

GODIŠNJAK 2025.

YEARBOOK 2025



ORGANIZACIJA ZA POLITIČKU EKOLOGIJU POLEKOL:

ORGANIZATION FOR POLITICAL ECOLOGY POLEKOL:

# Sazrevanje promene

# The Ripening of Change

**polekol**  
Organizacija  
za političku ekologiju

*Pravo  
na  
vodu.*

Organizacija za političku ekologiju  
POLEKOL:

# Sazrevanje promene

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Organization for Political Ecology  
POLEKOL:

# The Ripening of Change

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Vizija Polekola je društvo u kojoj se priroda poštuje kao ravnopravna a ne resurs koji se eksploatiše. Društvo ljudi koji saraduju a ne koji se takmiče u eksploataciji. Društvo u kojem se prevazilazi računica profita a stavlja naglasak na dobrobit svih. Za nas je priroda zajedničko dobro svih koji od tog dobra direktno zavise.

Polekol je zagovaračka i aktivistička organizacija civilnog društva prepoznatljiva u javnosti po okupljanju različitih inicijativa, ali i po pokretanju sopstvenih inicijativa usmerenih na zaštitu životne sredine, prirode i prirodnih dobara, kao i po promociji zelenih vrednosti (i društvenih praksi) fokusiranih na dobrobit ljudi i prirode.

Polekol ima izgrađen proces podrške lokalnim i regionalnim inicijativama, organizacijama i građanima. Takođe, okuplja stručnjake i stručnjakinje koji su sposobni da produkuju politike koje dalje usmeravaju društvo u oblasti zaštite životne sredine, prirode i prirodnih dobara.

Važan deo rada Polekola je i edukacija o zelenim politikama, razvoj teorijskih postavki i narativa koji vode ka održivosti celog društva.

**Vrednosti Polekol se oslanjaju na:**

Ekološku mudrost	Demokratiju i participativnost	Socijalnu pravdu
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The vision of Polekol is a society in which nature is respected as an equal and not a resource to be exploited. A society of people who cooperate and not compete in exploitation. A society in which the calculation of profit is overcome and which emphasizes the well-being of all. For us, nature is the common good of all who directly depend on it.

Polekol is an advocacy and activist civil society organization recognized by the public for gathering various initiatives and for launching its own initiatives aimed at protecting the environment, nature and natural resources, as well as for the promotion of green values (and social practices) focused on the well-being of people and nature.

Polekol has a built-in process of supporting local and regional initiatives, organizations and citizens. It also brings together experts who are capable of producing policies that further guide society in the area of environmental protection, nature and natural resources.

An important part of Polekol's work is education about green policies, the development of theoretical assumptions and narratives that lead to the sustainability of the entire society.

**Polekol values are based on:**

Environmental wisdom	Democracy and participation	Social justice
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# Uvod

**Godina 2025. je bila još jedna godina koja nam je kolektivno pokazala da promene u zaštiti prirodnih dobara i odbrane javnog interesa ne nastaju niti daju rezultate preko noći.**

One sazrevaju kroz posvećenost i znanje, solidarnost i zajedničko delovanje. Kroz inicijativu **Pravo na vodu** nastavili smo da ukazujemo na sistemske probleme u vodosnabdevanju, klimatske izazove i sve veći pritisak za privatizaciju i komercijalizaciju vode. Paralelno, kroz **Mrežu žena za prirodu i zaštitu životne sredine** nastavili smo da osnažujemo saradnju žena iz različitih lokalnih borbi, gradeći prostor solidarnosti, razmene znanja i zajedničkog delovanja. Naša istraživanja, pravne i javnopolitičke intervencije i saradnja sa naučnom zajednicom doprineli su i širem razumevanju posledica

**ekstraktivističkih projekata** koji ugrožavaju vodu, biodiverzitet i lokalne zajednice. Istovremeno, zajedno sa građanima, aktivistima i stručnjacima branili smo reke, pokretali javne debate i pokazivali da zaštita prirode mora biti deo javnih politika i demokratskog odlučivanja. Ovaj godišnjak beleži godinu u kojoj su se znanje, solidarnost i lokalne borbe spojile u proces postepenog, ali nepovratnog sazrevanja promene.

# Introduction

**The year 2025 was another year that collectively reminded us that change in the protection of natural resources and the defense of the public interest does not emerge or produce results overnight.**

It matures through dedication and knowledge, solidarity, and collective action. Through the **Right to Water** initiative, we continued to highlight systemic problems in water supply, the growing challenges posed by climate change, and increasing pressure toward the privatization and commercialization of water. At the same time, through the **Women for Nature and Environmental Protection Network**, we continued strengthening cooperation among women involved in different local struggles, building a space for solidarity, knowledge exchange, and collective action. Our research, legal and public policy interventions, and cooperation with the scientific community also contributed to a broader un-

derstanding of the **consequences of extractivist projects** that threaten water, biodiversity, and local communities. At the same time, together with citizens, activists, and experts, we defended rivers, initiated public debates, and demonstrated that the protection of nature must be an integral part of public policy and democratic decision-making. This yearbook records a year in which knowledge, solidarity, and local struggles came together in a process of gradual but irreversible maturation of change.



# Pravo na vodu

Pravo na vodu je inicijativa Polekola koja se bori za zaštitu vodnih dobara i zagovara ljudsko pravo na vodu, kao pravo svakog pojedinca na čistu, pijaću vodu na neprofitnoj osnovi. Zalažemo se za potpunu obustavu izgradnje malih hidroelektrana u Srbiji. Želimo da Srbija primeni integralni pristup u upravljanju vodama. Povećavamo znanje, ulažemo u obrazovanje i stvaramo prostor za diskusiju o najboljem načinu rešavanja problema otpadnih voda. Zahtevamo veći stepen de fakto zaštite obala od gradnje i uzurpacije. Tražimo održivo korišćenje lekovitih i pitkih voda koje moraju biti javno dobro.

# Right to Water

Right to Water is a Polekol initiative that aims to protect water commons and advocates for the human right to water as the right of every individual to clean, safe drinking water provided on a non-profit basis. We call for a complete halt to the construction of small hydro-power plants in Serbia. We advocate for Serbia to adopt an integrated approach to water management. We seek to increase knowledge, invest in education, and create space for public discussion on the most effective ways to address wastewater challenges. We demand a higher level of de facto protection of riverbanks from construction and appropriation. We also advocate for the sustainable use of medicinal and drinking waters, which must remain a public good.



2.2.2025.

## Svetski dan vlažnih staništa na Bari Reva

Svakog 2. februara Svetski dan vlažnih staništa inicijativa Pravo na vodu obeležava u gostima kod udruženja Bela Čaplja na Bari Reva na levoj obali Dunava. Ove godine, zajedno sa Balkanskim centrom za prava prirode razgovarali smo sa posetiocima o tome šta znače prava prirode u kontekstu očuvanja vlažnih staništa i o tome kako bolje zaštititi reke.

### **World Wetlands Day at the Reva pond**

Every February 2nd the Right to Water initiative celebrates World Wetlands Day as a guest of Bela Čaplja (The White Heron) association on the Bara Reva, on the left bank of the Danube River. This year, together with the Balkan Center for the Rights of Nature, we talked with the visitors about what the rights of nature mean in the context of preserving wetlands and how to better protect rivers.



12.2.2025.

## OJT u Zaječaru na prijavu Polekola pokrenulo istragu zbog nelegalnog iskopavanja peska i šljunka u Crnom Timoku u Zaječaru

Nelegalno iskopavanje peska i šljunka na Crnom Timoku je uništilo deo rečnog korita i obale, i narušilo stanište zaštićenih vrsta. Ekološke posledice su katastrofalne.

Polekol je podneo krivičnu prijavu Osnovnom javnom tužilaštvu (OJT) u Zaječaru protiv za sada nepoznatih počinitelaca, zbog oštećenja životne sredine i eksploatacije rečnih nanosa. Podneli smo i predstavke Vodnoj inspekciji i Inspekciji zaštite životne sredine, kako bi postupile u okviru svojih nadležnosti.

Takođe, Polekol je podneo Mišljenje na zahtev za odlučivanje i potrebu izrade Studije o proceni uticaja na životnu sredinu preduzeća Plastomet, upućen Ministarstvu zaštite životne sredine za projekat vađenja rečnog nanosa na ušću Zlotske reke u Crni Timok kod Sumrakovca, i tražio da se ovaj zahtev odbaci što je na kraju i bio ishod postupka.

## **The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Zaječar launched an investigation into the illegal mining of sand and gravel on Crni Timok river following Polekol's report**

Illegal mining of sand and gravel on Crni Timok destroyed part of the river bed and coast, and damaged the habitat of protected species. The environmental consequences are catastrophic.

Polekol submitted a criminal complaint to the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office (OJT) in Zaječar against the as yet unknown perpetrators, due to environmental damage and exploitation of river sediments. We also submitted petitions to the Water Inspectorate and the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, so that they would act within their competences.

Also, Polekol submitted an Opinion on a Request for decision and the need to prepare a Study on environmental impact assessment of the company Plastomet, addressed to the Ministry of Environmental Protection for the project of extracting river sediment at the mouth of the Zlotska river in the Crni Timok near Sumrakovac, and requested that this request be rejected, which was ultimately the outcome of the procedure.



19 - 21.3.2025.

## Polekol održao predavanje na stručnom seminaru o zaštiti životne sredine koji je organizovao Ustavni sud BiH

Polekolov pravni savetnik Strahinja Macić održao je predavanje na temu Učešće javnosti u donošenju odluka od značaja za životnu sredinu u međunarodnom pravu i domaćoj praksi na stručnom seminaru „Zaštita životne sredine s fokusom na praksu Evropskog suda za ljudska prava“. Predavanje je obuhvatilo oblike učešća javnosti, tj. pravo na pristup informacijama od značaja za životnu sredinu, pravo na učešće u donošenju ekoloških propisa i odluka i pravo na pravnu zaštitu. Navedena prava su bila sagledana iz ugla međunarodnog prava, a domet i način njihove primene je ilustrovan primerima iz prakse i rada sa lokalnim zajednicama.

## Polekol held a lecture at an expert seminar on environmental protection organized by the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Legal adviser Strahinja Macić held a lecture on the topic of Public participation in decision-making of importance for the environment in international law and domestic legal practice at the professional seminar "Environmental protection with a focus on the practice of the European Court of Human Rights". The lecture covered forms of public participation, ie, the right to access information of importance for the environment, the right to participate in the adoption of environmental regulations and decisions, and the right to legal protection. The mentioned rights were contextualised in international law, and the scope and manner of their application was illustrated by examples from practice and work with local communities.



25.2.2025.

## Upućeni Predlozi i primedbe na Nacrt Prostornog plana opštine Bogatić

Polekol je u okviru javnog uvida predložio znatno veće korišćenje geotermalne energije za toplifikaciju i druge energetske potrebe kao alternativu oslanjanju na planiranu gasifikaciju. Radi obnove i zaštite priobalja Drine i Save degradiranih prekomernim iskopavanjem šljunka, kao i manjih vodotoka (Zasavica, Jerez, Batar, Bitva) ugroženih intenzivnom poljoprivredom, traženo je uspostavljanje zelenih zaštitnih pojaseva uz ove reke. Dati su predlozi za unapređenje rada planiranih PPOV i za upravljanje otpadnim muljem što je bio previd obrađivača plana. Najvažnije, Polekol je zahtevao da se poveća broj domaćinstava priključenih na vodovodnu mrežu.

## We submitted Proposals and comments on the Draft Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Bogatić

During the public review, Polekol proposed significantly greater use of geothermal energy for heating and other energy needs as an alternative to relying on the planned gasification. In order to restore and protect the shores of the Drina and Sava river degraded by excessive gravel mining, as well as smaller watercourses (Zasavica, Jerez, Batar, Bitva) threatened by intensive agriculture, the establishment of green protective belts along these rivers is requested. Proposals were made to improve the operation of the planned WWTP and for the management of waste sludge, which was an oversight by the planners. Most importantly, Polekol demanded that the number of households connected to the water network be increased.





9.3.2025.

### Potočni rak u odbrani Ratajske reke

Kao deo kampanje za zaštitu reka Prijepolja, Polekol je uradio duhoviti video koji poziva na akciju. Strahinja Macić napisao je epske stihove o potočnom raku i njegovoj borbi za očuvanje reke. U saradnji sa aktivistima Tijanom Petrović, Galom Šalipur i Fedorom Đorovićem kroz stihove i kadrove iz poznatih filmova je prirodi dat novi život i glas, da pozovu građane Srbije, ali i nadležne institucije da stanu u odbranu Ratajske reke na kojoj je planirana mini hidroelektrana.

### **Brook crab in the defense of the Ratajska river**

As part of the campaign to protect the rivers of Prijepolje, Polekol made a humorous video calling for action. Strahinja Macić wrote epic verses about crayfish and his fight for the preservation of the river. In cooperation with activists Tijana Petrović, Gal Šalipur and Fedor Đorović, nature was given a new life and voice through verses and frames from famous films, to invite the citizens of Serbia, as well as the competent institutions, to stand in defense of the Ratajska River, where the mini-hydroelectric power plant is planned.



12.3.2025.

### Žalba Bernskoj konvenciji zbog izgradnje MHE na Studenici Pravo na vodu i biodiverzitet

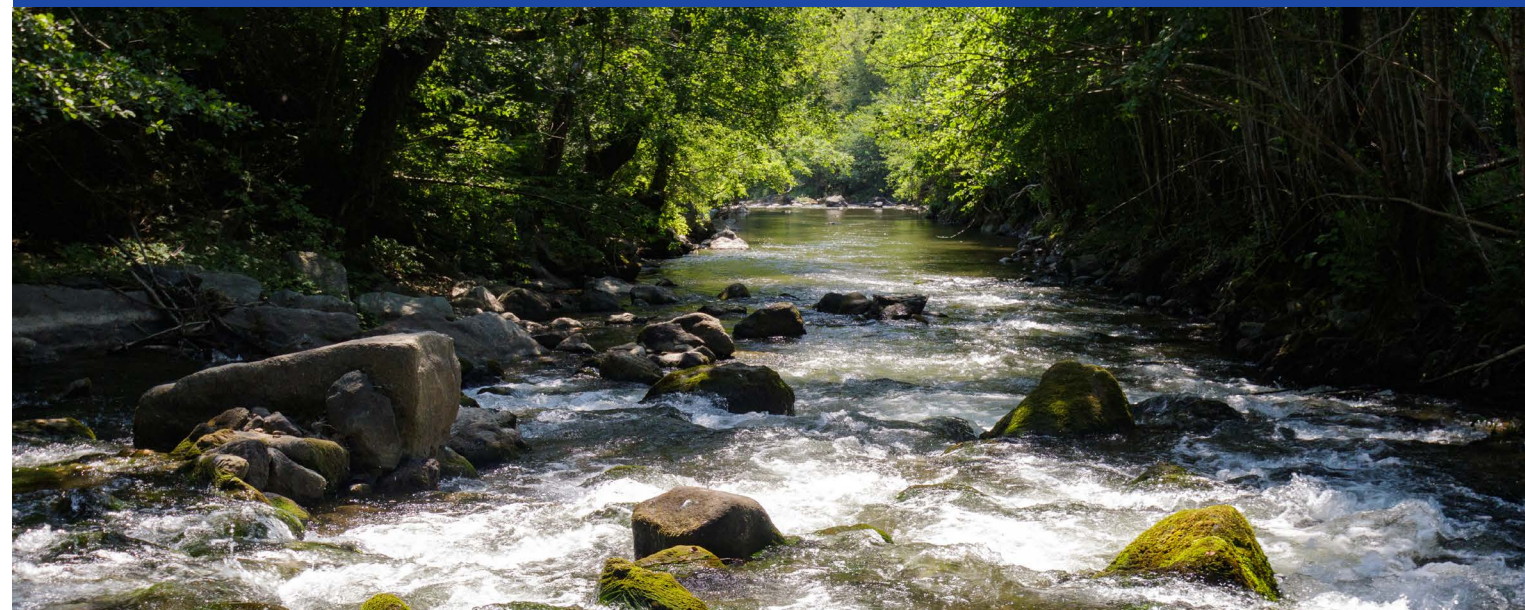
Organizacija za političku ekologiju Polekol je uputila žalbu Bernskoj konvenciji, upozoravajući da će izgradnjom male hidroelektrane Gradina na reci Studenici biti ugrožena zaštićena staništa i vrste od međunarodnog znača. Studenica je krvotok Parka prirode Golija i Rezervata biosfere Golija-Studenica, koji od 2001. godine uživa zaštitu Uneska i kandidat je za Emerald područje Golija.

Srbija nema luksuz da se igra sudbinom svojih zaštićenih područja. Treba da teži ostvarivanju ciljeva koje je sama sebi zadala i onima na koje se obavezala međunarodnim sporazumima. Umesto da se površine pod zaštitom devastiraju, one bi sa sadašnjih oko 9% trebalo da se prošire na 30% teritorije države.

### **Complaint to the Berne Convention regarding the construction of the HPP on the Studenica river**

Polekol sent a complaint to the Berne Convention, warning that the construction of the small hydroelectric plant Gradina on the river Studenica will endanger protected habitats and species of international importance. Studenica is the lifeblood of the Golija Nature Park and the Golija-Studenica Biosphere Reserve, which has been protected by UNESCO since 2001 and is a candidate for the Emerald area of Golija.

Serbia does not have the luxury to risk its protected areas. It should strive to achieve the goals it has set for itself and those to which it has committed itself through international agreements. Instead of devastation of protected areas, they should be expanded from the current 9% to 30% of the country's territory.





23.3.2025.

### Tribina „Voda: Izvor profita ili izvor života?“ – Studentski Kulturni Centar, Beograd

Povodom Svetskog dana voda inicijativa Pravo na vodu je organizovala tribinu u saradnji sa Oslobođenim Studentskim kulturnim centrom, postavljajući ključna pitanja o dostupnosti pijaće vode, komercijalizaciji i privatizaciji ovog javnog dobra.

Razgovarali smo o važnost lokalnih, nacionalnih, regionalnih i globalnih ekoloških borbi i izgradnji solidarnosti među različitim društvenim grupama koje na različite načine pogađa zagađenje, privatizacija i prekomerna eksploatacija vode. Naglašeno je da je voda iz vodovoda u većem delu Srbije ispravna za piće, ali da pitanje poverenja u institucije često usmerava građane ka flaširanoj vodi – koja je višestruko skuplja, bez dodatnih zdravstvenih benefita. Takođe je istaknuto da je voda osnovno ljudsko pravo koje sve češće postaje predmet tržišnih interesa. Posebno je ukazala na rastući problem uzurpacije vodnih dobara i privatizacije kroz javno-privatna partnerstva.

O temi su govorili: Dr Aleksandar Stevanović – doktor socijalne medicine, Iskra Krstić – istraživačica Polekola, Žaklina Živković – članica inicijative Pravo na vodu. Panel je moderirala Miroslava Nikolić.

### Tribune “Water: Source of profit or source of life?” – Student Cultural Center, Belgrade

On the occasion of World Water Day, the Right to Water initiative organized a forum in cooperation with the Liberated Student Cultural Center, asking key questions about the availability of drinking water, the commercialization and privatization of this public good.

We discussed the importance of local, national, regional and global environmental struggles and building solidarity among different social groups affected in different ways by pollution, privatization and overexploitation of water. It was emphasized that the water from the water supply system in most of Serbia is suitable for drinking, but that the issue of trust in institutions often directs citizens towards bottled water - which is many times more expensive, without additional health benefits. It was also pointed out that water is a basic human right that is increasingly becoming the subject of market interests. She particularly pointed to the growing problem of usurpation of water resources and privatization through public-private partnerships.

The speakers were Dr Aleksandar Stevanović – doctor of social medicine, Iskra Krstić – Polekol researcher, Žaklina Živković – member of the Right to Water initiative. The panel was moderated by Miroslava Nikolić.





24.3.2025.

### Javne politike i vodna pravda u svetlu finansijalizacije vode, Madrid, Španija

U Kongresu Španije je povodom Svetskog dana vode izvršna direktorka Polekola Iva Marković govorila na skupu Ujedinjenih nacija. Ispred Narodnog pokreta za vodu čiji je Pravno na vodu član, sa svetskim ekspertima i Specijalnim UN izvestiocem za ljudska prava na pitku vodu, Pedrom Arohom, Marković je govorila o opasnostima privatizacije i komercijalizacije vode.

Cilj manifestacije posvećene javnim politikama i vodnoj pravdi bio je da se osvetle veze između vode i ekonomije, a naročito procesi komercijalizacije i finansijalizacije, čiji je značaj istaknut u izveštajima specijalnih izvestilaca UN za ljudska prava na pitku vodu i sanitaciju.



### Public policies and water consumption in the light of water financialization, Madrid, Spain

In the Congress of Spain, on the occasion of World Water Day, the executive director of Polekol Iva Marković spoke at the United Nations meeting. In front of the People's Movement for Water, of which Pravno na vodu is a member, with world experts and the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights to drinking water, Pedro Arojo, Marković spoke about the dangers of privatization and commercialization of water.

