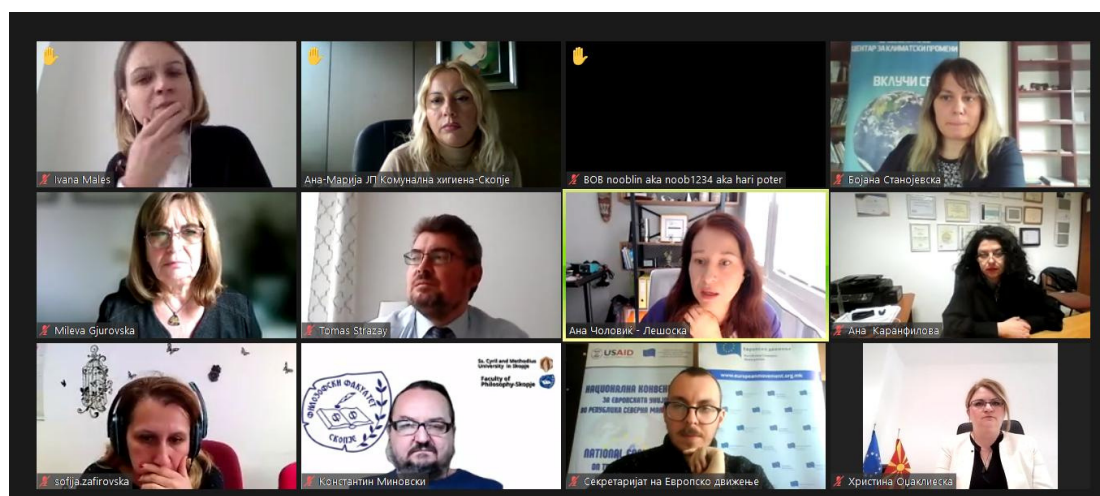
WORKING GROUP 5  
ENVIRONMENT



**SFPA**  
Slovak Foreign Policy Association

## Third session of Working group 5 – Environment (Chapter 27)

### “Waste: polluter or a resource? How to improve the implementation of law on waste management in Republic of North Macedonia”



The third session of Working Group 5 was held on December 10, 2021, via the online platform Zoom. The session was dedicated to the topic: "Waste - polluter or resource? "How to improve the implementation of the Law on Waste Management in the Republic of North Macedonia?"

The session was attended by over 65 relevant stakeholders, representatives of the business sector, the academy, but also international institutions with offices in Skopje as well as representatives of various embassies in the Country.



**Mileva Gjurovska**, National Coordinator of NCEU-MK opened the session, wishing everyone a productive session and explained the importance of the chosen topic. She noted that although the country is making progress in transposing EU legislation into national law, the reality is that we are far from implementing and meeting European Union standards, where only 25 per cent of waste can be disposed of and the rest is recycled.

**Tomas Strazay**, director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) in Bratislava., stated that we can learn from each other regarding waste management, but also about other important environmental issues, especially within the green agenda of the European Union. This was shown through the 44 sessions of the National Convention held so far, which after receiving the date for negotiations will become part of the negotiation process.

**Hristina Odzaklievska**, Deputy Minister of the MoEPP reminded that this year the new National Waste Management Plan was enacted, mapping the goals for the next ten years and six new legal solutions governing the collection, transport, selection, recycling of waste and its treatment and utilization were also adopted.

According to her, the new ten-year national waste management plan, that was adopted in 2021, aims to make changes today so that we can live more safely in the future, and to achieve that goal it is necessary to recognize the value of waste as a resource.



She stressed that in waste management, citizens, the ministry, the business community and all other stakeholders must do their part. Everyone has a role to play in turning waste into a resource. The MoEPP should define these roles and create an environment in which all stakeholders will act in a coordinated manner.

**Bojana Stanojevska-Pecurovska**, President of the Center for Climate Change from Skopje, and co-chair of this session, pointed out that a proper selection system is something which is missing in our Country. Illegal landfills still exist due to insufficient inspections, and in addition most municipal landfills do not meet the requirements for safe waste management.



According to her, only some progress has been made as a result of the work of collective actors.

**Ana Mazneva-Karanfilovska**, Head of the Waste Sector in the MoEPP stressed that all stakeholders are obliged to take measures, so that valuable materials should be processed in accordance with specific criteria developed by the European Union, a criteria which is already incorporated in the Macedonian legislation. Regarding the implementation of the laws, it is necessary to affirm and adapt the solutions according to the actual existing conditions of our reality.