The goal of the event dedicated to public policies and water justice was to shed light on the connections between water and the economy, especially the processes of commercialization and financialization, the importance of which was highlighted in the reports of the UN special rapporteurs for human rights to drinking water and sanitation.



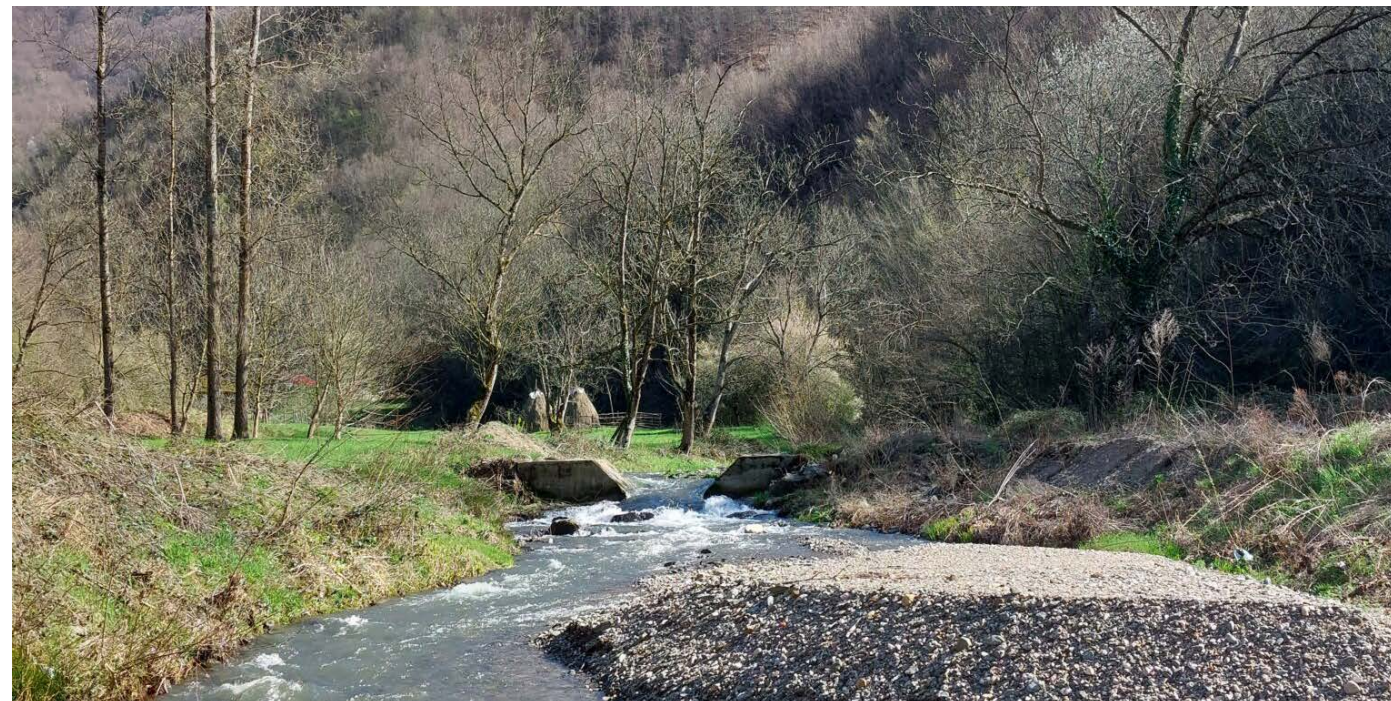
25.3.2025.

### Obilazak svih MHE i vodozahvata na području Parka prirode Golija

Polekolov pravni savetnik Strahinja Macić je zajedno sa aktivistima Spasimo Studenicu u jednom danu obišao sve mini hidroelektrane i vodozahvate koji se nalaze na teritoriji Parka prirode Golija radi dokumentovanja stanja na terenu. Materijal je iskorišćen za pisanje predstavki nadležnim inspekcijama i traženje inspeksijskog nadzora.

### Visit of all HPPs and water intakes in the Golija Nature Park

Polekol's legal advisor, Strahinja Macić, together with the activists of Save Studenica, visited all the mini-hydroelectric plants and water intakes located on the territory of the Golija Nature Park in one day in order to document the situation on the ground. The material was used to write petitions to competent inspections and request inspection supervision.





27.3.2025.

## Apel naučne zajednice za očuvanje reke Studenice

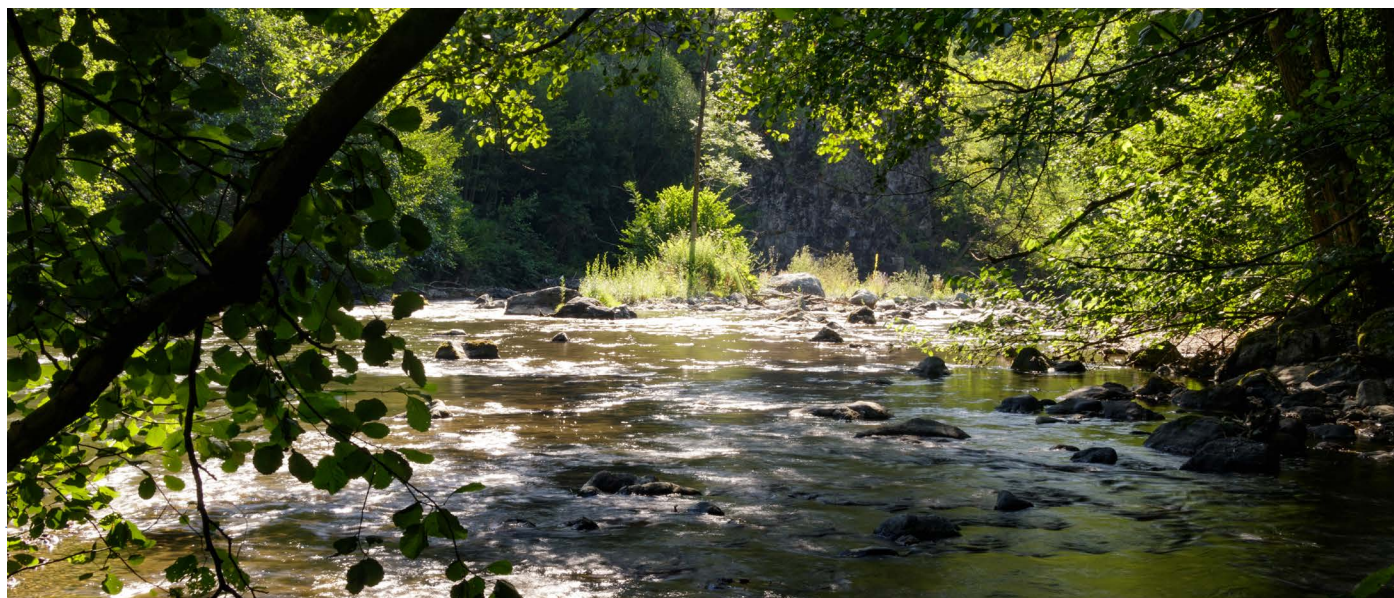
U okviru dugogodišnje borbe za očuvanje reke Studenice, Polekol je u martu uspešno inicirao izradu i objavu pisma podrške naučne zajednice za očuvanje reke od izgradnje mini hidroelektrana. Pismo je dobilo podršku preko 250 naučnika koji su se oštro usprotivili izgradnji minihydro elektrane Gradina S4 na ovoj reci, koja pripada i Parku prirode Golija.

U saradnji sa Institutom za biološka istraživanja "Siniša Stanković" i dr Markom Mirčom izrađeni su naučni argumenti koji govore o štetnim i nepovratnim efektima koje bi elektrane Gradina S4 imala na veliki broj retkih, reliktnih, zaštićenih, strogo zaštićenih i endemičnih vrsta biljaka i životinja i njihovo stanište.

## Appeal of the scientific community for the preservation of the Studenica river

Within the long-term struggle for the preservation of the Studenica river Polekol successfully initiated the drafting and publication of a letter of support from the scientific community for the preservation of the river from the construction of mini-hydroelectric plants in March. The letter was supported by over 250 scientists who strongly opposed the construction of the Gradina S4 minihydro power plant on this river, which also belongs to the Golija Nature Park.

In cooperation with the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" and Dr Marko Mirč, scientific arguments were prepared, exposing the harmful and irreversible effects that the Gradina S4 power plant would have on a large number of rare, relict, protected, strictly protected and endemic species of plants and animals and their habitat.



4.4.2025.

## Mapa mini hidroelektrane – reka Studenica

Objavili smo mapu izgrađenih i planiranih MHE na reci Studenici, kako bismo približili širem stanovništvu koliko je ovih projekata planirano i informisali ih o već nastalim i onim potencijalnim posledicama ukoliko bi se sve mini hidroelektrane sagradile.

## Map of the small hydropower plant – Studenica River

We have published a map of the built and planned small hydropower plants (SHPPs) on the Studenica River in order to make it clear to the wider public how many of these projects are planned and to inform them about the impacts that have already occurred, as well as the potential consequences if all the mini hydropower plants were to be constructed.





13.4.2025.

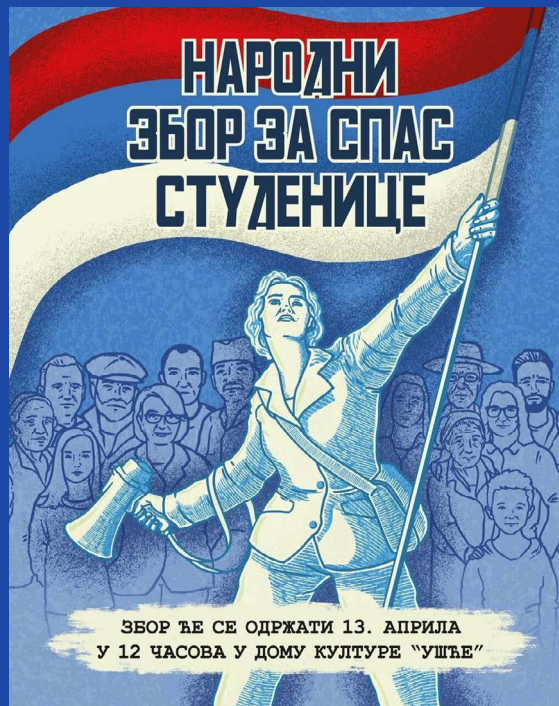
## Održan je zbor u Ušću – Meštani su protiv svih MHE na Studenici!

Sredinom aprila je investitor MHE Gradina S4 na reci Studenici dobio dozvolu za izradu urbanističkog projekta. S4 Gradina je jedna od tri planirane MHE koje će u slučaju realizacije uništiti reku i njen biodiverzitet, onemogućavajući ljudima da je koriste za navodnjavanje i proizvodnju hrane.

Na zboru građana održanom u Domu kulture "Studenica" u Ušću, više od 200 meštana, uz snažnu podršku više od 100 predstavnika ekoloških organizacija i inicijativa iz celog regiona, jednoglasno je poručilo: NE mini hidroelektranama na reci Studenici i širem području njenog sliva.

Zbor građana Ušća sazvan je oslanjajući se na pravo građana Mesne zajednice Ušće da donosi odluke u njihovom delokrugu, propisano Zakonom o lokalnoj samoupravi. Čak 10% stanovništva Ušća koji je prisustvovao Zboru pokazao je visok nivo svesti o značaju očuvanja reka i kulturno-prirodne baštine, jasno poručujući da je voda zajedničko dobro koje ne sme biti žrtvovano zarad kratkoročnog profita. Ohrabruje i činjenica da su stanovnici okolnih mesnih zajednica iskazali želju da sličan zbor organizuju u svojim sredinama i da se povežu u savez mesnih zajednica koji bi delovao na ovoj i drugim temama.

Zbor u Ušću još jednom je pokazao snagu lokalne zajednice kada je reč o odbrani javnog interesa – borba za reku Studenicu traje, i ovaj dan će ostati upisan kao važna tačka u toj borbi. Kada smo planirali prvi zbor za zaštitu reke Studenice, nismo ni sanjali da će se zborovi građana proširiti čitavom Srbijom. Zato svim meštanima Ušća, ali i drugim mestima koja slede ovaj primer, želimo da istraju u donošenju odluka u interesu ljudi i prirode. Snaga je u zajedništvu!



## The meeting in Usce clearly shows that the locals are against all HPPs on the Studenica river!

In the middle of April, the investor of MHE Gradina S4 on the river Studenica received a permit for the development of an urban project. S4 Gradina is one of the three planned MHE that, if realized, would destroy the river and its biodiversity, making it impossible for people to use it for irrigation and food production.

At the citizens' assembly held in the "Studenica" House of Culture in Usce, more than 200 residents, with the strong support of more than 100 representatives of environmental organizations and initiatives from the entire region, unanimously said: NO to mini-hydroelectric plants on the Studenica river and the wider area of its basin.

The Assembly of Citizens of Ušće was convened relying on the right of citizens of the Local Community of Ušće to make decisions within their scope, prescribed by the Law on Local Self-Government. As much as 10% of the population of Ušće who attended the Assembly showed a high level of awareness of the importance of preserving rivers and cultural and natural heritage, clearly saying that water is a common good that must not be sacrificed for the sake of short-term profit. The fact that the residents of the surrounding local communities expressed their desire to organize a similar gathering in their communities and to join an alliance of local communities that would act on this and other topics is also encouraging.

The assembly in Usce once again showed the strength of the local community when it comes to defending the public interest – the fight for the river Studenica continues, and this day will be recorded as an important point in that fight. When we

planned the first gathering for the protection of the river Studenica, we couldn't even imagine that the citizens' gatherings would spread throughout Serbia, as they have. That's why we want all residents of Ušće, as well as other places that follow this example, to persevere in making decisions in the interest of people and nature. Strength is in unity!





16.4.2025.

## Zaustavljena još jedna MHE na reci Raškoj

Polekol je u okviru svojih primedbi ukazao na to da je urbanistički projekat za mini hidroelektranu Raška 1 suprotan zakonu, podzakonskim aktima i planovima višeg reda kao i da je nezakonito stavljen na javnu prezentaciju. Sve to je imalo za rezultat da se za sada odustalo od ovog štetnog projekta.

## Another SHPP on the Raška River has been stopped

In its remarks Polekol pointed out that the urban planning project for the HPP Raška 1 is not in compliance with the law, by-laws and higher-order plans, and that it was illegally stated on public presentation. All this resulted in the abandonment of this harmful project for the time being.



27.4.2025.

## Zahtevi zbog prisustva nematoda u pijaćoj vodi Novog Sada

Inicijativa Pravo na vodu je zahtevala reagovanje odgovornih institucija zaduženih za vodosnabdevanje, uvođenje hitnih mera i obezbeđivanje higijenski ispravne vode za piće, zbog ponovne pojave nematoda (valjkastih crva) u vodi u gradskom vodovodu u Novom Sadu.

Polekol je takođe osudio performans čelnika grada koji su pred kamerama popili po čašu vode i time relativizovali problem. Zapostavljanje i posledično propadanje sistema vodosnabdevanja doveli su do toga da građani ponovo dobijaju zdravstveno spornu vodu za piće, što je nedopustivo kršenje osnovnog prava na vodu kao i važećih propisa o higijenskoj ispravnosti.

## Polekol's reaction to the presence of nematodes in the drinking water of Novi Sad

The Right to Water initiative demanded urgent reaction of the responsible institutions in charge of water supply, the introduction of emergency measures and the securing of hygienically correct drinking water, due to the reappearance of nematodes (roundworms) in the water in the city water supply in Novi Sad.

Polekol also condemned the performance of city leaders who drank a glass of water in front of the cameras and thus relativized the problem. Neglect and the consequent deterioration of the water supply system have led to the fact that citizens are once again receiving health-controversial drinking water, which is an inadmissible violation of the basic right to water as well as valid regulations on hygiene.



26.6.2025.

## 28 dana bez kiše!

Skrenuli smo pažnju na rastući problem klimatskih promena i pozvali na akciju.

Klimatske promene u Srbiji su problem za koji nismo dovoljno spremni. Balkansko poluostrvo je izuzetno pogođeno klimatskim promenama. Potrebni su nam dugoročni planovi za adaptaciju na klimatske promene i njihova primena; veći broj spasilaca, bolji sistem za vanredne situacije i bolja međusektorska saradnja između vatrogasaca, policije, hitne pomoći, štabova za vanredne situacije i jedinica civilne zaštite.

## 28 days without rain!

We drew attention to the growing problem of climate change and called for action.

Climate change in Serbia is a growing problem for which we are not sufficiently prepared. The Balkan Peninsula is extremely affected by climate change. We need long-term plans for adaptation to climate change and their implementation; more rescuers, a better system for emergency situations and better intersectoral cooperation between firefighters, police, ambulance, emergency headquarters and civil protection units.





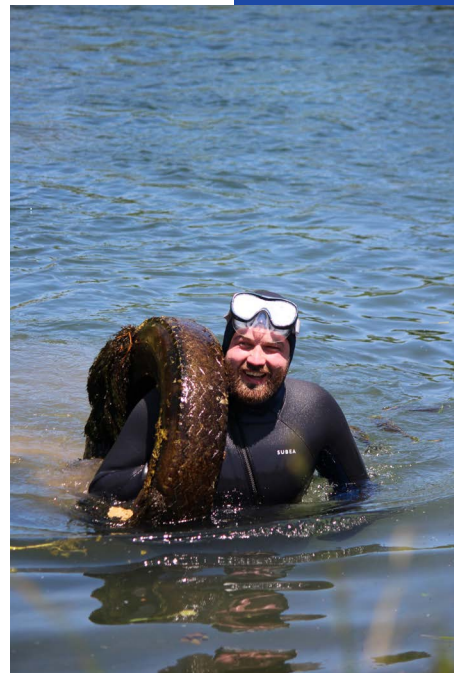
17 - 19.6.2025.

## Godišnji poslovni sastanak i tehnička konferencija Evropske mreže zdravih gradova SZO

Aleksandar Stevanović, član našeg Upravnog odbora, je predstavljao Polekol na Godišnjem poslovnom sastanku i tehničkoj konferenciji Evropske mreže zdravih gradova Svetske zdravstvene organizacije. Konferencija održana u Burzi u Turskoj bila je posvećena temi Otporni zdravi gradovi: Stvaranje održive urbane budućnosti za sve. Aleksandar je na konferenciji izlagao na temu Ko-dizajniranje hidriranog grada: korišćenje digitalnog građanskog angažovanja za bolji javni pristup vodi.

## WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference

Aleksandar Stevanović, a member of our Board of Directors, represented Polekol at the Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference of the World Health Organization's European Healthy Cities Network. The conference, held in Bursa, Turkey, was dedicated to the theme Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating a Sustainable Urban Future for All. Aleksandar gave a presentation on the topic Co-Designing a hydrated city: using digital civic engagement for better public water access.



23.6.2025.

## Plava Pliva nek je živa: Stop MHE na izvorima Plive

Polekol je na poziv Čuvara Plive i Fondacije Atelje za društvene promjene — ACT u svojstvu članice Regionalnog saveza „Obranimmo r(ij)eku Balkana“ posetio Šipovo i boravio na izvorima Plive. Zajedno sa drugim aktivistkinjama i aktivistima, uglavnom iz Bosne i Hercegovine, učestvovali smo i u drugoj akciji čišćenja korita zelene lepote.

Plivu štiti lokalno neformalno udruženje građana „Čuvari Plive“ koje je više puta podsećalo nadležne na to da je mini hidroelektrane planirana je „u sred zone koja je u pojasu zaštite prirodnih pejzaža i to tako što je oko 120 metara obale i rijeke naprosto izuzeto iz zaštitnog pojasa i prepušteno investitoru“. U procesu izdavanja dozvola su prepoznali i druge probleme, zbog čega lokalno udruženje i Fondacija Atelje za društvene promjene – ACT, kao i Centar za zaštitu životne sredine već mesecima „obaraju ruke“ sa vlastima.

Plivi treba sva pomoć koju može da dobije. Reke ne poznaju granice.



## Long live the Blue Pliva: Stop SHPP at the Springs of Pliva River

Rivers know no boundaries.

As a member of the Regional Alliance "Defend the rivers of the Balkans", Polekol visited Šipovo and the springs of Pliva River at the invitation of the "Guardians of Pliva" and the Atelier Foundation for Social Changes – ACT. Together with other activists, mainly from Bosnia and Herzegovina, we participated in the second campaign to clean the bed of the green beauty.

Pliva is protected by the local informal association of citizens "Guardians of Pliva", which repeatedly reminded the authorities that the mini HPP is planned "in the middle of a zone belonging to the protected area of natural landscapes, in such a way that about 120 meters of the river and its bank were excluded from the protection zone and left to the investor's interests". In the process of issuing permits, the local activists also recognized other problems, which is why the local association and the Atelier Foundation for Social Changes – ACT, as well as the Center for Environmental Protection, have been "wrestling hands" with the authorities for months.



27.6.2025.

### Građani Prijepolja uz podršku Polekola podneli krivičnu prijavu protiv investitora

Polekol je pružio pravnu podršku neformalnoj grupi građana Zaštitimo reke Prijepolja koja je podnela krivičnu prijavu protiv firme PowerIT iz Subotice i njenog zakonskog zastupnika zbog osnovane sumnje da su do energetske dozvole za izgradnju male hidroelektrane Velika Ploča na Ratajskoj reci došli falsifikovanjem zvaničnih dokumenata. Navodi se da su najmanje dva službena dokumenta lažirana i neovlašćeno korišćena prilikom izdavanja energetske dozvole u martu prošle godine, uz sumnju na propuste ili umešanost zaposlenih u Ministarstvu rudarstva i energetike, koji su uprkos očiglednim nepravilnostima izdali dozvolu.

### Citizens of Prijepolje, with the support of Polekol, filed a criminal complaint against the investor

Polekol provided legal support to the informal group of citizens Let's Protect the Rivers of Prijepolje, which filed a criminal complaint against the company PowerIT from Subotica and its legal representative due to reasonable suspicion that the energy permits for the construction of the SHPP Velika Ploča on the Ratajska River were obtained by falsifying official documents. It is alleged that at least two official documents were forged and used without authorization when issuing the energy permit in March last year, with suspicion of omissions or involvement of employees of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, who issued the permit despite obvious irregularities.



9.7.2025.

### Požari i suše širom Srbije: Adaptacija na klimatske promene kao nasušna potreba

Narastajuće klimatske promene, a posebno suše, ne ugrožavaju samo vodosnabdevanje već i izazivaju ogromne bezbednosne probleme kao što su požari. Polekol je skrenuo pažnju na oko šest stotina šumskih požara koje su se u julu u Srbiji razbuktali za samo nekoliko dana i kroz to istakao potrebu za adaptacijom na klimatske promene.

### Wildfire events and droughts throughout Serbia: Adaptation to climate change as an urgent need

Increasing climate changes, especially droughts, not only threaten water supplies but also cause huge security problems such as fires. Polekol drew attention to about six hundred forest fires that flared up in just a few days in July in Serbia, and through this our organisation emphasized the need for adaptation to climate change.



11.7.2025.

### Podrška građanima Sopot koji trpe restrikcije vode

Na poziv Zbora građana Sopot prisustvovali smo okupljanju organizovanom zbog učestalih restrikcija vode koje pogađaju meštane prethodnih godina. Okupljeni građani izrazili su nezadovoljstvo neadekvatnim upravljanjem vodovodnim sistemom i zahtevali odgovornost nadležnih. Istaknuto je da redovno i ravnopravno snabdevanje vodom mora biti prioritet javnih politika, a ne privilegija dostupna samo nekima. Inicijativa Pravo na Vodu je podržala zahteve građana za transparentnost, odgovornost i pravičan pristup osnovnim resursima.

### Support for the citizens of Sopot who experience water restrictions

At the invitation of the Citizens' Assembly of Sopot, we attended the gathering they organized because of frequent water restrictions which have been affecting the local population in previous years. The gathered citizens expressed dissatisfaction with the inadequate management of the water supply system and demanded that the authorities take responsibility for that. It was emphasized that regular and equal water supply must be a priority of public policies, and not a privilege available only to some. The Right to Water initiative supported citizens' demands for transparency, accountability and fair access to basic resources.





15.7.2025.

## Veseli spust Ibrom

Ove godine, po prvi put nakon trideset godina, tradicionalni događaj „Veseli spust“ dobio je i svoju aktivističku dimenziju. Polekol i Pravo na vodu su zajedno sa lokalnim inicijativama pomogli organizovanju drugačijeg načina obeležavanja ovogodišnjeg splavarenja Studenicom. Na mostovima u Bogutovcu i Mataruškoj Banji postavljeni su transparenti sa porukama: „Sačuvajmo Studenicu – STOP MHE“ i „Kraljevo će sačuvati svoje reke“, uz imena pritoka Ibra, od kojih je devet već zarobljeno u cevima. Ovo je bila jedinstvena prilika da se poruka proširi na širu javnost i privuče pažnja građana i lokalnih vlasti, uz jasan stav da kompromisa kada je reč o očuvanju ove i bilo koje druge reke u Kraljevu – neće biti.

## Cheerful Ibar River descent

This year, for the first time in thirty years, the traditional event "Cheerful Descent" also got its activist dimension. Polekol and Pravo na vodu, together with local initiatives, helped organize a new way of marking this year's Studenica rafting. On the bridges in Bogutovac and Mataruška Banja, Banners were placed with the messages: "Save Studenica - STOP MHE" and "Kraljevo will save its rivers", along with the names of the tributaries of the Ibar, nine of which are already trapped in pipes. This was a unique opportunity to spread the message to the wider public and attract the attention of citizens and local authorities, with a clear attitude that there will be no compromise when it comes to the preservation of this and any other river in Kraljevo.



4.8.2025.

## Da se žedan glas čuje: Prijavite problem sa vodosnabdevanjem

Inicijativa Pravo na vodu organizacije Polekol je pokrenula kampanju kojom se građani pozivaju da putem onlajn formulara prijave lokalne probleme u vodosnabdevanju. Ova kampanja uključuje građane u rešavanje problema tako što mapira restrikcije i prekide u vodosnabdevanju, prikupljajući pouzdane podatke o tome gde i kada dolazi do nestašica, i na kraju izrađuje mape nestašica vode širom Srbije. Ova akcija takođe podiže svest o tome da je problem rasprostranjen i sistemski, a ne samo skup pojedinačnih lokalnih incidenata.

Građani se podstiču da aktivno doprinesu tako što će deliti informacije iz svojih zajednica. Prikupljeni izveštaji koristiće se za izradu godišnje mape problema u vodosnabdevanju u Srbiji, koja će istaknuti najpogođenije oblasti, izvršiti pritisak na lokalne vlasti i ojačati javne zahteve za sistemskim rešenjima. Ova kampanja je nastavak našeg dugogodišnjeg praćenja stanja u vodosnabdevanju tokom letnjih meseci i šalje jasnu poruku: pristup vodi je osnovno pravo, a ne privilegija.

## Make the thirsty voice heard: Report a problem with water supply

Polekol's Right to Water initiative launched a campaign inviting people to report local water supply issues through an online form. The campaign involves citizens in problem-solving by mapping restrictions and breakdowns, collecting reliable data on where and when shortages occur, and ultimately creating maps of water restrictions and shortages across Serbia. This effort also raises awareness by showing that the problem is widespread and systemic, not just a series of isolated local incidents.

Through this action, we encourage citizens to actively contribute by sharing information from their communities. The reports will be used to produce an annual map of water supply issues in Serbia, highlighting the most affected areas, pressuring local authorities to act, and strengthening public calls for systemic solutions. The campaign continues our long-term monitoring of summer water supply conditions and delivers a clear message: access to water is a fundamental right, not a privilege.

Javite nam  
**Da li imate problema sa vodosnabdevanjem?**  
Pomozite da mapiramo lokacije sa restrikcijama vode!



**LINK ZA PRIJAVU U OPISU OBJAVE**



6 - 7.8.2025.

## Studenica pod lupom nauke

U saradnji sa Odeljenjem za hidroekologiju Instituta za biološka istraživanja „Siniša Stanković“ iz Beograda sprovedena su terenska istraživanja donjeg toka Studenice, na pet lokacija od ušća Brevine do ušća Studenice u Ibar. Sa ciljem prikupljanja stručnih podataka o ekosistemu ove reke, izmereni su osnovni parametri vode i sproveden elektroribolov na pet lokacija, koji su pokazali prisustvo osam vrsta riba, od kojih su većina zaštićene ili strogo zaštićene.

Posebno je značajno što su u ovom delu reke, prvi put u ovom području, zabeleženi balkanski vijun (*Sabanejewia balcanica*) i brkica (*Barbatula barbatula*). Ovi nalazi predstavljaju važnu osnovu za argumentovano zalaganje za trajnu zaštitu reke Studenice i zaustavljanje štetnih zahvata poput izgradnje malih hidroelektrana. Stručna dokumentacija prikupljena tokom istraživanja predstavlja ključni alat u pravnoj, institucionalnoj i javnoj borbi za očuvanje Studenice.



## Scientific field research on Studenica

In cooperation with the Hydroecology Department of the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" from Belgrade, field research was carried out in the lower course of the Studenica, at five locations from the mouth of Brevina river to the mouth of Studenica in the Ibar river. With the aim of collecting expert data on the ecosystem of this river, scientists took basic water parameters and measured electrofishing at five locations. The research showed the presence of eight species of fish, most of which are protected or strictly protected.

It is particularly significant that in this part of the river, for the first time in this geographic area, the Balkan curlew (*Sabanejewia balcanica*) and the barbatula (*Barbatula barbatula*) were recorded. These findings represent an important basis for a well-argued commitment to the permanent protection of the Studenica river and the stopping of harmful interventions such as the construction of small hydropower plants. Professional documentation collected during the research represents a key tool in the legal, institutional and public fight for the preservation of Studenica river.



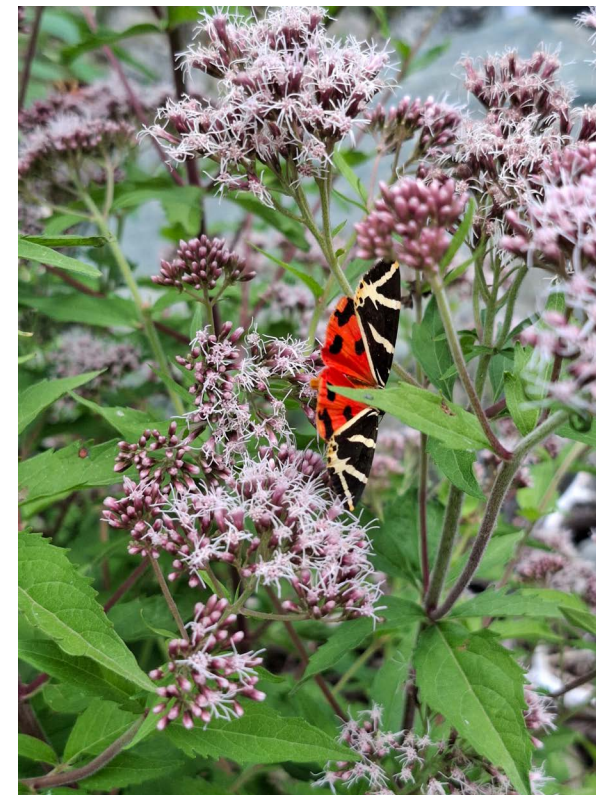
11.8.2025.

## Predstavka Vodnoj inspekciji zbog ilegalnog kaptiranja reke Brevine

Reka Brevina je ilegalno kaptirana za potrebe obližnjeg ribnjaka i MHE Brevina, što je Polekol prijavio Vodnoj inspekciji. Voda je crpljena iz derivacije dodatno smanjujući minimalni proticaj umanjen sušom. Vodozahvat je porušen po nalogu inspekcije i predmet je predat na dalje postupanje građevinskoj inspekciji. Na taj način, proticaj na Brevini je vraćen na nivo biološkog minimuma.

## A report to the Water Inspectorate regarding the illegal capture of the river Brevina

The Brevina River was illegally captured for the needs of the nearby pond and Brevina HPP, which Polekol reported to the Water Inspection. Water was pumped from the derivation further reducing the drought-reduced minimum flow. The intake structure was demolished by order of the inspection and the case was handed over to the construction inspection for further processing. In this way, the flow on the Brevina was returned to the level of the biological minimum.





18.8.2025.

## Rastuća humanitarna kriza u Srbiji: Više od 100 mesta bez pijaće vode

Inicijativa Pravo na vodu je tokom leta 2025. je po treću godinu za redom sprovela istraživanje o problemima u vodosnabdevanju širom Srbije. Tokom juna, jula i avgusta građani su prijavili 108 lokacija sa restrikcijama, kvarovima i potpunim nestašicama pijaće vode. Prijave su stizale iz svih krajeva zemlje – od severa Vojvodine do juga Srbije – i ukazivale na presušene bunare, mutnu vodu, pucanje cevovoda i svakodnevnu nepravdu života bez pristupa sigurnoj vodi.

Najveći teret nestašica snose sela i manja mesta, gde ljudi često zavise od cisterni, dok stočarstvo i poljoprivreda trpe ogromne gubitke. U pojedinim zajednicama građani su nedeljama ostajali bez vode. Lokalne samouprave su na to odgovarale uvođenjem restrikcija i apelima za štednju, prebacujući krivicu na "nenamensku potrošnju", umesto da rešavaju duboke infrastrukturne i sistemske probleme. Konkretni primeri pokazuju koliko je situacija alarmantna.

U Gadžinom Hanu i okolnim selima u Zaplanju stanovništvo se oslanja na samo jedno izvorište, bez ulaganja u alternativne ili unapređene sisteme vodosnabdevanja. U Donjem Brijanju kod Leskovca, više od hiljadu stanovnika, među kojima ima mnogo dece i starijih, uopšte nema vodovod; većina bunara je presušila ili voda nije ispravna, a područje je decenijama pogođeno endemskim nefritisom – bolešću bubrega direktno vezanom za loš kvalitet vode. U Lebanu, jednoj od najžednijih opština u Srbiji, glavni izvor – reka Šumanka – potpuno je presušio dve godine zaredom, dok vlasti kao rešenje nude izgradnju ogromne brane na reci koja više ne teče.

Naše istraživanje pokazuje da nestašice vode nisu izazvane samo klimatskim promenama i dugotrajnim sušama, već i zanemarenom infrastrukturom, lošim planiranjem i političkim promašajima. Građani su kroz ovu kampanju postali aktivni učesnici u dokumentovanju stanja i ukazivanju na propuste. Na osnovu prikupljenih podataka izradili smo mapu restrikcija i nestašica vode u Srbiji. Ona jasno pokazuje da problem nije izolovan, već sistemski i rasprostranjen, te da zahteva dugoročna, odgovorna i pravedna rešenja. Kroz ovo istraživanje i javno zagovaranje podsećamo da pristup čistoj i sigurnoj vodi nije privilegija, već osnovno ljudsko pravo.

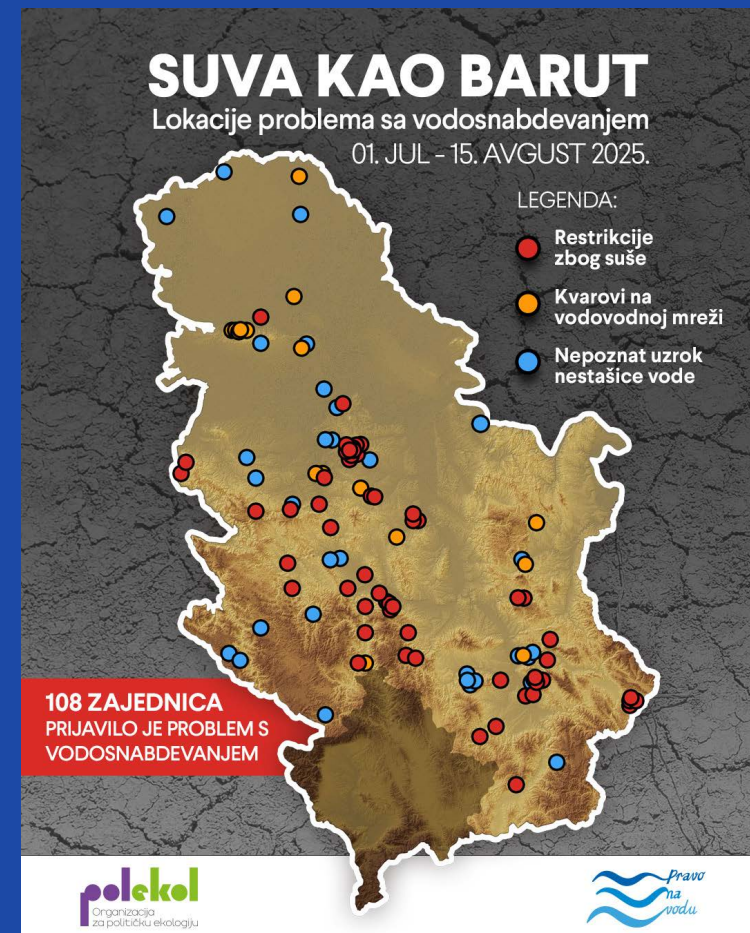
### Research on water restrictions – Summer 2025

This summer, the Right to Water initiative researched water supply problems across Serbia. During June, July, and August, citizens reported 108 locations facing restrictions, breakdowns, and complete water shortages. Reports came from all parts of the country – from the north of Vojvodina to the south of Serbia – describing dry wells, muddy water, burst pipelines, and the everyday injustice of living without access to safe water.

The burden of shortages is felt most severely in villages and smaller communities, where people often depend on water delivered by tankers, while livestock and agriculture suffer enormous losses. In some places, residents were left without water for weeks. Local governments responded by imposing restrictions and urging citizens to reduce consumption, shifting the blame onto "misuse of water" instead of addressing deep infrastructural and systemic problems. Concrete examples illustrate how alarming the situation has become.

In Gadžin Han and the surrounding villages in Zaplanje, the population depends on a single water source, with no investments in alternative or improved supply. In Donje Brijanje near Leskovac, over a thousand residents, including children and elderly people, have no access to piped water at all; most wells have dried up or are unsafe, and the area has been plagued for decades by endemic kidney disease linked to poor water quality. Meanwhile, in Lebane, one of Serbia's thirstiest municipalities, the main source of water – the Šumanka River – has completely dried up two summers in a row, while the government's proposed solution is to build a massive dam on the very same river that no longer flows.

Our findings show that water shortages are not caused only by climate change and prolonged droughts, but also by neglected infrastructure, poor planning, and political failures. Through this campaign, citizens became active participants in documenting the situation and exposing shortcomings. Based on the collected data, we created a map of water restrictions and shortages in Serbia. The map demonstrates that the problem is not isolated but widespread and systemic, demanding long-term, responsible, and just solutions. Through this research and advocacy, we underline that access to safe and clean drinking water is not a privilege but a fundamental human right.





23.8.2025.

## Bicikliranje i česama čekiranje – Beograd

U avgustu je inicijativa Pravo na vodu, zajedno sa biciklističkom grupom Mačje oko, organizovala akciju „Bicikliranje i česama čekiranje“. Cilj je bio da se na terenu proveri stanje javnih česmi u Beogradu, kojih ima ukupno 205 priključenih na gradski vodovod.

Četrdeset biciklista su, podeljeni u timove, tokom jednog dana obišli beogradske javne česme na različitim rutama i beležili da li postoje, da li rade i da li je na njima dostupna voda. Akcija je ukazala na značaj dostupnosti besplatne vode u javnom prostoru, naročito tokom toplotnih talasa izazvanih klimatskim promenama, kada je voda ključna za zdravlje i bezbednost građana, posebno dece, starijih i najugroženijih.

## Cycling and fountain checking – Belgrade

In August, the Right to Water initiative and the Mačje oko cycling group jointly organized the action "Cycling and fountain checking". The goal was to assess the condition of public drinking fountains in Belgrade, of which there are 205 connected to the city water supply.

Forty cyclists, divided into teams, visited Belgrade's public fountains along different routes in a single day, recording whether they existed, whether they were functioning, and whether water was available. The action highlighted the importance of access to free drinking water in public spaces, especially during heat waves caused by climate change, when water is essential for the health and safety of citizens, particularly children, the elderly, and the most vulnerable.





21.8.2025.

## Obilazak Dunava i Jezave sa pokretom Tvrđava – Smederevo

Zajedno sa pokretom Tvrđava, inicijativa Pravo na vodu je obišla Dunav i Ježavu u Smederevu kako bi ukazali na značaj ovih reka za urbane sredine, ali i na ugroženost usled industrijskog zagađenja i netretiranih otpadnih voda.

Pokret Tvrđava već godinama istrajno radi na očuvanju životne sredine i pritisku na institucije da primenjuju zakone, zahvaljujući čemu su pokrenute važne inspeksijske reakcije na mnogobrojne slučajeve zagađenja. Zajedno su razgovarali o problemima, ali i o potencijalu Dunava kao prostora za zaštitu prirode i održivi razvoj, gradeći mrežu solidarnog otpora i nade.



## Tour of the Danube and Jezava river with the Tvrđava Movement – Smederevo

Together with the Tvrđava Movement, the Right to Water initiative toured the Danube and Jezava rivers in Smederevo to highlight the importance of these rivers for urban areas, as well as their vulnerability due to industrial pollution and untreated wastewater.

The Tvrđava Movement has been persistently working for years to protect the environment and pressure institutions to enforce laws, which has led to important inspection actions in numerous cases of pollution. Together, they discussed the problems, as well as the potential of the Danube as a space for nature conservation and sustainable development, building a network of solidarity, resistance, and hope.



23.8.2025.