This includes defining what is waste, abolishing the status of waste, defining the secondary raw material, recycling, processing, reuse, preparation for reuse, processing to obtain energy, which completes the circle, ie the so-called circular (circulating economy). Mazneva-Karanfilovska added that in the development of waste management policies and legislation, a hierarchy of management activities is applied with the following priority:

- prevention of waste generation;
- preparation of waste for reuse;
- waste recycling;
- other types of waste processing;
- waste disposal.



**Ivana Malesh** from the Institute of Circular Economics of the Slovak Republic began by stressing one very simple but true fact, that is that the Macedonian authorities can learn from the mistakes of other countries such as Slovakia.

She introduced the participants to the legislation in Slovakia, emphasizing that one of the most important links is the circular economy, and presented a green policy called "Greener Slovakia".

According to this policy, which by 2030, together with the fight against climate change, the country will have to transition to that circular economy. She pointed out that every resident of Slovakia should pay compensation according to the amount of waste they produce, ie that each polluter pays an appropriate amount for the pollution they produce. Food waste and biodegradable materials also affected the change in everyday life. Another change she pointed out is the transition to green public procurement, with the appropriate care being taken to spend public money on green solutions. One of the most important tools at the state level in Slovakia is the Waste Management Program, which is implemented every five years. The last one was adopted in November 2021, which expects pollution to be reduced by 25 percent, and here the government decrees for the new system for payment of tax on beverage packaging, on five type packaging, cans, plastic, metal, glass.



Malesh stressed that what is not yet implemented in Slovakia, and what should be implemented in the coming period, is the recycling of textiles and bio waste.

According to the presentation of the Slovak expert, Slovakia produces around 12 million tons per year, of which only municipal waste is 2.3 million tons per year. About 50 % of waste is disposed of in landfills, 41 % is recycled, and only 9 % is incinerated. An example of a good practices from Slovakia, which should be taken into consideration are the payment system according to the amount of waste, so every citizen pays according to the size of the trash and according to the number of its emptying. She explained that all the containers have a bar code. Another relatively good way to incentivise the reduction of waste, is the example of composting, which was also recently introduced by Bratislava.

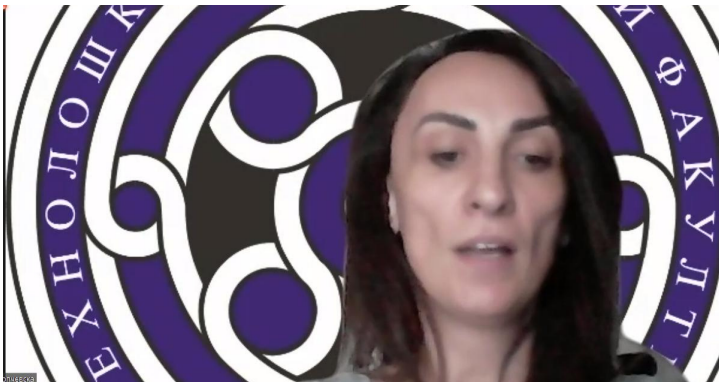


**Jadranka Ivanova**, team leader and approximation expert for the program "Support to the Albanian EU Environmental Negotiations, Chapter 27" presented the situation with waste in terms of the legal framework.

According to her, there is a minimal selection of waste. Waste is disposed of in illegal landfills without any minimum standards. With the exception of Drisla, regional management does not exist, waste management reports are not prepared and published in accordance with legal requirements, and mayors do not fulfill their obligations. She stressed that the MoEPP does not use legal measures at its disposal to act on correct the work of the municipalities. In addition, the business sector also conducts very little selection.

Therefore it can be concluded that the circular economy is almost non-existent. Ivanova informed that only 21 municipalities including the City of Skopje, out of a total of 80, submit data on municipal waste, assessing that the administrative capacity at the central and local level is rather weak.





**Jana Klopcevska** from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy at UKIM emphasized that the food that is not eaten is not only a waste, but also a significant resource that has no price. She pointed out that food waste comes from numerous sources in the production, processing, retail, consumer sector and that it is about one-third of all food produced.

She stressed that according to the FAO, lost food waste causes large global, environmental and social costs that are also responsible for global emissions.