## Pravo na vodu na Festivalu vode Zbora građana Lazarevac

Opština Lazarevac trpi gubitke na vodovodnoj mreži koji prelaze 60% proizvedene vode. Umesto ulaganja u sanaciju i obnovu infrastrukture, gradske vlasti su posegle za merom restrikcija, koja pogađa sve građane, bez obzira na njihove potrebe i prava. Zbor građana opštine Lazarevac, organizovao je i okupio sugrađane na Festivalu vode, kako bi ukazali na nepravdu i izneli svoje zahteve: hitnu obnovu mreže, transparentnost u radu javnog komunalnog preduzeća i učešće građana u donošenju odluka koje se tiču osnovnih životnih potreba.

## Right to Water at the Water Festival of the Citizens' Assembly of Lazarevac

The municipality of Lazarevac suffers losses in its water supply network exceeding 60% of the water produced. Instead of investing in the repair and renewal of infrastructure, the city authorities resorted to water restrictions, which affect all citizens regardless of their needs and rights. The Citizens' Assembly of Lazarevac organized and brought together residents at the Water Festival to highlight this injustice and present their demands: urgent network rehabilitation, transparency in the operations of the public utility company, and citizen participation in decision-making on matters affecting basic life needs.



27.8.2025.

## Tribina u Obrenovcu – Kome, čemu... EXPO?

Na poziv Zbora Obrenovac, Polekol je učestvovao na javnoj tribini "Kome, čemu... EXPO?", koja je održana pred nekoliko desetina zainteresovanih građana iz Obrenovca i gostiju iz solidarnog zbora Surčina. Polekol su tom prilikom predstavljale Iva Marković i Iskra Krstić, koje su govorile o aspektima urbanizma, očuvanja vodoizvorišta i zaštite životne sredine, dok je dodatnu stručnu perspektivu dala profesorka Aleksandra Nenadović.

U razgovoru koji je trajao više od tri sata, otvorena su ključna pitanja: Da li je EXPO 2027 u javnom interesu? Kome koristi? Koje su dugoročne posledice po prirodu, vodu i lokalne zajednice? Učesnici su jasno ukazali na manjak demokratske debate i odlučivanja u vezi s projektima ove veličine i važnosti, kao i na rizike koje EXPO donosi.



## Panel in Obrenovac – Who, What... EXPO?

At the invitation of the Citizens' Assembly of Obrenovac, Polekol participated in the public panel "Who, What... EXPO?", held in front of several dozen interested citizens from Obrenovac and guests from the solidary Citizens' Assembly of Surčin. Polekol was represented by Iva Marković and Iskra Krstić, who spoke about aspects of urban planning, protection of water sources, and environmental conservation, while additional expert insight was provided by Professor Aleksandra Nenadović.

During the discussion, which lasted over three hours, key questions were raised: Is EXPO 2027 in the public interest? Who benefits from it? What are the long-term consequences for nature, water, and local communities? Participants clearly pointed out the lack of democratic debate and decision-making regarding projects of this scale and importance, as well as the risks posed by EXPO.





6.9.2025.

## Predlozi za Nacrt Zakona o zaštiti prirode

Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine je otpočelo izradu Nacrta novog Zakona o zaštiti prirode. Polekol je uputio pismene predloge na Polazne osnove za izradu ovog dokumenta sa posebnim akcentom na vraćanje instituta prethodne zaštite u naš pravni poredak, uvođenje slatkovodnih zaštićenih područja kao sledećeg koraka u razvoju instituta i zaštiti posebnih staništa riba. Izneli smo zahtev da se ocena prihvatljivosti, čije se normiranje neprihvatljivo dugo odlaže, normira zakonom, a ne podzakonskim aktima kako je sada propisano, ali ne i sprovedeno. Radi unapređenja kaznenopravne zaštite prirodnih dobara, predložili smo propisivanje stožih i delotvornijih kazni i mera za privredne prestupe i prekršaje propisane Zakonom. Ovde se kao naročito značajna iskazuje potreba da se propišu bitno duži rokovi zastarelosti za zakonom propisane prekršaje.

## Proposals for the Draft Nature Protection Law

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has begun drafting a new Nature Protection Law. Polekol submitted written proposals on the Draft Foundations for the preparation of this document, with a particular focus on reinstating the institute of prior protection in our legal system, introducing freshwater protected areas as the next step in the development of this institute, and protecting specific fish habitats. We requested that the assessment of acceptability, which has been unacceptably delayed, be regulated by law rather than by subordinate regulations, as is currently prescribed but not implemented. To improve criminal and administrative protection of natural resources, we proposed prescribing stricter and more effective penalties and measures for economic offenses and violations regulated by the Law. In this context, the need to establish significantly longer statutes of limitations for violations prescribed by law is particularly important.



11.9.2025.

## Spasena Ratajska reka – poništena dozvola za MHE Velika ploča – Prijepolje

Zahvaljujući upornosti inicijativa Zaštitimo reke Prijepolja i Pravo na vodu, Ratajska reka je sačuvana od izgradnje MHE „Velika ploča“. Nakon što su ove inicijative otkrile da su vodna dozvola i lokacijski uslovi falsifikovani, Ministarstvo rudarstva i energije je bilo primorano da poništi izdato rešenje.

Polekol je pružio stručnu i javnu podršku ovoj borbi, koja je pokazala koliki značaj imaju pravovremena reakcija i udruženo delovanje građana i organizacija. Paralelno sa ovom pobedom, aktivisti su inicirali i formalnu zaštitu Ratajske reke, čime otvaraju put za trajno očuvanje ovog dragocenog vodotoka.

## Ratajska River saved – permit for SHPP Velika Ploča cancelled – Prijepolje

Thanks to the persistence of the initiatives Protect the Rivers of Prijepolje and Right to Water, the Ratajska River was saved from the construction of the Velika Ploča Small Hydropower Plant. After these initiatives discovered that the water permit and site conditions had been falsified, the Ministry of Mining and Energy was forced to revoke the issued decision.

Polekol provided expert and public support for this fight, which demonstrated the importance of timely action and coordinated efforts by citizens and organizations. In parallel with this victory, activists initiated formal protection of the Ratajska River, paving the way for the permanent preservation of this valuable watercourse.



9.7.2025.

## Sopotnica odbranjena od dve mini hidroelektrane!

Zavod za zaštitu prirode Srbije zvanično je odbio zahtev za izdavanje uslova neophodnih za izradu Plana detaljne regulacije za dve mini hidroelektrane „Lipovica“ i „Vir“ na reci Sopotnici. To pokazuje da upornost građana, aktivista i stručnjaka ima snagu i da nijedna bitka za reke nije uzaludna. Sopotnica će i dalje teći slobodna.

“Sada je vreme da i opština Prijepolje uvaži zahteve građana, udruženja i naučne zajednice, i da uvede moratorijum na izgradnju mini hidroelektrana na teritoriji cele opštine, kako bi se konačno stavila tačka na planove koji ugrožavaju prijepljske reke”, poručio je Polekol

## Sopotnica was defended from two small hydropower plants!

The Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia officially rejected the request to issue the conditions necessary for drafting the Detailed Regulation Plan for the two small hydropower plants, „Lipovica“ and „Vir“, on the Sopotnica River. This demonstrates that the persistence of citizens, activists, and experts is powerful and that no fight for rivers is in vain. The Sopotnica will continue to flow freely.

“It is time for the municipality of Prijepolje to heed the demands of citizens, associations, and the scientific community, and to introduce a moratorium on the construction of small hydropower plants across the entire municipality, finally putting an end to plans that threaten the rivers of Prijepolje,” stated Polekol.



1.10.2025.

## **Polekol podneo predloge i primedbe na Nacrt Krivičnog zakonika**

Polekol je učestvovao u Javnoj raspravi o Nacrtu zakona o izmenama i dopunama Krivičnog zakonika i Zakona o krivičnom postupku, slanjem komentara koji treba da doprinesu da ovi zakoni bolje prepoznaju i sankcionišu ugrožavanje životne sredine.

Zahtevali smo hitno uvođenje Direktive (EU) 2024/1203 o zaštiti životne sredine putem krivičnog prava (Environmental Crime Directive), kako bi se zakonodavstvo uskladilo sa rastućom pretnjom ekološkog kriminala, koji globalno beleži rast od 5-7% godišnje i ima karakteristike organizovanog kriminala. Istaknuto je da postojeći zakonski okvir i sudska praksa u Srbiji nisu usklađeni sa zahtevima za zaštitu životne sredine, što predstavlja ozbiljan rizik po javno dobro.

Polekol je naglasio da su normativne promene nužne kako bi se ovaj jaz premostio i omogućila efikasnija zaštita životne sredine kroz krivičnopravni sistem. Posebna pažnja je posvećena krivičnim delima u vezi sa šumskom krađom, pustošenjem šuma, nezakonitim lovom i ribolovom. Polekol je predložio da se obavezno izriču i kazne zatvora i novčane kazne, uz dodatne mere zaštite i unapređenja životne sredine. U izveštaju je naglašeno da sudovi u praksi blago postupaju prema počiniocima ekoloških krivičnih dela, dodeljujući kazne na minimumu zakonskog okvira, što ne doprinosi potrebnom stepenu prevencije.

Polekol je ukazao na podatak da je samo u 12,1% slučajeva izrečena kazna zatvora, dok se u mnogim slučajevima primenjuje kućni zatvor. Istraživanja na koja se Polekol pozvao pokazala su visok procenat povratnika među počiniocima ovih dela – čak

37,8% su povratnici, pri čemu su mnogi bili osuđeni za isto delo više puta. Ove činjenice dodatno potvrđuju nedostatak efikasnosti trenutne kaznene politike.

Kao obaveznu meru, Polekol je predložio da sudovi za sve ekološke prekršaje izriču obavezu preduzimanja mera zaštite i unapređenja životne sredine. Istaknuto je da trenutna praksa nije primenila ovu obavezu ni u jednom od analiziranih slučajeva. Polekol je ukazao i na ozbiljan propust u zaštiti životne sredine, budući da uslovna osuda, kao dominantna sankcija (52% slučajeva), ne uključuje obavezu zaštitnih mera. Zatraženo je da se ova praksa promeni kako bi se poboljšala zaštita i očuvanje prirode.

## **Polekol submitted proposals and comments on the Draft Criminal Code**

Polekol participated in the public discussion on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code by submitting comments aimed at helping these laws better recognize and sanction environmental harm.

We called for the urgent implementation of Directive (EU) 2024/1203 on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (Environmental Crime Directive), in order to align legislation with the growing threat of environmental crime, which is increasing globally by 5-7% annually and exhibits characteristics of organized crime. It was emphasized that the existing legal framework and judicial practice in Serbia are not aligned with the requirements for environmental protection, posing a serious risk to the public good.

Polekol emphasized that legislative changes are necessary to bridge this gap and enable more effective environmental protection through the criminal justice system. Special attention was given to crimes related to forest theft, deforestation, illegal hunting, and fishing. Polekol proposed that both custodial sentences and fines be mandatory, along with additional measures for environmental protection and improvement. The report highlighted that courts, in practice, treat perpetrators of environmental crimes leniently, imposing penalties at the minimum of the legal framework, which fails to provide the necessary level of deterrence.

Polekol pointed out that custodial sentences were imposed in only 12.1% of cases, while in many instances, house arrest was applied. Research cited by Polekol showed a high rate of recidivism among offenders of these crimes – 37.8% were repeat offenders, many of whom had been convicted multiple times for the same offense. These facts further highlight the inefficiency of the current penal policy.

As a mandatory measure, Polekol proposed that courts impose the obligation to undertake environmental protection and improvement measures for all ecological offenses. It was emphasized that current practice has not applied this obligation in any of the analyzed cases. Polekol also pointed out a serious shortcoming in environmental protection, noting that suspended sentences, which are the dominant sanction (52% of cases), do not include the requirement to implement protective measures. A change in this practice was requested to enhance the protection and preservation of nature.



8 - 11.10.2025.

## Prezentacija rezultata istraživanja na Studenici na kongresu ihtiologa u Baru (CG)

Pravnik Polekola, Strahinja Macić, je koautor istraživanja "Fish Diversity in the Salmonid-Cyprinid Transition Zone of the Studenica River Under Increasing Anthropogenic Pressures". Istraživanje sprovedeno u saradnji sa institutom IBISS prezentirano je na trećoj konferenciji ihtiologa iz Jugoistočne Evrope – 3rd Southeast European Ichthyological Conference (SEEIC 2025)

Gornji tok reke Studenice uživa status UNESCO rezervata biosfere, dok njen donji tok još uvek nema adekvatnu zaštitu, naglašava se u istraživanju. Istraživanja potvrđuju da je očuvanje celog toka ključno za opstanak autohtonih i zaštićenih vrsta riba. Reka je već izložena raznolikim pritiscima, što zajedno dovodi do postepenog gubitka biodiverziteta. Neophodno je proširiti istraživanja na ceo tok reke, da bi se utvrdilo trenutno stanje zajednice riba i hitno uvesti mere zaštite koje će obuhvatiti i donji deo Studenice, kako bi se sačuvala njena prirodna celovitost i bogatstvo biodiverziteta, zaključuju istraživači.

## Results of research at Studenica presented at the SEEIC 2025

The Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia officially rejected the request to issue the conditions necessary for drafting the Detailed Regulation Plan for the two small hydropower plants, „Lipovica“ and „Vir“, on the Sopotnica River. This demonstrates that the persistence of citizens, activists, and experts is powerful and that no fight for rivers is in vain. The Sopotnica will continue to flow freely.

**Fish Diversity in the Salmonid-Cyprinid Transition Zone of the Studenica River Under Increasing Anthropogenic Pressure**

Čanak Atagić Jelena<sup>1</sup>, Stanković Jelena<sup>2</sup>, Tubić Bojana<sup>3</sup>, Đukić Jelena<sup>3</sup>, Ilić Marija<sup>3</sup>, Macić Strahinja<sup>3</sup>, Paučević Miroslav<sup>4</sup>  
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<sup>2</sup>Polekol Organisation for political ecology

**1 INTRODUCTION**  
 The Studenica River rises in south-west Serbia at 1,600 m on Golija Mountain, flows through a gorge with canyon elements, and joins the Ibar River at 340 m. This river has a very steep average slope of 25 m/km. Along its course, it shapes breathtaking landscapes, where steep gorges, clear waters, and unspoiled mountain scenery create an environment of rare beauty and uniqueness.

Its inaccessibility preserved diverse fauna and rich relict and endemic tertiary flora, enhancing the landscape value of the Golija Biosphere Reserve. In its upper reaches, fish communities are dominated by *Salmo trutta*, accompanied by *Cottus gobio*, whereas downstream the habitat gradually shifts towards cyprinid waters.

**2 METHODOLOGY**

In August 2025, five 100-m transects in the lowest 50 km—at the site of the planned SHPP dam—were sampled by electrofishing. Data were corrected for efficiency and pooled for diversity, evenness, and ecological analyses.

**3 RESULTS**  
 The fish community of the researched stretch reflects a transition between the cold, fast-flowing upper reaches and the warmer, slower-flowing Ibar River.

Conductivity (µS/cm)	Temperature (°C)	Number of species	Shannon diversity	Evenness	Sink coefficient (index)
100	15–20	8	0.8	0.4	3.7

Dominant species are *Barbus balcanicus* and *Alburnoides bipunctatus*, along with *Squalius cephalus*, *Salmo trutta*, *Sabonirwetia balcanica* and less numerous *Barbatula barbatula*, *Gobio gobio*, and *Cottus gobio*, indicating high habitat heterogeneity with benthic and pelagic niches. All species recorded are native.

According to national legislation, *C. gobio* and *S. balcanica* are strictly protected fish species, while *B. balcanicus*, *A. bipunctatus*, *S. cephalus*, and *S. trutta* are protected. *S. balcanicus* and *B. barbatula* were detected for the first time in this sparsely studied area of the Studenica River.

Diversity indices indicated a relatively rich and balanced community structure, suggesting stable interactions and favorable habitat conditions. Although, last surveys over the years recorded the decline of the *Salmo trutta* abundance.

The fish ecological index confirmed characteristics of an upper rithron community, while the ABC curve pointed to moderate stress, indicating pressures that could affect species composition and ecosystem stability.

**4 CONCLUSIONS**

The planned SHPP with a dam and reservoir, together with six existing facilities in the catchment and additional pressures such as quarrying, fishing, fisheries, deforestation, municipal waste, and sewage, would substantially intensify anthropogenic stress on the Studenica River.

The dam would disrupt the natural hydrological regime, fragment habitats, and diminish water quality, resulting in the loss of ecological features characteristic of salmonid waters. Such impacts pose a particular threat to the already declining *Salmo trutta* population, as well as to other protected aquatic species.

Considering that the lower course of the Studenica River is a potential Site of Community Importance (SCI), and that most of its length lies within the Golija Nature Park and the UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserve Golija-Studenica, the construction of this SHPP is incompatible with the preservation of its ecological and landscape values.

Conservation efforts should instead prioritize the reduction of existing pressures through improved management and sustainable practices.

**Recorded species:**

- Barbus balcanicus 54.1 %
- Alburnoides bipunctatus 42.6 %
- Squalius cephalus 1.7 %
- Salmo trutta 0.5 %
- Sabonirwetia balcanica 0.4 %
- Barbatula barbatula 0.4 %
- Cottus gobio 0.2 %
- Gobio gobio 0.1 %

"It is time for the municipality of Prijepolje to heed the demands of citizens, associations, and the scientific community, and to introduce a moratorium on the construction of small hydropower plants across the entire municipality, finally putting an end to plans that threaten the rivers of Prijepolje," stated Polekol.



9.10.2025.

## Zahtev za ukidanje građevinske dozvole MHE "Suknari" na reci Bistrici u opštini Vlasotince

Organizacija Polekol podnela je zahtev Opštini Vlasotince za ukidanje građevinske dozvole za malu hidroelektranu "Suknari" na reci Bistrici, jer objekat nikada nije završen, niti je pribavljena upotrebna dozvola – što po zakonu znači da je dozvola već trebalo da bude nevažeća.

Investitor je tokom godina više puta kršio propise: menjao je projekat bez dozvole, nije pribavio nove vodne uslove, niti saglasnost Zavoda za zaštitu prirode. Odeljenje za urbanizam Opštine Vlasotince to je omogućilo, što predstavlja nastavak sporne prakse viđene i u slučaju MHE Besko. Polekol je takođe zatražio vanredni inspekcijki nadzor i podsetio nadležne da male hidroelektrane nisu ispunile energetske ciljeve, ali su zato nanele veliku štetu rekama, zakonima i lokalnim zajednicama.

## Request for the revocation of the construction permit for the SHPP "Suknari" on the Bistrica River in the municipality of Vlasotince

The organization Polekol submitted a request to the municipality of Vlasotince for the revocation of the construction permit for the "Suknari" small hydropower plant on the Bistrica River, as the facility was never completed and no occupancy permit was obtained—which, according to the law, means the permit should already be invalid.

Over the years, the investor repeatedly violated regulations: changing the project without authorization, failing to obtain new water permits, and not securing approval from the Institute for Nature Conservation. The Urban Planning Department of the municipality of Vlasotince allowed this, continuing the questionable practices seen in the case of the SHPP Besko. Polekol also requested an extraordinary inspection and reminded authorities that small hydropower plants have not met energy targets, while causing significant damage to rivers, legal frameworks, and local communities.



20.10.2025.

## Građani Zrenjanina imaju pravo da znaju šta piju!

Inicijativa Pravo na vodu i ekološke organizacije tražile su dnevne analize i potpunu transparentnost kvaliteta pijaće vode u Zrenjaninu. Zbog izuzetno visokog nepoverenja javnosti i ogromnog značaja zdravstveno ispravne pijaće vode u svakom domaćinstvu, inicijativa Pravo na vodu, zajedno sa drugim ekološkim organizacijama iz Srbije, zahteva da se obezbede sredstva i da Zavod za javno zdravlje Zrenjanin vrši svakodnevno ispitivanje i javno objavljivanje rezultata kvaliteta vode, u zvaničnim i javno dostupnim glasilima, i to u formi razumljivoj građanima.

## The citizens of Zrenjanin have the right to know what they are drinking!

The Right to Water initiative and environmental organizations have called for daily testing and full transparency of drinking water quality in Zrenjanin. Due to extremely high public distrust and the critical importance of safe drinking water in every household, the Right to Water initiative, together with other environmental organizations from Serbia, demands that funds be secured and that the Zrenjanin Public Health Institute conduct daily testing and publicly release water quality results in official and publicly accessible outlets, in a format understandable to citizens.



22.10.2025.

## Tribina “Brana Svračkovo – spas ili pretnja?” , Arilje

Na javnoj tribini „Brana Svračkovo – spas ili pretnja?” održane u Arilju, pred prepunom salom doma kulture je u ime Polekola govorila Žaklina Živković. Razgovaralo se o bezbednosnim, ekološkim, ekonomskim i društvenim posledicama izgradnje brane Svračkovo. Stručnjaci su istakli rizike kao što su hidrogeološke posledice, nestabilnost zbog tektonskih aktivnosti i znatno povećanje troškova projekta.

Građani su godinama isključeni iz odlučivanja, a problemi sa vodosnabdevanjem i mogućnost privatizacije izazivaju zabrinutost, dok izgradnja brane traje duže od 16 godina i i dalje nije završena. Žaklina je naglasila da rešenje nije u novim akumulacijama, već u transparentnom i odgovornom upravljanju vodom kao zajedničkim dobrom. Društvo „Rzavljani” najavljuje nastavak aktivnosti i insistira na uključivanju građana u odluke koje utiču na njihov život i prirodu.



## Panel “Svračkovo Dam – salvation or threat?” , Arilje

At the public panel “Svračkovo Dam – salvation or threat?” held in Arilje, in front of a full hall at the cultural center, Žaklina Živković spoke on behalf of Polekol. The discussion focused on the safety, ecological, economic, and social consequences of constructing the Svračkovo Dam. Experts highlighted risks such as hydrogeological impacts, instability due to tectonic activity, and significantly increased project costs.

Citizens have been excluded from decision-making for years, and issues with water supply and the potential for privatization raise concerns, while the dam's construction has lasted over 16 years and is still unfinished. Žaklina emphasized that the solution does not lie in new reservoirs, but in transparent and responsible water management as a shared public good. The “Rzavljani” (People of Rzav) society announced the continuation of its activities and insists on including citizens in decisions that affect their lives and the environment.



3.11.2025.

## Niz pobeda u Boljevcu – ali borba za vodu još traje – Boljevac

Na javnoj sednici Komisije za planove opštine Boljevac, održanoj povodom razmatranja primedbi na Nacr Protornog plana, Iskra Krstić i Žaklina Živković iz Polekol i inicijative Pravo na vodu branile su prava ljudi i prirode ovog kraja. Ovaj plan, koji bi trebalo da usmeri razvoj opštine u narednim decenijama, otkrio je sasvim suprotnu sliku – viziju devastacije prirodnih resursa zarad kratkoročnog profita. Alpsko skijalište na Rtnju, pet vetroparkova, desetina brana i mini hidroelektrane na svim protokama Crnog Timoka, namenjene za štenu akumulaciju Bogovina, bili su među planiranim projektima koji bi zauvek promenili lice ovog kraja. Umesto poljoprivrede raseljavanje stanovništva, umesto pitkih potoka i najkvalitetnijih podzemnih voda skupa baruština. Čista seča šume u žiži biodiverziteta Srbije, ali i Evrope.



## A series of victories in Boljevac – but the fight for water continues – Boljevac

At the public session of the Boljevac Municipal Planning Commission, held to review comments on the Draft Spatial Plan, Iskra Krstić and Žaklina Živković from Polekol and the Right to Water initiative defended the rights of people and nature in the region. This plan, which is supposed to guide the municipality's development for the coming decades, revealed quite the opposite—a vision of natural resource devastation for short-term profit. Planned projects included an alpine ski resort on Rtanj, five wind farms, and dozens of dams and small hydro-power plants on all tributaries of the Crni Timok River, intended for the Bogovina protective reservoir—projects that would permanently transform the region. Instead of agriculture, population displacement; instead of clean streams and high-quality groundwater, expensive marshlands. Clear-cutting of forests in the heart of biodiversity in Serbia, and even Europe.



10.11.2025.

## Upozorili smo UNESCO o rizicima po Studenicu

Udruženja građana Polekol, Europa Nostra Srbija i lokalna inicijativa iz Ušća – Spasimo Studenicu podneli su zvaničnu inicijativu Centru za svetsku baštinu – UNESCO u Parizu, upozoravajući na sve ozbiljnije pritiske koji prete Studenici. Ukazali smo na to da nepovratno narušavanje prete jednom od najvrednijih delova kulturnog i prirodnog nasleđa Srbije, sliva reke Studenice i kulturnog predela koji okružuje manastir Studenicu, dragulj srpske baštine, prepoznat i upisan na Listu svetske kulturne baštine 1986. godine.

Posebno zabrinjava činjenica da je sliv Studenice već planski definisan kao kulturni predeo najvišeg značaja i kao deo UNESCO Rezervata biosfere Golija–Studenica, ali da uprkos tome novi projekti nastavljaju da potkopavaju njegove vrednosti. Nelegalno potvrđen urbanistički projekat MHE Gradina, izmenjena Uredba o zaštiti Parka prirode Golija koja otvara vrata opasnim intervencijama, kao i planovi za gradnju akumulacija na samom izvoru reke zbog širenja ski-centra – sve to zajedno predstavlja kombinaciju pretnji kojom se sistematski narušava integritet ovog jedinstvenog prostora.

„Studenica nije mesto za industriju i betonskog gorostasa od 30 metara, već prostor u kojem su priroda, ljudska delatnost i duhovnost u neraskidivoj vezi“, poručio je Polekol.

## We alerted UNESCO about the risks to the Studenica River

The organizations Polekol, Europa Nostra Serbia, and the local initiative from Ušće – Save the Studenica submitted an official initiative to the World Heritage Centre – UNESCO in Paris, warning about the increasing pressures threatening the Studenica River. We highlighted that irreversible damage threatens one of the most valuable parts of Serbia's cultural and natural heritage: the Studenica River basin and the surrounding cultural landscape of the Studenica Monastery, a jewel of Serbian heritage, recognized and inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986.

Of particular concern is that the Studenica basin is already designated as a cultural landscape of the highest importance and as part of the UNESCO Golija–Studenica Biosphere Reserve, yet new projects continue to undermine its values. The illegally approved urban project of the Gradina small hydropower plant, amendments to the protection regulation of the Golija Nature Park that open the door to dangerous interventions, and plans to build reservoirs at the river's very source for ski-center expansion—all together represent a combination of threats systematically compromising the integrity of this unique area.

“Studenica is not a place for industry and a 30-meter concrete giant, but a space where nature, human activity, and spirituality exist in an inseparable connection,” stated Polekol.



3.11.2025.

## Prođe pola veka, voda još se čeka – Brestovac i Donje Brijanje

Voda je osnov života, ali za mnoge na severu opštine Leskovac, već decenijama i izvor brige. U selima Brestovac, Lipovica, Međa, Kutleš, Šarlince, Draškovac i Donje Brijanje problem vodosnabdevanja traje više od 50 godina. Bunari presušuju, voda je sumnjivog kvaliteta, a endemska nefropatija godinama ugrožava na ovom području.

Građani Donjeg Brijanja su u junu blokirali saobraćajnicu, nakon što su iscrpli sve institucionalne metode. Sa blokada su se našoj inicijativi obratili pismom u kom stoji da njihovo selo od 1000 ljudi nema vodovodnu mrežu, a da su mnogi bunari što presušili što neispravni. "Najbliža vodovodna mreža nalazi se na 150 metara od kuća, u ataru sela (vodovod Gornji Brestovac–Doljevac, opština Bojnik), ali opština Bojnik odbija da dozvoli priključenje", stoji u pismu. Lokalna vlast je obavestila meštane da vodu neće dobiti ni iz vodovodne mreže Barje, iako im je to obećano.

"Meštani su osamdesetih i devedesetih godina redovno plaćali samodoprinos lokalnoj samoupravi za izgradnju vodovodne mreže Barje, kao i za vodovod Bojnik–Doljevac, ali nikada nisu priključeni, a novcu se izgubio trag. I danas se prisetimo kako je 5% odbijano od plata naših roditelja i nas, bez da smo dobili išta zauzvrat", kažu u Donjem Brijanju.

"Svi meštani, bez obzira na nacionalnu pripadnost, učestvuju rame uz rame u smenama tokom blokade. Srbi i Romi jednako snose posledice i zajednički brane pravo na osnovne uslove za život", naglasili su meštani Donjeg Brijanja.

Inicijativa Pravo na vodu i udruženje građana Ovde ostajem su posetili Brestovac i susedno Donje Brijanje i pozvali građane

učestvuju u otvorenom razgovoru o pravu na zdravu vodu, odgovornosti institucija i snazi zajedničkog delovanja. Razgovor je održan ispred Centra kulture u Brestovcu.

## Half a century has passed, and the water still hasn't come – Brestovac and Donje Brijanje

Water is the foundation of life, yet for many in the northern part of the Leskovac municipality, it has been a source of concern for decades. In the villages of Brestovac, Lipovica, Međa, Kutleš, Šarlince, Draškovac, and Donje Brijanje, water supply problems have persisted for over 50 years. Wells are drying up, water quality is questionable, and endemic nephropathy has threatened the area for years.

The citizens of Donje Brijanje village blocked the road in June, after exhausting all institutional methods. From the blockades, they addressed our initiative with a letter stating that their village of 1,000 people does not have a water supply network, and that many wells are either dry or defective. "The nearest water supply network is located 150 meters from the houses, in the atar of the village (water supply Gornji Brestovac–Doljevac, municipality of Bojnik), but the municipality of Bojnik refuses to allow the connection," the letter reads. The local government informed the residents that they will not get water even from the Barje water supply network, even though they were promised it.

"In the 1980s and 1990s, local residents regularly paid self-contributions to the local government for the construction of the Barje water supply network, as well as the Bojnik–Doljevac water supply, but they were never connected, and the money was lost. Even today, we remember how 5% was deducted from the

salaries of our parents and us, without getting anything in return," they say in Donje Brijanje.

"All residents, regardless of nationality, participate side by side in shifts during the blockade. Serbs and Roma alike bear the consequences and jointly defend the right to basic conditions for life," emphasized the residents of Donje Brijanje.

The Right to Water initiative and the citizens' association I stay here visited Brestovac and neighboring Donje Brijanje and invited citizens to come and participate in an open conversation about the right to healthy water, the responsibility of institutions and the power of joint action. The conversation was held in a public space in Brestovac.





15.11.2025.

## Ima li Svrlijig pravo na vodu? – Svrlijig

Tokom proteklih godina Svrlijig se više puta suočavao sa restrikcijama i nestašicama vode, a 2025. godine proglašena je i vanredna situacija zbog dugotrajne suše i smanjenog dotoka vode na izvorima. Inicijativa Pokrenimo Svrlijig, Polekol i Pravo na vodu su zato ispred zgrade Mesne zajednice Svrlijig sa građanima održali razgovor na temu vodosnabdevanja i odgovornom upravljanju vodom.

Iako istraživanja pokazuju da Svrliška kotlina raspolaže značajnim rezervama podzemnih i arteških voda, te da postoje realni potencijali za stabilnije snabdevanje u budućnosti, neophodno je i strateško planiranje, ulaganje i odgovorno upravljanje. U Svrlijigu smo razgovarali o trenutnom stanju i perspektivama vodosnabdevanja: o izvorima, gubicima, bušotinama, ali i o ulozi institucija, komunalnog preduzeća i samih građana u očuvanju i pravednom upravljanju ovim javnim dobrom. Bila je to prilika da zajednički razmotrimo kako obezbediti da voda u Svrlijigu ostane javna, sigurna i dostupna svima – danas i u godinama koje dolaze.

## Does Svrlijig have the right to water? – Svrlijig

Over the past years, Svrlijig has repeatedly faced water restrictions and shortages, and in 2025 a state of emergency was declared due to prolonged drought and reduced water flow at the sources. The *Pokrenimo Svrlijig* initiative, Polekol, and the Right to Water held a discussion with citizens in front of the Svrlijig Community Center on water supply and responsible water management.

Although research shows that the Svrlijig basin has significant reserves of underground and artesian water, and that there are solid potentials for a more stable supply in the future, what is also necessary is strategic planning, investment and responsible management. In Svrlijig, we discussed the current state and prospects of water supply: sources, losses, wells, but also the role of institutions, utility companies and citizens themselves in the preservation and fair management of this public good. It was an opportunity to jointly consider how to ensure that the water in Svrlijig remains public, safe and accessible to everyone – today and in the years to come.



18.11.2025.

## Govorili smo na Forumu Ekoloških politika

Pravni savetnik Polekola Strahinja Macić je bio panelista na trećem Forumu Ekoloških politika "Lokalna rešenja za (inter)nationalne politike", koji je održan pod nazivom "Podizanje svesti javnosti i angažovanje lokalnih zajednica u zaštiti životne sredine".

Forum koji organizuje WWF Adria je okupio predstavnike institucija, lokalnih samouprava, organizacija civilnog društva i međunarodnih partnera kako bi razmenili iskustva i predloge za unapređenje javnih politika u oblasti zaštite prirode, klime i održivog razvoja.

## We spoke at the Forum of Environmental Policies

Polekol's legal advisor, Strahinja Macić, was a panelist at the third Environmental Policy Forum, "Local Solutions for (Inter)national Policies," held under the theme "Raising Public Awareness and Engaging Local Communities in Environmental Protection."

The forum, organized by WWF Adria, brought together representatives from institutions, local governments, civil society organizations, and international partners to exchange experiences and propose improvements to public policies in the fields of nature protection, climate, and sustainable development.



9.10.2025.

## Peticija – Gde su pare za cevi stare

Pravo na vodu i Polekol su pokrenuli kampanju „Gde su pare za cevi stare?!", u okviru koje svaki građanin može jednostavnim popunjavanjem formulara generisati svoju peticiju, ličnu, konkretnu i usmerenu na problem koji ga pogađa, i automatski je poslati svojoj lokalnoj samoupravi. Bez odlaska na pisarnice, bez komplikacija i bez prepreka, svako može da zatraži izgradnju nedostajuće mreže, rekonstrukciju dotrajalih cevi, zamenu azbesta ili stabilnije i sigurnije vodosnabdevanje u svojoj ulici ili naselju.

Ovaj alat je tu da naš glas bude snažniji, da zahtevi građana stignu onima koji odlučuju i da se jasno pokaže koliko nam je svima stalo do vode koja je čista, zdrava i dostupna. Svaka poslata inicijativa stvara pritisak na vlast da prioritizuje ulaganja u vodovod u budžetu za 2026. godinu i da prestane da odlaže ono što je već odavno trebalo rešiti.

## Petition – Where's the money for the old pipes

The Right to Water initiative and Polekol launched the campaign "Where's the money for the old pipes?," through which every citizen can easily generate their own petition by filling out a simple form. Each petition is personal, concrete, and targeted at the problem that affects them, and it is automatically sent to their local government. No visits to municipal offices, no complications, no barriers, anyone can request the construction of missing infrastructure, the renovation of worn-out pipes, the replacement of asbestos, or more stable and secure water supply in their street or neighborhood.

This tool is designed to amplify our voices, ensure that citizens' demands reach decision-makers, and clearly show how much we all care about clean, healthy, and accessible water. Every submitted initiative creates pressure on authorities to prioritize investments in water infrastructure in the 2026 budget and to stop delaying solutions that should have been addressed long ago.



5 - 7.12.2025.

## Sastanak Evropskog pokreta za vode – Đirona, Španija

Od 5. do 7. decembra 2025. u Đironi je održan godišnji sastanak Evropskog pokreta za vode (EWM), na kojem su, između ostalih, učestvovala Iva Marković, Žaklina Živković i Nikolina Bjeković iz organizacije Polekol i inicijative Pravo na vodu, članice Evropskog pokreta za vode. Tokom sastanka održan je niz tematskih razgovora i radionica posvećenih evropskim politikama upravljanja vodama, pritiscima na vodna dobra i društvenim odgovorima na aktuelne procese deregulacije, a tom prilikom je usvojena i zajednička deklaracija EWM-a.

Na javnom događaju u okviru sastanka govorila je i Iva Marković, zajedno sa Pedrom Arrojo-Agudom, Specijalnim izvestiocem UN za ljudska prava na vodu i sanitaciju. Delegacija je posetila i Katalonski institut za istraživanje voda (ICRA).

## Meeting of the European Water Movement – Girona, Spain

From December 5 to 7, 2025, the annual meeting of the European Water Movement (EWM) was held in Girona, Spain, attended by Iva Marković, Žaklina Živković, and Nikolina Bjeković from Polekol and the Right to Water initiative, members of the European Water Movement. The meeting featured a series of thematic discussions and workshops focused on European water governance policies, pressures on water resources, and societal responses to ongoing deregulation processes. During the event, a joint EWM declaration was adopted.

At a public event during the meeting, Iva Marković spoke alongside Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation. The delegation also visited the Catalan Institute for Water Research (ICRA).





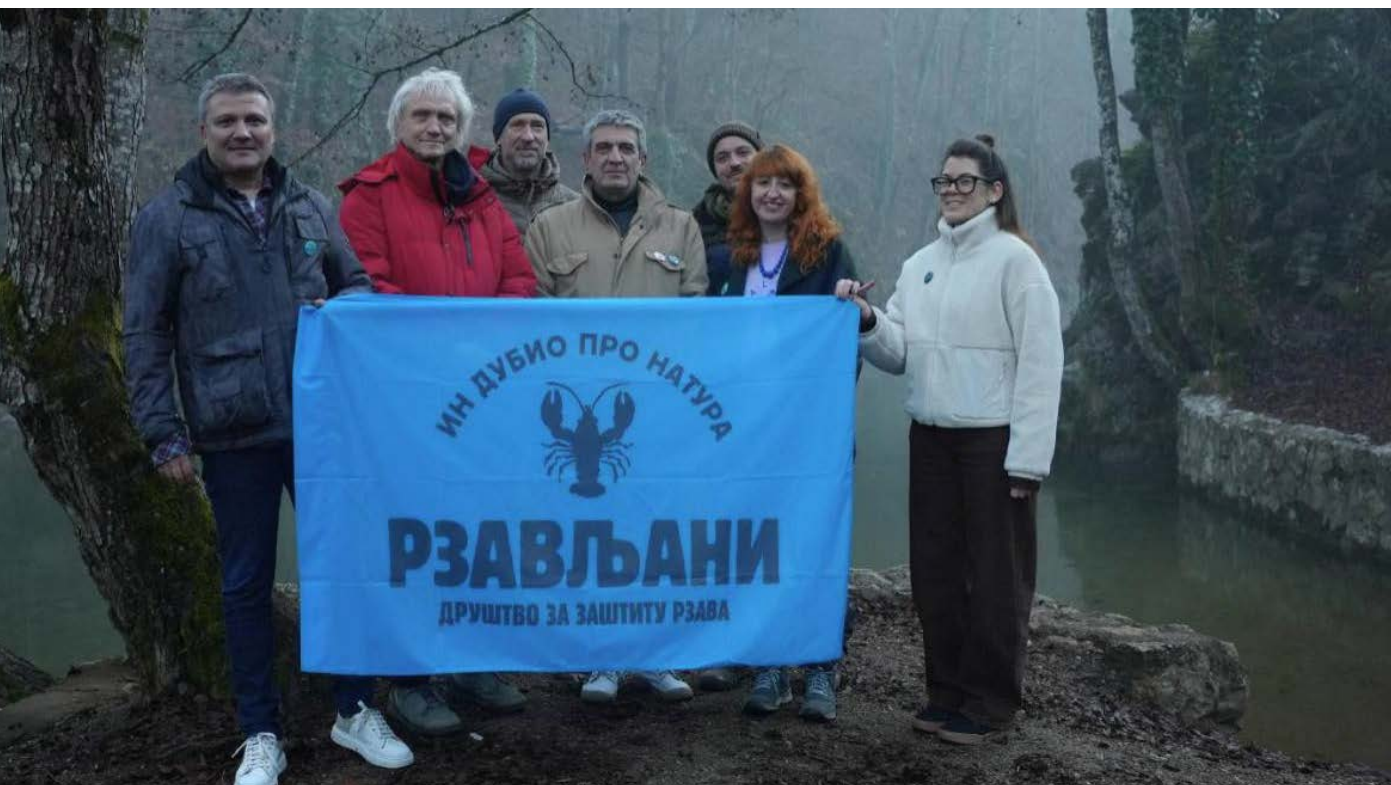
11.12.2025.

## Podrška inicijativi Rzvavljani – brana Svračkovo

Zajedno sa inicijativom Rzvavljani, Pravo na vodu je uz podršku našeg saborca, muzičara koji se godinama zalaže za očuvanje prirode, Darka Rundeka, posetilo branu Svračkovo i kroz društvene mreže izvestili o stanju koje smo videli na terenu. Brana Svračkovo, iako još uvek nije puštena u rad, iza sebe već sada ostavlja ostavlja presečene obale, ranjen krajolik i devastiran tok reke Rzav. Nasuprot životu koji reka stvara, stoji slika destrukcije koja se odvija već sada, pre nego što je brana i završena.

## Support for the Rzvavljani Initiative – Svračkovo Dam

Together with the Rzvavljani initiative, Right to Water, supported by our long-time ally and musician advocating for nature conservation, Darko Rundek, visited the Svračkovo Dam and reported via social media on the conditions we observed on site. Although the Svračkovo Dam has not yet been put into operation, it has already left behind cut riverbanks, a wounded landscape, and a devastated course of the Rzav River. Opposite the life the river sustains stands the image of destruction unfolding already, even before the dam is completed.



27.12.2025.

## Više se ne može graditi MHE Suknari na Bistrici

Opština Vlasotince donela je rešenje da je prestala da važi građevinska dozvola za projekat MHE, simbol gramzivosti i pohlepe koji je godinama pretio da trajno devastira reku i zajednicu. Ova odluka je rezultat upornog i argumentovanog rada. Polekol je krajem leta 2025. podneo zahtev za stavljanje van pravne snage građevinske dozvole, ukazujući na niz nezakonitosti u njenom izdavanju i kasnijim izmenama. Slučaj MHE Suknari još jednom potvrđuje ono na šta godinama upozoravamo, male hidroelektrane donose minimalnu energetska korist, a ogromnu štetu prirodi, javnim finansijama i lokalnim zajednicama. Ova odluka je važan signal da se politike koje su omogućile ovakve projekte mogu i moraju menjati i da je otpor itekako smislen.