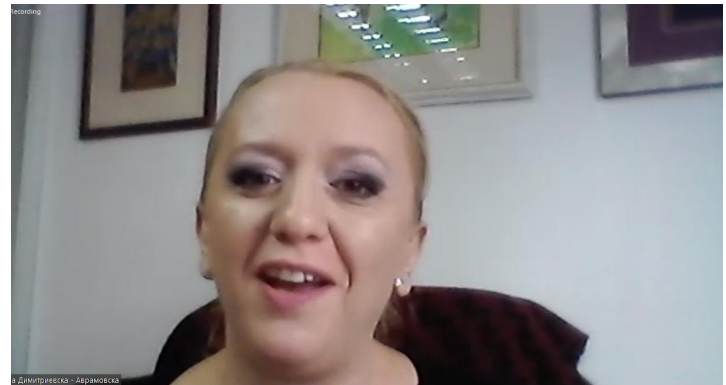
**Marjan Mihajlov**, engineer and environmental expert, spoke next and shared his thoughts on the topic and on the issue of biodegradable waste. According to him, this waste has a great impact on the environment, it is half of the total waste. However, it also represents a great opportunity for saving and protection.

Mihajlov stressed that this waste is created from unnecessarily large production of food and products, which creates landfill gases of methane and carbon dioxide and all this causes the effect of greenhouse gases. Surface and groundwater are polluted, as well as the soil, said Mihajlov, pointing out that the goals of the National Waste Management Plan are to ensure the

recycling of municipal waste by 25 percent by 2025, 45 percent by 2035 and 65 percent by 2045.



**Aleksandra Dimitrievska-Avramovska**, the environmental inspector, reflected the real situation on the ground and pointed out that not only is it necessary to institutionally strengthen the capacity of inspection services, but also a socio-logically smart system must be created to deter citizens from burning waste, for warming, especially those from the lower social strata who hold the view that “pollution is a lesser evil than hunger and cold”.

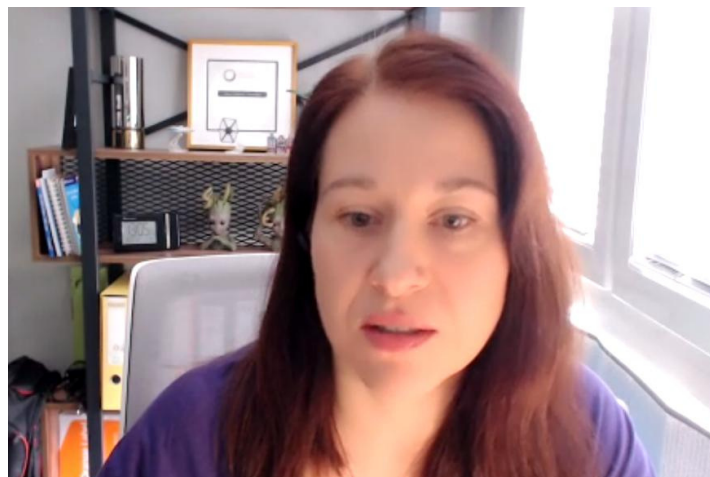


She assessed that the reality is most often that informal packaging collectors are the most loyal part of the waste selection chain. She pointed out that public companies have insufficient capacity for regular and timely emptying of containers, and there is inadequate use of containers for selective waste management.

## DISCUSSION

In order to get closer to Slovakia's waste management standards as soon as possible, the participants of the session, through dialogue, worked on creating concrete recommendations for more efficient implementation of the new Law on Waste Management from October 2021.

These recommendations can be useful in dealing with illegal landfills, affirmation and implementation of EU standards in local areas and the operationalization of the regional perspective in waste management, which at the end of the debate at the National Convention as an official document were presented by the director of "Eco Consciousness" from Skopje, Ana Colovic-Lesoska.



This was followed by a discussion among the participants present, who gave their opinion on most of the proposed recommendations. They paid particular attention to the minimum standards for permanent landfills, the integrated waste management system and public awareness campaigns for waste management.

Ivana Males	Ана-Марија ЈП Комунална хи...	Никучевски Тони	Секретаријат на Европско...	Angela Ivanovska
Бојана Станојевска	Ана Караџилова	Константин Миновски	Христина Оџаќлеска	Mileva Gjurovska
Ана Чоловиќ - Лешоска	sofija.zafirovska	Јадранка Иван...	Александра Ди...	Tomas Strazay
Маријан Михај...	interpreters	Јана Клопчевска	Александар Де...	Nikola Todorovski
brankica.andon...	Cena	François Lafond	Ilir.Un	

English and Macedonian interpretation available!