## The SHPP Suknari on the Bistrica River can no longer be built

The municipality of Vlasotince has issued a decision declaring the construction permit for the Suknari SHPP invalid, a project that for years symbolized greed and threatened to permanently devastate the river and the local community. This decision is the result of persistent and well-founded advocacy.

At the end of summer 2025, Polekol submitted a request to annul the construction permit, pointing out numerous legal irregularities in its issuance and subsequent amendments. The Suknari case once again confirms what we have been warning about for years: small hydropower plants bring minimal energy benefits but cause enormous damage to nature, public finances, and local communities. This decision sends an important signal that policies enabling such projects can and must be changed, and that resistance is both meaningful and effective.

# Mediji

21.3.2025.

## **Strahinja Macić je dao intervju za portal Balkan Green Energy News**

Strahinja Macić je ispred inicijative Pravo na vodu, govorio o stanju reka u Srbiji, čime su zagađene, kako to utiče na njihove ekosisteme, koji su dodatni izazovi usled klimatskih promena, na koji način prekomerna eksploatacija, rudarenje i poljoprivreda utiče na njih, koji su najugroženiji regioni u Srbiji, na neadekvatan odnos institucija prema rekama, itd.

16.3.2025.

## **Strahinja Macić – Emisija Čekajući vetar**

Pravni savetnik Strahinja Macić je u emisiji Čekajući vetar govorio o aktivnostima namenjenim zaštiti reke i predela Studenice koje su sproveli Polekol i lokalne inicijative.

2.4.2025.

## **Žaklina Živković je gostovala na jutarnjem programu RTS-a**

Borba za Studenicu stigla je i do javnog servisa Radio televizija Srbije – Radio Beograda! Naša Žaklina Živković je za jutarnji program govorila o značaju zaštite Studenice i drugih planinskih reka Kraljeva.

## **Strahinja Macić – interview with Balkan Green Energy News**

On behalf of the Right to Water initiative, Strahinja Macić spoke about the condition of rivers in Serbia, how they are polluted, how this affects their ecosystems, what additional challenges arise due to climate change, in what way over-exploitation, mining, and agriculture affect them, which regions in Serbia are the most endangered, the inadequate attitude of institutions toward rivers, etc.

## **Strahinja Macić in the Waiting for the Wind radio show**

Legal adviser Strahinja Macić talked in the Waiting for the Wind radio program about the activities aimed at protecting the river and the Studenica area, which were carried out by Polekol and local initiatives.

## **Žaklina Živković was a guest on the morning program of RTS**

The fight for Studenica river has reached the public service Radio Television of Serbia – Radio Belgrade! Our Žaklina Živković talked about the importance of protecting Studenica and other mountain rivers of Kraljevo for the morning programme.

11.7.2025.

## **Iskra Krstić u “Među nama”**

Naša Iskra Krstić gostovala je u emisiji "Među nama" na televiziji Nova S, gde je govorila o važnosti očuvanja vodnih resursa i razlozima sve izraženijeg otpora građana prema štetnim projektima. Kroz razgovor je istaknut porast ekološke svesti u lokalnim zajednicama i spremnost ljudi da se organizuju u zaštitu javnih dobara, prepoznajući vodu kao pitanje opstanka, a ne privilegije.

20.7.2025.

## **Žaklina Živković za Nova S**

U intervjuu za Nova S portal Žaklina Živković je govorila o gubicima pijaće vode zbog loše infrastrukture. "Na lokacijama dva ogromna podzemna jezera čiste pijaće vode, Jadru i Homolju, planiraju se rudnici. Na beogradskom vodoizvorštvu, Makišu i Surčinskom polju, gradi se metro, Nacionalni stadion i organizuje Expo. I ovog leta suša je iznenadila vodoprivredna preduzeća - kao što nas svake zime iznenadi sneg", istakla je Žaklina u ovom intervjuu.

27.7.2025.

## **Strahinja Macić u emisiji “Novi dan**

Naš Strahinja Macić gostovao je u emisiji "Novi dan", gde je govorio o izazovima u vezi sa vodosnabdevanjem i potrebi za odgovornim upravljanjem javnim resursima. Još jedno važno pitanje iz domena ekološke i društvene pravde dospelo je u fokus šire javnosti.

## **Iskra Krstić in “Među nama”**

Our Iskra Krstić was a guest on the show "Među nama" ("Just between us") on Nova S television, where she spoke about the importance of preserving water resources and the reasons for the increasingly pronounced resistance of citizens to harmful projects. The conversation highlighted the increase in environmental awareness in local communities and the willingness of people to organize themselves in the protection of public goods, recognizing water as a matter of survival and not a privilege.

## **Žaklina Živković for Nova S**

In an interview for the Nova S portal, Žaklina Živković spoke about the loss of drinking water due to poor infrastructure. "At the sites of two enormous underground lakes of clean drinking water, in Jadar and Homolje, mining projects are being planned. At Belgrade's water source areas – Makiš and Surčinsko polje – the metro, the National Stadium, and Expo are being developed. And this summer, drought once again caught water management companies by surprise – just as snow surprises us every winter," Živković emphasized in the interview.

## **Strahinja Macić in the show “Novi dan”**

Our Strahinja Macić was a guest on the "Novi dan" ("New day") show, where he spoke about challenges related to water supply and the need for responsible management of public resources. Another important issue in the domain of environmental and social justice has come into the focus of the general public.

## Strahinja Macić na Radio Beograd 1

Strahinja Macić govorio je u emisiji Radio Beograda 1 o uzrocima hroničnih restrikcija vode koje godinama pogodaju mnoga mesta u Srbiji.

29.7.2025.

## Žaklina Živković u “Pokreni se”

Naša Žaklina Živković gostovala je u jutarnjem programu “Pokreni se” razgovarajući o odgovornosti lokalnih samouprava za stanje vodovodne infrastrukture, posledicama njenog neodržavanja, velikim gubicima vode u mreži i problemima snabdevanja tokom leta koji su posledica i loše infrastrukture, a ne samo suša.

12.7.2025.

## Govorili smo za Vreme o malim hidroelektranama

Polekol je bio sagovornik nedeljnika Vreme za članak “Male hidroelektrane kao propali projekat”.

„Studija uticaja se ne radi kad je instalisana snaga manja od 2MW. Investitor podnese zahtev za odlučivanje. Opština kaže ' Gle, ima manje od 2MW, obustavlja se postupak tj. studija se ne radi '. Tako smo došli do toga da je 31km Vlasine u cevima 10 derivacionih elektrana, na slivu Pčinje koja je „Emerald” (*međunarodna ekološka mreža za očuvanje divlje flore i faune i prirodnih staništa u onim zemljama koje nisu članice EU ali sa njom održavaju prijateljske veze, ili su u fazi pristupanja Uniji*) područje i Srbiji i Makedoniji i zaštićeno prirodno dobro, pa i na Rupskoj reci na kojoj je selo Dadince imamo situaciju da se ne radi procena uticaja, jer su sve elektane instalisane snage manje od 2MW, pa se ne radi ni procena kumulativnih i sinergijskih efekata” kaže pravni savetnik Strahinja Macić.

## Strahinja Macić on Radio Belgrade 1

Strahinja Macić spoke on Radio Belgrade 1 about the causes of chronic water restrictions that have been affecting many places in Serbia for years.

## Žaklina Živković in “Pokreni se”

Our Žaklina Živković was a guest in the morning program „Pokreni se” (“Get started”) discussing the responsibility of local governments for the state of water infrastructure, the consequences of its non-maintenance, large losses of water in the network and supply problems during the summer, which are also a consequence of poor infrastructure, not just drought.

## We spoke for Vreme about small hydropower plants

Polekol was the interviewee of the weekly Vreme for the article “Small hydroelectric power plants as a failed project”. “The impact study is not done when the installed power is less than 2MW. The investor submits a request for a decision. The municipality says 'Look, there is less than 2MW, the procedure is suspended, i.e. the study is not done'. That is how we came to the situation that 31km of Vlasina are in the pipes of 10 derivation electric screens, in the Pčinja basin, which is the “Emerald” (*international ecological network for the preservation of flora and fauna and natural habitats in those countries that are not members of the EU but they maintain friendly relations with it, or are in the phase of accession to the Union*) area in both Serbia and Macedonia, and a protected natural asset in both countries,. Even on the Rupska river, where the village of Dadince is located, we have a situation where no impact assessment was done, because all the power plants have an installed power of less than 2MW, so no assessment of cumulative and synergistic effects is done either,” says legal advisor Strahinja Macić.

25.8.2025.

## Miroslava Nikolić je dala intervju za portal Mingl

Miroslava Nikolić je dala intervju za portal Mingl, koji je izašao pod naslovom: “Bez vode, bez prava: Kako suša postaje svakodnevica, a institucije ćute”

10.11.2025.

## Strahinja Macić – Tekst o Studenici – Klima 101

Na portalu Klima 101 objavljen je tekst o terenskom istraživanju Studenice.

“Pored dve novootkrivene vrste u Studenici, u ovom naučnom podvigu, zabeleženo je još šest od ranije poznatih vrsta različitog stepena zaštite: peš (*Cottus gobio*) koji je strogo zaštićen, pastrmka (*Salmo trutta*), potočna mrena (*Barbus balcanius*), pliska (*Alburnoides bipunctatus*) i klen (*Squalius cephalus*) koje su zaštićene i naposletku krkuš (*Gobio gobio*) kao vrsta van zaštine”, skreće se pažnja u tekstu.

„Izgradnja brane i akumulacije, koja bi potopila 1,4 kilometra rečnog toka uzvodno od nje, proizvela bi izrazito negativan efekat. Studenica bi bila pretvorena u značajno izmenjeno vodno telo, a postojeća staništa i vrste, kojima su ti brzaci, slapovi i virovi dom, bili bi uništeni”, izjavio je Strahinja Macić iz Polekola.

## Miroslava Nikolić gave an interview for the Mingl portal

Miroslava Nikolić gave an interview for the Mingl portal, which was published under the title: “Without water, without rights: How drought becomes everyday, and institutions are silent”

## Strahinja Macić – Text about Studenica river – Climate 101

A text about the field research of Studenica was published on the Klima 101 portal.

“In addition to the two newly discovered species in Studenica, in this scientific feat, six more previously known species of different degrees of protection were recorded: the pesh (*Cottus gobio*) which is strictly protected, the trout (*Salmo trutta*), the brook barbel (*Barbus balcanius*), the porpoise (*Alburnoides bipunctatus*) and the chub (*Squalius cephalus*) which are protected and finally the gobies (*Gobio gobio*) as a species outside of protection”, the text exemplifies.

“The construction of a dam and reservoir, which would submerge 1.4 kilometers of the river course upstream of it, would produce an extremely negative effect. Studenica would be turned into a significantly altered body of water, and the existing habitats and species, which are home to these rapids, waterfalls and whirlpools, would be destroyed,” Strahinja Macić from Polekol stated.

9.12.2025.

## [Tekst o Studenici u Novom magazinu](#)

U Novom magazinu je objavljen tekst o istraživanju reke Studenice koje je organizovao Polekol. "Polekol je pokrenuo terensko istraživanje reke Studenice sa ciljem da dodatno potkrepi stavove o njenom značaju i potrebi očuvanja. Istraživanje je realizovano u avgustu 2025. godine u saradnji sa dr Anom Marić, docentkinjom na Biološkom fakultetu u Beogradu, i dr Jelenom Stanković Ristić, naučnom saradnicom Instituta za biološka istraživanja", konstatuje se.

25.11.2025.

## [Žaklina Živković za RTS: Kako građani mogu da utiču na poboljšanje svog prava na vodu?](#)

InicijativaPravo na vodu pokrenula je kampanju "Gde su pare za cevi stare". Podsećajući da čak četvrtina stanovništva u Srbiji svakog dana živi sa nesigurnim vodosnabdevanjem - u nekim sredinama gubi se i više od 50 poste vode pre nego što ona stigne do česmi, na mnogo mesta ne postoje priključci na vodovodnu mrežu ili su cevi dotrajale i nebezbedne - te da sve to utiče na zdravlje, troškove domaćinstava i osnovni osećaj dostojanstva, predstavnici obe organizacije svima koji imaju probleme nude jednostavan način kako da se obrate svojim lokalnim samoupravama da bi inicirali njihovo rešavanje. Tim povodom gošća RTS 1 radija bila je Žaklina Živković iz "Prava na vodu".

## **Text about Studenica river in Novi Magazin**

An article about the study of the river Studenica, organized by Polekol, was published in Novi Magazin. "Polekol launched a field survey of the Studenica River with the aim of further supporting its views on its importance and the need for conservation. The research was carried out in August 2025 in collaboration with Dr. Ana Marić, assistant professor at the Faculty of Biology in Belgrade, and Dr. Jelena Stanković Ristić, scientific associate at the Institute for Biological Research," it is stated.

## **Žaklina Živković for RTS: How can citizens influence the improvement of their right to water?**

The Right to Water initiative launched the campaign "Where Is the Money for Old Pipes?". Reminding the public that as many as one quarter of Serbia's population lives every day with insecure water supply - in some areas, more than 50 percent of water is lost before it even reaches household taps, in many places there is no connection to the water network, or the pipes are outdated and unsafe - and that all of this affects public health, household expenses, and the basic sense of dignity, representatives of the two organizations are offering a simple way for anyone facing such problems to address their local authorities and initiate solutions. On this occasion, Žaklina Živković from "Right to Water" was a guest on RTS 1 radio.



# Politička ekologija

Polekol se bavi unapređenjem znanja o političkoj ekologiji i razumevanju zelene političke ideje. Politička ekologija je naučna oblast koja se odnosom društva i prirode, kritički preispitujući odnose društvene moći koji utiču na pristup prirodnim dobrima i fokusirajući se na neravnopravnost i nepravdu u raspodeli troškova i dobrobiti. Radi sveobuhvatnog pristupa podstičemo međusektorsku saradnju i širenje savezništava društvenih aktera kao što su organizacije civilnog društva, sindikati, naučna zajednica, manjine, žene itd. Edukujemo političke aktere o zelenoj političkoj ideji i pronalazimo načine da se ona primeni u Srbiji. Razvijamo ideju i zagovaramo pravednu tranziciju ka zelenim alternativama u ekonomiji i društvu uopšte.

# Political Ecology

Polekol works to advance knowledge of political ecology and to deepen the understanding of green political ideas. Political ecology is an academic field that examines the relationship between society and nature, critically analyzing power relations that shape access to nature commons and focusing on inequalities and injustices in the distribution of environmental costs and benefits. In order to promote a comprehensive approach, we encourage cross-sectoral cooperation and the expansion of alliances among social actors such as civil society organizations, trade unions, the scientific community, minorities, women, and others. We educate political actors about green political ideas and explore ways to apply them in Serbia. We also develop and advocate for a just transition toward greener alternatives in the economy and society as a whole.

14.1.2025.

### Polekol u Radnoj grupi Ministarstva zaštite životne sredine za izradu Nacrta Strategije i Akcionog plana za primenu Arhuske konvencije

Učešće građana u zaštiti životne sredine i donošenju odluka koje utiču na prirodu i zdravlje ljudi jedno je od osnovnih prava u demokratskom društvu. Arhuska konvencija, kao međunarodni pravni okvir koji garantuje ta prava, obavezuje države potpisnice da obezbede pristup informacijama, javno učešće i pravnu zaštitu u pitanjima životne sredine. U Republici Srbiji i dalje postoje brojni problemi u sprovođenju ovih principa.

Polekol je u okviru Radne grupe za Nacrt strategije za primenu Arhuske konvencije tražio strože kazne i delotvornije mere za krivična dela povezana sa negativnim uticajem na prirodu, javno zdravlje i pravni poredak. Aktuelna zakonska rešenja nisu dovoljno efikasna u suzbijanju ekološkog kriminala i ne odgovaraju potrebama savremenog društva.

Organizacija je ukazala na to da postojeći predlozi ne ispunjavaju u potpunosti cilj same Konvencije, niti omogućavaju una-pređenje mogućnosti javne participacije građana i pravne zaštite životne sredine u meri u kojoj je to potrebno.

### Polekol in the Working Group of the Ministry of Environmental Protection for the Preparation of the Draft Strategy and Action Plan for the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention

Citizen participation in environmental protection and in decision-making that affects nature and public health is one of the fundamental rights in a democratic society. The Aarhus Convention, as an international legal framework that guarantees these rights, obliges signatory states to ensure access to information, public participation, and legal protection in environmental matters. In the Republic of Serbia, however, numerous problems in the implementation of these principles still remain.

Within the Working Group for the Draft Strategy on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, Polekol called for stricter penalties and more effective measures for criminal offenses related to negative impacts on nature, public health, and the legal order. The current legal solutions are not sufficiently effective in combating environmental crime and do not meet the needs of contemporary society.

The organization also pointed out that the existing proposals do not fully meet the objectives of the Convention itself, nor do they sufficiently improve opportunities for public participation and legal protection of the environment to the extent necessary.





23.1.2025.

### Podrška generalnom štrajku

Polekol je kao deo podrške studentskim protestima preneo poziv građanima da se priključe generalnom štrajku.

Nadstrešnica neodgovornosti zvana zagađenje pada svakog dana na stanovnike Bora, Majdanpeka, Užica, Valjeva, Novog Pazara, a preti da padne i na Homolje, Jadar, Rogoznu... Poručili smo da živimo ogromnu ekološku i nastajuću klimatsku krizu. One koji donose odluke zanimaju samo privatni interesi, a na gubitke prirode, zdravlja i života se ne osvrću.

### **Support for the General Strike**

Polekol, as part of its support for the student protests, shared a call inviting citizens to join the general strike.

The canopy of irresponsibility called pollution falls every day on the residents of Bor, Majdanpek, Užice, Valjevo, Novi Pazar, and threatens to fall on Homolje, Jadar, Rogozna... We stated that we are living through a massive ecological and growing climate crisis. Those making decisions care only about private interests, while ignoring the losses of nature, health, and human lives.



4.2.2025.

### Obustava rada u radnoj grupi za Arhusku konvenciju - Beograd

Od početka studentskih protesta javno i nedvosmisleno podržavamo sve njihove zahteve. Od pada nadstrešnice u Novom Sadu 1. novembra 2024. godine duboko smo potreseni stradanjem nevinih ljudi, nasiljem kome svedočimo, kao i postupanjem institucija koje, umesto da rade svoj posao, pomoću različitih manevara pokušavaju da ugase studentsku borbu. Studenti su pokazali da to nije moguće i da, dok institucije ne počnu da rade u skladu sa svojim nadležnostima, borba neće prestati. Vladavina prava i odgovornost nosilaca javnih funkcija moraju biti temelj funkcionisanja društva. Međutim, Srbija već dugo nije država vladavine prava. Do ispunjenja studentskih zahteva, zamrzavamo članstvo u Radnoj grupi za izradu Nacrta Strategije za primenu Arhuske konvencije.

### **Suspension of activities in the working group for the Aarhus Convention**

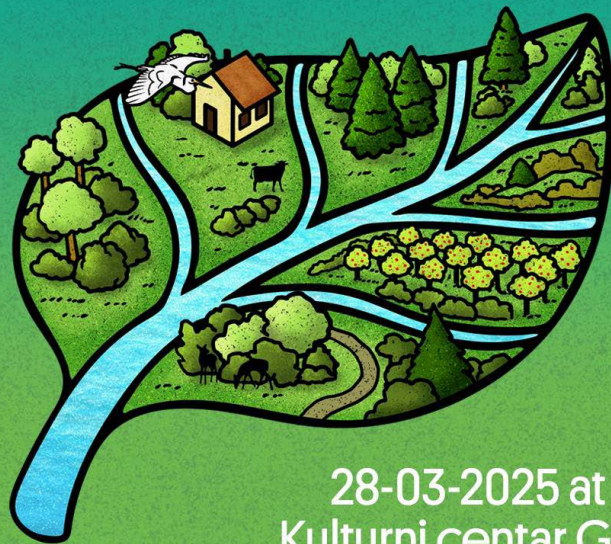
Since the beginning of the student protests, we have publicly and unequivocally supported all their demands. The collapse of the canopy in Novi Sad on November 1, 2024, deeply shocked us, both because of the suffering of innocent people and the violence we witnessed, as well as the actions of institutions that, instead of doing their job, have tried through various maneuvers to suppress the student movement. The students have shown that this is not possible and that, until institutions begin to act in accordance with their responsibilities, the struggle will not cease. The rule of law and the accountability of public officials must be the foundation of society. However, Serbia has long ceased to be a state governed by the rule of law.

Until the students' demands are met, we are suspending our membership in the Working Group for the Draft Strategy on the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention.



**GEF** GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

## Green Horizons Academy **GOOD FOR NATURE**



28-03-2025 at 17h  
Kulturni centar Grad  
Braće Krsmanović 4, Belgrade

**polekol**

28 - 29.3.2025.

### Održana Green Horizons Academy – Good for Nature – Beograd

U Beogradu je krajem marta održana četvrta Akademija zeleni horizonti, čiji su organizatori Polekol i Green European Foundation – GEF.

Proteklih godina Akademija zeleni horizonti se bavila narativima, osnaživanjem kolektiva i ekstraktivizmom i neokolonijalizmom, a ove godine okrenula biodiverzitetu. Stručnjaci i aktivisti su 28. marta u KC Grad diskutovali o tome šta su rizici a šta dobre strane i kakva su življena iskustva primene mera za dekarbonizaciju i, uopštenije, novog evropskog zakonodavstva iz oblasti zaštite životne sredine. Da li je priroda „za stolom“ kad se odlučuje o njenoj dobrobiti? Šta je budućnost EU Strategije zaštite biodiverziteta do 2030. godine? Šta Balkanu donose Zakon o obnovi staništa i Strategija biodiverziteta, Evropski zeleni dogovor, ali i Zakon o kritičnim sirovinama? Kakav je uticaj korporativnog lobiranja na ekološke zakone? Kako se odvijaju lokalne borbe protiv eksploatacionih industrija i kako ojačati ekološke pokrete i njihovo učešće u donošenju odluka oko hidroenergije, vertroparkova ili, na primer – kritičnih minerala za energetske tranziciju?

Treba izvršiti pritisak na donosiocima odluka, smatraju učesnici. Iako je 73% populacija vrsta na svetu u opadanju, još imamo vremena da ovaj trend preokrenemo, ocenio je Vanja Jakšić iz WWF Adria na prvom panelu javne tribine „Lažna dilema: klima ili priroda“. Govornici su istakli da istraživanja geografskih oblasti koje bi trebalo zaštititi i obnoviti teku toliko sporo da se, dok dođe vreme da za proglašavanje zaštite, priroda već izmenila. Skrenuli su pažnju i na to da na teritorijama koje čekaj zaštitu često dolazi do nelegalne i komerijane gradnje vođene

profitnim interesima. Završna razmatranja bila su posvećena kritičkom razmatranju pojedinih zakona EU koji regulišu oblast zelene energetske tranzicije biodiverziteta. Deo panela govornice i govornici su, ipak, posvetili i tome da ukažu na uspehe koji se u ovoj oblasti postižu uprkos svim preprekama.

Na drugom panelu se razgovaralo o vezama ekosistema, lokalnih zajednica i dekarbonizacije. Svoja znanja i iskustva publici su preneli Ivan Milosavljević (Rendžeri Istočne Srbije, Srbija), Andrej Ralev (Bankwatch SEE, Bugarska), Milja Vuković (Plava i zelena inicijativa, Srbija), Aleksandar Dragičević (ekološki aktivista, Crna Gora) i Marko Mirč (Institut za biološka istraživanja „Siniša Stanković“, Srbija).

Dok je program tokom prvog dana konferencije bio otvoren za javnost, tokom drugog dana učesnici iz regiona i zemalja EU su se posvetili zatvorenom programu. Nakon sesije upoznavanja i razmene iskustava bili su u prilici da saslušaju predavanje Sandre Jovanović o regulativama EU namenjenim ublažavanju klimatskih promena i jačanju biodiverziteta. Jovanović je u prvom delu izlaganja skicirala štetu i rizike od klimatskih promena, da bi se u drugom delu fokusirala na dokumente kao što su Zelena agenda i Evropski zeleni dogovor, Zelena agenda za Zapadni Balkan, Direktiva o očuvanju divljih ptica, Zakon o obnovi prirode i drugi.

Popodne 29. marta učesnice i učesnici su proveli u studijskoj poseti Bari Reva, budućem parku prirode na levoj obali Duava u Beogradu. Bari Reva je prirodno stanište na levoj obali Dunava, udaljeno desetak kilometara od centra Beograda. Dom je preko 300 biljnih i životinjskih vrsta, uključujući i mnoge zaštićene, a u njoj se gnezdi i retki orao belorepan, zbog čega spada u međunarodno prepoznata IBA područja.

## We hosted the Green Horizons Academy – Good for Nature, Belgrade

At the end of March, Belgrade hosted the fourth *Green Horizons Academy*, organized by Polekol and the Green European Foundation (GEF).

In previous years, the Green Horizons Academy focused on narratives, collective empowerment, extractivism, and neocolonialism; this year, the focus shifted to biodiversity. On March 28, experts and activists gathered at KC Grad to discuss the risks and benefits, as well as lived experiences, of implementing decarbonization measures and, more broadly, new European environmental legislation. Key questions included: Is nature “at the table” when decisions are made about its well-being? What is the future of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030? What do the Habitat Restoration Law, Biodiversity Strategy, European Green Deal, and Critical Raw Materials Act bring to the Balkans? How does corporate lobbying influence environmental laws? How are local struggles against extractive industries unfolding, and how can environmental movements strengthen their role in decision-making around hydropower, wind farms, or critical minerals for the energy transition?

Participants emphasized the need to exert pressure on decision-makers. “Although 73% of species worldwide are declining, we still have time to reverse this trend,” noted Vanja Jakšić from WWF Adria during the first panel of the public forum False Dilemma: Climate or Nature. Speakers highlighted that research on geographic areas requiring protection and restoration is proceeding so slowly that, by the time protective measures are enacted, nature has already changed. They also pointed out that illegal and commercial construction often occurs in areas awaiting protection, driven by profit interests.

Closing discussions critically examined certain EU laws regulating green energy transition and biodiversity, while also recognizing the successes achieved in the field despite numerous obstacles.

The second panel focused on the connections between ecosystems, local communities, and decarbonization. Knowledge and experiences were shared by Ivan Milosavljević (Eastern Serbia Rangers, Serbia), Andrej Ralev (Bankwatch SEE, Bulgaria), Milja Vuković (Blue and Green Initiative, Serbia), Aleksandar Dragičević (environmental activist, Montenegro), and Marko Mirč (Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković,” Serbia).

While the first day of the conference was open to the public, the second day was dedicated to a closed program for participants from the region and EU countries. After an introduction and experience-sharing session, attendees heard a lecture by Sandra Jovanović on EU regulations aimed at mitigating climate change and enhancing biodiversity. In the first part of her presentation, she outlined the damage and risks caused by climate change, and in the second part, she focused on documents such as the Green Agenda and European Green Deal, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the Wild Birds Directive, the Nature Restoration Law, and others.

On the afternoon of March 29, participants took a study visit to Bara Reva, a future nature park on the left bank of the Danube in Belgrade. Bara Reva is a natural habitat located about ten kilometers from the city center, home to over 300 plant and animal species, including many protected species, and hosts the rare white-tailed eagle, making it an internationally recognized IBA (Important Bird Area).





9 - 10.4.2025.

## Polekol u Savetu Evrope o hitnoj potrebi za zaštitom branitelja ljudskih prava i aktivista

Polekolova programska direktorka, Iva Marković, održala je odlučno izlaganje na javnom slušanju Odbora za pravna pitanja i ljudska prava (PACE JUR) Parlamentarne skupštine Saveta Evrope (PACE) tokom prolećnog zasedanja u Strazburu. Događaj je deo tekućih razgovora o uspostavljanju posvećenog mehanizma zaštite za branitelje ljudskih prava (HRD) na nivou Saveta Evrope i država članica EU i prati širu raspravu Skupštine o Srbiji.

Saslušanje, održano 10. aprila, sazvano je sa ciljem da se razmotri izvodljivost uspostavljanja snažnog, panevropskog mehanizma podrške za branitelje ljudskih prava. Predvodio ga je Emanuelis Zingeris, generalni izvestilac za branitelje ljudskih prava, u saradnji sa organizacijom Libertis i sekretarijatom PACE JUR odbora. Prisustvovali su predstavnici Human Rights House Foundation i civilnog društva iz čitave Evrope, uključujući partnere iz Mađarske - Luca Dudits iz organizacije Háttér Society, i Srbije - Iva Marković iz Inicijative Pravo na vodu i organizacije Polekol. Mehanizam za zaštitu HRD predstavila je Kersty McCourt iz organizacije Liberties.

Saslušanje je potvrdilo široki konsenzus da je mehanizam zaštite za HRD hitno potreban. Učesnici su identifikovali neophodna tri stuba takvog mehanizma: (1) **Prijavljivanje** - zvaničan kanal za evidentiranje pretnji i napada koji pokreće institucionalni odgovor; (2) **Brza reakcija** - hitna finansijska i logistička podrška za pravnu, fizičku i psihološku zaštitu; (3) **Reforme** - sistemske promene koje štite prostor za delovanje civilnog društva i sprečavaju buduće zloupotrebe. Predstavnici civilnog društva izrazili su spremnost da podrže i oblikuju ovaj meha-

nizam, apelujući na predstavnike Saveta Evrope da predlože njegovo formalno uvođenje kao naredni korak. Serija naknadnih sastanaka sa različitim zvaničnicima Saveta omogućila je konkretnije razgovore o sledećim fazama - od predloga do sprovođenja politika.



## Polekol at the Council of Europe on the urgent need to protect human rights defenders and activists

Polekol's program director, Iva Marković, delivered a strong statement at the public hearing of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (PACE JUR) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) during the spring session in Strasbourg. The event was part of ongoing discussions on establishing a dedicated protection mechanism for human rights defenders (HRD) at the level of the Council of Europe and EU member states, and is connected to the broader Assembly debate on Serbia.



The hearing, held on April 10, was convened to examine the feasibility of establishing a robust, pan-European support mechanism for human rights defenders. It was chaired by Emanuelis Zingeris, General Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, in cooperation with Liberties and the PACE JUR Secretariat. Participants included representatives from the Human Rights House Foundation and civil society across Europe, including partners from Hungary - Luca Dudits from Háttér Society, and Serbia - Iva Marković from the Right to Water Initiative and the organization Polekol. The HRD protection mechanism was presented by Kersty McCourt from Liberties.

The hearing confirmed the broad consensus that a safeguard mechanism for HRD is urgently needed. Participants identified the necessary three pillars of such a mechanism: (1) Reporting - an official channel for recording threats and attacks that triggers an institutional response; (2) Quick response - urgent financial and logistical support for legal, physical and psychological protection; (3) Reforms - systemic changes that protect the space for civil society action and prevent future abuse. Representatives of civil society expressed their willingness to support and shape this mechanism, appealing to representatives of the Council of Europe to propose its formal introduction as the next step. A series of follow-up meetings with various Council officials allowed for more specific discussions on the next stages - from proposals to policy implementation.



21 - 23.5.2025.

## Borba za prirodu i demokratiju ne poznaje granice – Regionalno okupljanje Engaged Democracy Initiative – Skoplje

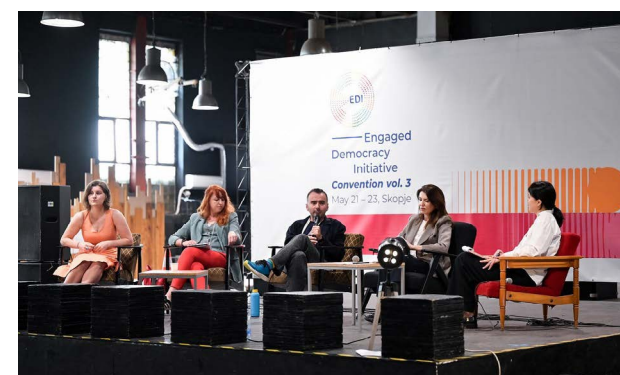
Aktivisti/kinje iz Ateljea za društvene promene ACT, inicijative Pravo na vodu, Libergrafa i mnogih drugih organizacija i inicijativa okupili su se na regionalnom sastanku Engaged Democracy Initiative Evropskog fonda za Balkan u Skoplju. Zajedno sa saborcima iz celog Zapadnog Balkana razgovaralo se o gorućim temama: sve većem uključivanju mladih, napadima na rodne politike, medijskim slobodama, dostupnosti javnih prostora i bezbednosti aktivista. Na panelu o politici nege i zdravlju aktivista govorila je naša Žaklina Živković, ističući važnost brige unutar pokreta.

Poseban fokus bio je na radionici posvećenoj otporu ekstraktivizmu i rudarenju kritičnih sirovina. Kroz razmenu iskustava i mapiranje rizika s kojima se suočavaju aktivisti i zajednice, zajedno smo tragalili za odgovorima "Kako se povezati? Koji su naši resursi otpora?" Zajednički zaključak bio je jasan: ova borba nije lokalna, već regionalna.

## Fighting for nature and democracy knows no borders – Regional gathering of the Engaged Democracy Initiative – Skopje

Activists from the Atelier for Social Change (ACT), the Right to Water initiative, Libergraf, and many other organizations and initiatives gathered at the regional meeting of the Engaged Democracy Initiative of the European Fund for the Balkans in Skopje. Together with allies from across the Western Balkans, they discussed pressing issues: increasing youth engagement, attacks on gender policies, media freedoms, access to public spaces, and the safety of activists. At the panel on activist care and health, our Žaklina Živković spoke, highlighting the importance of care within movements.

A special focus was on the workshop dedicated to resistance against extractivism and critical mineral mining. Through the exchange of experiences and mapping the risks faced by activists and communities, participants sought answers to questions such as "How can we connect? What are our resources for resistance?" The shared conclusion was clear: this struggle is not local—it is regional.





25.9.2025.

## ArtFemine festival – Umetnost otpora – Niš

Na tribini „Umetnost otpora“, koju je organizovao Centar za devojke iz Niša, Miroslava Nikolić je govorila ispre Polekola. Zajedno sa aktivistkinjom Marijom Srdić iz Novog Sada i aktivistima Karton revolucije iz Bosne i Hercegovine, Adijem Selmanom i Nedimom Musićem, podelila je iskustva o tome kako je započela svoj aktivizam, šta je motiviše da u njemu istraje, sa kakvim se preprekama suočavaju aktivisti, kako ih prevazilaze i koje su trenutne borbe koje vode, kako na lokalnom, tako i na regionalnom nivou.

Miroslava je istakla da je svaka osoba važna za promenu koju želimo da vidimo, da je empatija temelj za izgradnju poverenja unutar pokreta, kao i da borba za zajednička dobra, zahteva i lokalno delovanje i regionalnu povezanost. Podsetila je da su prirodna dobra i društvena dobro koja moraju biti dostupna svima, i da to nije samo pitanje ekologije, već i ljudskih prava, društvene pravde i demokratije.



## ArtFemine Festival – the Art of Resistance – Niš

At the panel The Art of Resistance, organized by the Center for Girls in Niš, Miroslava Nikolić spoke on behalf of Polekol. Together with activist Marija Srdić from Novi Sad and activists from the Karton Revolucija from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Adi Selman and Nedim Musić, she shared experiences about how she began her activism, what motivates her to persist, the obstacles activists face and how they overcome them, and the current struggles they are engaged in, both locally and regionally.

Miroslava emphasized that every individual is important for the change we want to see, that empathy is the foundation for building trust within movements, and that the fight for common goods requires both local action and regional connection. She reminded participants that natural and social goods must be accessible to all, and that this is not only a matter of ecology, but also of human rights, social justice, and democracy.

and threatens to fall on Homolje, Jadar, Rogozna... We stated that we are living through a massive ecological and growing climate crisis. Those making decisions care only about private interests, while ignoring the losses of nature, health, and human lives.



25.8 - 29.8.2025.

## Zemaljski forum Ministarstva prostora - Vranje

Žaklina Živković iz Polekola je na Zemaljskom forumu, održanom u Vranju, moderirala i govorila na panelu "The Other Side of Green: Biodiversity and Climate Politics". Aktivisti i stručnjaci sa Balkana su u razgovoru istražili tenzije između klimatske i ekološke politike i postavili pitanje klimatske politike mogu biti i efikasne i pravedne. "Šta se dešava kada tzv. zelene investicije raseljuju zajednice ili štete lokalnim ekosistemima? I kako periferni regioni poput Balkana mogu aktivno oblikovati tranziciju koja je niskougljenična, ali i društveno i ekološki pravedna?" Naglašeno je da, iako povećana ulaganja u energetska tranziciju signaliziraju napredak, ona često zasenjuju dugogodišnje borbe za biodiverzitet, čistu vodu, kontrolu zagađenja i ekološku pravdu.



## Terrestrial forum of the Ministry of Space - Vranje

Žaklina Živković from Polekol moderated and spoke at the panel *The Other Side of Green: Biodiversity and Climate Politics* during the Zemaljski Forum held in Vranje. Activists and experts from across the Balkans explored the tensions between climate and environmental policies and posed the question of how climate policies can be both effective and just. "What happens when so-called green investments displace communities or harm local ecosystems? And how can peripheral regions like the Balkans actively shape a transition that is low-carbon, yet socially and ecologically fair?" It was emphasized that, although increased investments in the energy transition signal progress, they often overshadow long-standing struggles for biodiversity, clean water, pollution control, and environmental justice.





9.9.2025.

## Predavanje u okviru Škole za zelene politike

Ispred organizacije za političku ekologiju Polekol, na temu ekološke politike Srbije i političke ekologije, polaznicima drugog semestra škole koju je organizovao Centar za zelene politike, govorele su i Žaklina Živković i Iva Marković. One su predstavile razliku između ova dva pristupa životnoj sredini i održale radionicu na kojoj su učesnici posmatrali goruće ekološke probleme iz ugla političke ekologije.

### Lecture at the school of Green Politics

On behalf of the organization for political ecology Polekol, Žaklina Živković and Iva Marković spoke to second-semester students at the School for Green Politics, organized by the Center for Green Politics, on the topics of environmental policy in Serbia and political ecology. They presented the differences between these two approaches to the environment and conducted a workshop in which participants examined pressing ecological issues through the lens of political ecology.



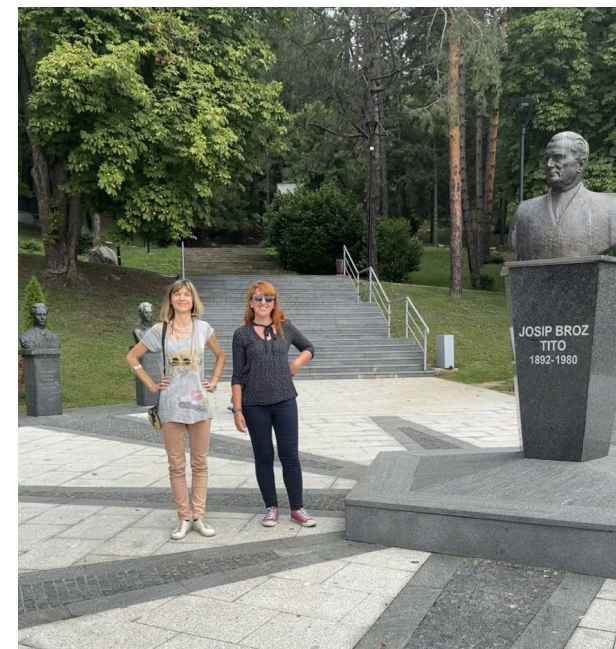
12 - 14.9.2025.

## Regionalna radionica o pravednoj energetskej tranziciji - Tuzla

Polekol i inicijativa Pravo na vodu učestvovali su u regionalnoj radionici o pravednoj energetskej tranziciji, održanoj u Tuzli od 12. do 14. septembra 2025. godine. Cilj susreta bio je jačanje saradnje među organizacijama iz regiona koje se ovom temom bave politički i praktično. Tokom radionice razmenjeni su uvidi o izazovima u različitim državama, alternativama koje se razvijaju na terenu i potencijalu za zajedničko delovanje. Kroz aktivno učešće u diskusijama i moderaciji, Polekol je doprineo oblikovanju predloga za regionalnu saradnju u borbi protiv zelenog ekstraktivizma i za demokratsku, pravednu tranziciju.

### Regional workshop on a just energy transition – Tuzla

Polekol and the Right to Water initiative participated in a regional workshop on a just energy transition, held in Tuzla from September 12 to 14, 2025. The meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration among organizations in the region that engage with this topic both politically and practically. During the workshop, participants exchanged insights on challenges in different countries, locally developed alternatives, and the potential for joint action. Through active participation in discussions and moderation, Polekol contributed to shaping proposals for regional cooperation in the fight against green extractivism and for a democratic, just transition.





4.2.2025.

## Podrška kolektivu Četiri vode – selo Ljubanje

Od početka studentskih protesta javno i nedvosmisleno podržao Polekol je posetio selo Ljubanje i podržao kolektiv Četiri vode, koji već drugu godinu pruža priliku srednjoškolkama i srednjoškolcima iz Užice, kao i deci iz sela, da učestvuju u stvaranju murala koje pozivaju na očuvanje vrednosti koje bi nam svima morale biti u fokusu: mir, solidarnost, zaštita životne sredine. U saradnji sa udruženjem Kurs i muralistkinjom Janom Danilović došli su do sjajnih rešenja.

## Support for the Četiri Vode collective – Ljubanje village

Polekol visited the village of Ljubanje to support the Četiri Vode collective, which for the second year has been giving high school students from Užice, as well as local children, the opportunity to create murals that highlight values everyone should prioritize: peace, solidarity, and environmental protection. In collaboration with the Kurs association and muralist Jana Danilović, they achieved outstanding results.



23.9.2025.

## Klimatska pravda je i radnička pravda!

Na Dan akcije za platu za život Polekol i inicijativa Pravo na vodu podržale su inicijativu koja zahteva plate za život za sve radnike i radnice u Srbiji i svetu! Plata za život nije privilegija, ona je osnovno ljudsko pravo i temelj dostojanstvenog rada. Isti sistem koji izaziva klimatske promene i proizvodi odeću nezapamćenim tempom, radnicama i radnicima isplaćuje sirotinjske zarade i primorava ih na slabo plaćeni prekovremeni rad zbog nepotrebne prekomerne proizvodnje.

Radništvo globalnog juga u najvećoj meri snosi teret klimatske krize i uništavanja životne sredine. Prekomerna proizvodnja pretvorila je modnu industriju u proizvođača otpada, koji uništava ekosisteme i zajednice. Globalni jug postao je prostor za odlaganje otpada modne industrije. Manje nepotrebne proizvodnje i stavljanje prioriteta na radnička prava, značilo bi drugačija i bolja radna mesta.

## Terrestrial forum of the Ministry of Space – Vranje

On Action Day for a Living Wage, Polekol and the Right to Water initiative supported the campaign demanding a living wage for all workers in Serbia and around the world! A living wage is not a privilege, it is a fundamental human right and the foundation of dignified work.

The same system that drives climate change and produces clothing at unprecedented speeds pays workers poverty wages and forces them into poorly paid overtime due to unnecessary overproduction. Workers in the Global South bear the greatest burden of the climate crisis and environmental destruction. Overproduction has turned the fashion industry into a generator of waste that destroys ecosystems and communities. Reducing unnecessary production and prioritizing workers' rights would create different—and better—jobs.



Clean Clothes Campaign

living wage

CEC

polekol  
Organizacija za političku ekologiju

Pravo na vodu



1.10.2025.

## Izmene krivičnog zakonika

Polekol je bio među 18 organizacija potpisnica pozicionog dokumenta o najavljenim izmenama Krivičnog zakonika, Zakonika o krivičnom postupku i Zakona o maloletnim učiniocima. Predložene izmene ovih zakonika opasno šire krivičnu represiju, kriminalizuju tipične protestne taktike poput blokade puteva, čime ugrožavaju pravo na mirno okupljanje, i donose niz izmena koje negativno utiču na aktiviste, novinare, žrtve nasilja, građane.

Zahtevali smo hitno povlačenje predloga iz procedure, organizovanje stvarne javne rasprave, javne prezentacije uz dovoljno vremena, uključivanje struke, ali i svih ostalih zainteresovanih zajednica i pojedinaca, kao i pisani izveštaj koji po propisima ove zemlje mora biti objavljen nakon svake javne rasprave, u skladu sa standardima i praksom EU, uvažavanje stavova Nacionalnog konventa o EU, i odbacivanje rešenja koja šire prostor za represiju, potkopavaju zaštitu žrtava i narušavaju pravnu sigurnost.

## Amendments to the Criminal code

Polekol was among 18 organizations that signed a position paper on the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Law on Juvenile Offenders. The proposed changes dangerously expand criminal repression, criminalize common protest tactics such as road blockades, thus threatening the right to peaceful assembly, and introduce a series of amendments that negatively affect activists, journalists, victims of violence, and citizens.

We demanded the immediate withdrawal of the proposals from the legislative procedure, the organization of a genuine public debate, public presentations with sufficient time, the inclusion of experts as well as all other interested communities and individuals, and a written report that, according to national regulations, must be published after every public debate. We called for adherence to EU standards and practices, consideration of the positions of the National Convention on the EU, and the rejection of measures that expand the scope for repression, undermine the protection of victims, and weaken legal certainty.



23.9.2025.

## Socijalni forum – Borba za prirodu, sela i gradove: organizovanje protiv smrtonosnog urbanizma

Na prvom Socijalnom forumu, Samoobrazovnog univerziteta "Svetozar Marković", u okviru sesije "Borba za prirodu, sela i gradove: organizovanje protiv smrtonosnog urbanizma" govorila je Polekolova programska direktorka Iva Marković, zajedno sa aktivistima Ivanom Milosavljevićem, Milicom Lukić Petrović i Milicom Damjanović Zantvoort. Zaključak ekoloških saboraca bio je optimističan uprkos sve težem i kompleksnom stanju u kome se nalazi životna sredina, ali i sami mi koji se njom bavimo. Motivacije nam ne manjka, odustati nećemo.

## Social forum – Fight for nature, villages, and cities: organizing against deadly urbanism

At the first Social Forum of the Self-education university "Svetozar Marković," during the session "Fight for Nature, Villages, and Cities: Organizing Against Deadly Urbanism", Polekol's program director Iva Marković spoke alongside activists Ivan Milosavljević, Milica Lukić Petrović, and Milica Damjanović Zantvoort. The conclusion of the ecological comrades was optimistic despite the increasingly difficult and complex state of both the environment and those of us working to protect it. Motivation is abundant, and giving up is not an option.





7.11.2025.

## Bili smo deo projekata “Opće dobro” i Drava Art Bijenale 2025 (DAB '25)

Naša programska direktorka Iva Marković bila je među saradnicima projekta “Opće dobro” i podelila je bogato iskustvo rada na prirodnim zajedničkim dobrima, naglašavajući kako se ideja „opšteg dobra” može pretočiti u konkretne modele zaštite, zajedničkog upravljanja i demokratskog učešća zajednica.

U okviru Drava Art Bijenale 2025 (DAB '25), otvorenog 7. novembra u Galerija Koprivnica, Umetnički paviljon u Zagrebu učestvovao je sa projektom Opće dobro autorke Tanja Dabo i saradnica/ka, kroz koji se zajedničkim delovanjem, udruživanjem, solidarnošću i saradnjom grade nova polja i prakse zajedničkog dobra. Centralna tema bijenala bio je ekofeminizam, na razmeđi umetničkog, društvenog i političkog delovanja, a u okviru otvaranja održan je i razgovor sa umetnicama i umetnicima o aktivnostima i vrednostima koje zagovara inicijativa nastala kroz projekat „Opće dobro”, posebno usmerena na promišljanje brige i balansa između interesa ljudske i neljudske prirode unutar ekosistema.



## We were part of the “Common Good” and Drava Art Biennale 2025 (DAB '25) projects

Our program director Iva Marković was among the collaborators of the “Common good” project and shared her rich experience of working on natural common goods, emphasizing how the idea of “common good” can be translated into concrete models of protection, joint management and democratic participation of communities.

As part of the Drava Art Biennale 2025 (DAB '25), which opened on November 7 in the Koprivnica Gallery, the Zagreb Art Pavilion participated with the project Common Good by the author Tanja Dabo and her collaborators, through which new fields and practices of the common good are built through joint action, association, solidarity and cooperation. The central theme of the biennial was ecofeminism, at the intersection of artistic, social and political action, and as part of the opening, a conversation with artists was held about the activities and values advocated by the initiative created through the “Common Good” project, specifically aimed at thinking about the care and balance between the interests of human and non-human nature within the ecosystem.



9.11.2025.

## Socio-ekološki forum – Skoplje

Iskra Krstić, istraživačica u Polekolu, je u okviru Socio-ekološkog foruma bila mentorica na radionici “Prostor za sve: Socijalna inkluzija”, i radionici posvećenoj psiho-telesnoj percepciji grada. Krstić je na radionicama saradivala sa Ljubicom Slavković iz Nove planske prakse iz Beograda, i Jakovom Popovskim, scenaristom i kulturnim radnikom organizacije Pro Peace iz Skoplja. Krstić je učesnicima približila analitička sredstva iz oblasti urbane sociologije, i instrumente iz oblasti urbanističkog planiranja i planske politike, kao i alate iz oblasti zaštite životne sredine i kritiku antropocentričnog pristupa, ukazujući na potrebu da se gradski ambijenti planiraju za ljude, ali i za ekosisteme i adaptaciju na klimatske promene.



## Socio-ecological forum - Skopje

Iskra Krstić, researcher at Polekol, mentored two workshops at the FES's Socio-ecological forum in Skopje: the “Space for All: Social Inclusion” and a session on the psycho-physical perception of the city. At the workshops, Krstić collaborated with Ljubica Slavković from Nova Planska Praksa (Belgrade) and Jakov Popovski, a screenwriter and cultural worker from Pro Peace (Skopje). She introduced participants to analytical tools from urban sociology, instruments from urban planning and policy, as well as tools for environmental protection, while critiquing anthropocentric approaches and emphasizing the need to plan urban spaces not only for people but also for ecosystems and climate adaptation.



19.11.2025.

## Izgradnja širokih i raznolikih saveza za dobre poduhvate

Polekolova izvršna direktorka Žaklina Živković i ACT-ova direktorka Lejla Kusturica održale su radionicu u okviru konferencije Megafon u organizaciji TechSoup koja je bila organizovana u Sarajevu 19. i 20. novembra za više od 100 aktivista i aktivistkinja iz celog sveta. Radionica je bila posvećena pitanjima izgradnje i održavanja poverenja u heterogenim društvenim i ekološkim pokretima, oslanjajući se na višegodišnju saradnju unutar regionalne mreže „Odbranimo r(ij)eke Balkana“. Kroz primere iz prakse i konkretne priče sa terena, učesnici su se upoznali sa iskustvima i lekcijama o tome kako biti koristan lokalnim zajednicama, uz istovremeno uvažavanje različitih ritmova učenja, angažovanja i delovanja.

## Building broad and diverse alliances for meaningful initiatives

Žaklina Živković, executive director of Polekol, and Lejla Kusturica, director of ACT, held a workshop at the Megafon conference organized by TechSoup in Sarajevo on November 19–20 for over 100 activists from around the world. The workshop focused on building and maintaining trust within heterogeneous social and environmental movements, drawing on years of collaboration within the regional network "Defend the Rivers of the Balkans." Through practical examples and field stories, participants explored experiences and lessons on how to be effective for local communities while respecting different rhythms of learning, engagement, and action.





5.11.2025.

## Održani prvi javni čas Škole političke ekologije – Beograd

U Umetničkom paviljonu „Cvijeta Zuzorić“ održan je prvi javni čas Škole političke ekologije, koju je pokrenula organizacija Polekol. Iskra Krstić je otvorila program ističući da su brojne ekološke pobjede u Srbiji rezultat znanja i zajedničkog delovanja građana, ali da je za pravedniji odnos prema prirodi potrebno dalje obrazovanje i promišljanje.

Direktorke Polekola Iva Marković i Žaklina Živković predstavile su Polekolove programe „Pravo na vodu“, „Mrežu žena“, program o ekstraktivizmu i samu školu. One su držale predavanje o razlikama između pojmova ekološke politike i političke ekologije.

Dr Mladen Domazet iz Instituta za političku ekologiju u Zagrebu govorio je o razvoju teorije političke ekologije, njenoj interdisciplinarnoj prirodi, odrastu i njihovim ulogama u borbi protiv klimatske i socijalne nepravde.

Profesor dr Božo Drašković predstavio je pristupe političkoj ekonomiji životne sredine, ističući kako ekonomske strukture oblikuju ekološke krize i kako promene ekonomskih paradigmi mogu doprineti pravednijem i održivijem društvu. Događaj je zaključen diskusijom, a program se u narednim mesecima nastavlja onlajn i uživo.

## The first public class of the School of Political Ecology - Belgrade

The first public class of the School of Political Ecology, initiated by the organization Polekol, was held at the "Cvijeta Zuzorić" Art Pavilion. Iskra Krstić opened the program, emphasizing that many environmental victories in Serbia are the result of citizen

knowledge and collective action, but that further education and reflection are needed for a fairer relationship with nature.

Polekol directors Iva Marković and Žaklina Živković presented Polekol's programs, including "Right to Water," the "Women's Network," the extractivism program, and the school itself. They delivered a lecture on the differences between the concepts of environmental policy and political ecology.

Dr. Mladen Domazet from the Institute for Political Ecology in Zagreb spoke about the development of political ecology theory, its interdisciplinary nature, and its role in combating climate and social injustices.

Professor Dr. Božo Drašković presented approaches from environmental political economy, highlighting how economic structures shape ecological crises and how changes in economic paradigms can contribute to a fairer and more sustainable society. The event concluded with a discussion, and the program will continue both online and in-person in the coming months.





12.11.2025.

## ŠPE Ekofeminizam: Rodne dimenzije ekološke pravde

Dr Mirela Holí, istraživačica, feministkinja i aktivistkinja iz Zagreba, je u predavanju "Ekofeminizam: Rodne dimenzije ekološke pravde" predstavila temeljne ideje ekofeminizma kao spoja feminizma i ekologizma. Ona je objasnila pojmove intersekcionalnosti: rodne, rasne, klasne i ekološke pravde; povezala ekofeminizam s feminističkim i ekološkim talasima i pokretima; upoznala publiku s etikom i fazama razvoja teorije zaštite životne sredine i analizirala primere ekofeminističkog delovanja.

Dr Holí je ministarka zaštite okoliša i prirode u hrvatskoj Vladi (2012) i članica Odbora misije za adaptaciju klimatskim promjenama i društvenu transformaciju Horizon Europe programa. Autorka je nekoliko knjiga i predavačica na Veleučilištu VERN'.

## SPE Ecofeminism: Gender dimensions of ecological justice

Dr. Mirela Holí, a researcher, feminist, and activist from Zagreb, delivered a lecture titled "Ecofeminism: Gender Dimensions of Ecological Justice," presenting the core ideas of ecofeminism as an intersection of feminism and environmentalism. She explained the concepts of intersectionality, including gender, race, class, and ecological justice; connected ecofeminism with feminist and environmental waves and movements; introduced the audience to the ethics and developmental stages of environmental protection theory; and analyzed examples of ecofeminist action.

Dr. Holí served as Minister of Environmental Protection and Nature in the Croatian Government (2012) and is a member of the Horizon Europe Mission Committee on Climate Change Adaptation and Societal Transformation. She is the author of several books and a lecturer at VERN' Polytechnic.



19.11.2025.

## ŠPE Otimačina zemlje, vode i prirode: prostorno razvlašćivanje

Istraživačica Sonja Dragović je u predavanju "Otimačina zemlje, vode i prirode: prostorno razvlašćivanje" objasnila kako savremeno prostorno planiranje, kroz prostorne planove, posebne investicione zone i ubrzane procedure, omogućava sistemsku otimačinu javnih dobara u korist privatnog profita. Na primerima iz regiona i drugih delova Evrope polaznici su mogli da prate uobičajenu putanju: kako se neki zahvat najpre predstavi kao legitiman, zatim postane legalan, a ubrzo se proglašava neizbežnim – dok zajednicama ostaju troškovi i gubitak kontrole nad zemljom, vodom i infrastrukturom. Dragović je govorila o prenamenama, koncesijama i "strateškim projektima", analizirajući proces proizvodnje prostorne nepravde.

Sonja Dragović je teoretičarka urbanih studija i doktorska istraživačica na Univerzitetском institutu u Lisabonu (ISCTE-IUL), uz podršku Portugalske fondacije za nauku i tehnologiju. Njena interesovanja uključuju analizu praksi urbanog aktivizma i rad sa lokalnim zajednicama na poboljšanju participativnih metoda, javnih politika i zajedničkih prostora. Članica je nekoliko aktivističkih i istraživačkih kolektiva sa sedištem u Crnoj Gori i Portugalu.

## SPE Land, water, and nature grabbing: spatial dispossession

Researcher Sonja Dragović, in her lecture "Land, water, and nature grabbing: spatial dispossession" explained how contemporary spatial planning, through spatial plans, special investment zones, and accelerated procedure, enables the systemic expropriation of public goods for private profit. Using examples from the region and other parts of Europe, participants could trace a common trajectory: a project is first presented as legitimate, then becomes legal, and soon after is deemed inevitable, while communities are left with the costs and the loss of control over land, water, and infrastructure. Dragović discussed land-use changes, concessions, and "strategic projects," analyzing the processes that produce spatial injustice.

Sonja Dragović is an urban studies theorist and a doctoral researcher at the University Institute in Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), supported by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. Her interests include analyzing urban activism practices and working with local communities to improve participatory methods, public policies, and shared spaces. She is a member of several activist and research collectives based in Montenegro and Portugal.



26.11.2025.

## ŠPE Radionica sa izazovnim pojmovima

Na radionici sa izazovnim pojmovima polaznici su dobili priliku da u grupama održe prezentacije o izazvnim pojmovima iz domena političke ekologije. Polaznici su kritički razmotrili pojmove kao što su Zajednička dobra, Odrast, Prava prirode, Duboka ekologija, Zeleni kapitalizam, Tehno-optimizam, Pristup zasnovan na ljudskim pravima, Redukciona dekarbonizacija vs zaštita prirode i životne sredine. Radionica je imala sjajne rezultate kako su sve prezentacije bile na visokom nivou kvaliteta i izazvale su živu diskusiju.

## SPE Workshop on contested concepts

In the workshop on contested concepts, participants had the opportunity to give group presentations on challenging concepts in the field of political ecology. They critically examined concepts such as common goods, the commons, rights of nature, deep ecology, green capitalism, techno-optimism, human rights-based approach, and carbon reduction vs. environmental protection. The workshop produced excellent results, as all presentations were of high quality and sparked lively discussion.



3.12.2025.

## Drugi javni čas Škole političke ekologije

U okviru Polekolove prve Škole političke ekologije, održano je javno predavanje „Konflikti, militarizacija i životna sredina“. Na predavanju i diskusiji se razmotrilo kako savremeni oružani sukobi, geopolitičke tenzije i ubrzana militarizacija oblikuju prirodu, društvo i budućnost zelene tranzicije.

Predavači su ovog puta bili dr Džuli Klinger (Julie Klinger), vanredna profesorka Nelson instituta za studije životne sredine, Univerzitet Viskonsin–Medison, koja se bavi globalnim granicama resursa, svemirskim tehnologijama i uticajem konflikata na korišćenje zemljišta, životnu sredinu i mineralne resurse, i dr Aleksandar Matković, naučni saradnik Instituta za ekonomske nauke u Beogradu i saradnik Transnacionalnog instituta (TNI), koji istražuje kako strane, a posebno kineske investicije, oblikuju Balkan u kontekstu globalne zelene tranzicije.

## The second public class of the School of political ecology

As part of Polekol's first School of Political Ecology, a public lecture titled "Conflicts, Militarization, and the Environment" was held. The lecture and discussion explored how contemporary armed conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and accelerated militarization shape nature, society, and the future of the green transition.

The speakers were Dr. Julie Klinger, Associate Professor at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison, who studies global resource boundaries, space technologies, and the impact of conflicts on land use, the environment, and mineral resources; and Dr. Aleksandar Matković, Research Fellow at the Institute of Economic Sciences in Belgrade and collaborator at the Transnational Institute (TNI), who investigates how foreign, particularly Chinese, investments shape the Balkans in the context of the global green transition.

ŠKOLA POLITIČKE EKOLOGIJE

JAVNI ČAS:  
KONFLIKTI, MILITARIZACIJA  
I ŽIVOTNA SREDINA

03. DECEMBAR 2025. U 18H NA ZOOM PLATFORMI

JULIE KLINGER,  
NELSON INSTITUTE FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ALEKSANDAR MATKOVIĆ,  
INSTITUT EKONOMSKIH NAUKA

polekol  
Organizacija  
za političku ekologiju

ROSA LUXEMBURG  
STIFTUNG  
SOUTHEAST  
EUROPE



10.12.2025.

## ŠPE Politika brige i otpor logici eksploatacije

Istraživači iz Instituta za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju su održali predavanje "Politika brige i otpor logici eksploatacije". Polazeći od pojma „opšte dobro” i njegove razlike u odnosu na pojam „javnog interesa”, predavači su prikazali njihov istorijski razvoj od klasične političke filozofije do savremenih rasprava. U nastavku su uveli pojam „brige” (care) kao treći ključni pojam predavanja, sa fokusom na društveno organizovane režime i politike brige i njihove normativne implikacije.

Srdan Prodanović je viši naučni saradnik na Institutu za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju Univerziteta u Beogradu. U fokusu njegovog istraživanja su savremena društvena teorija, filozofija društvenih nauka, sociologija društvene promene i sociologija svakodnevnog života. Ljiljana Pantović je medicinska antropološkinja i naučna saradnica na Institutu za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju Univerziteta u Beogradu. Bavi se etnografskim istraživanjima ženskog reproduktivnog zdravlja, svakodnevnih praksi brige i strukturnih nejednakosti u zdravstvenoj zaštiti. Bojana Radovanović je viša naučna saradnica Instituta za filozofiju i društvenu teoriju, gde je u periodu 2020–2024. koordinirala rad Laboratorije za studije filantropije, solidarnosti i brige – SolidCare lab. Doktorirala je u Centru za studije razvoja Univerziteta u Kembridžu.

## SPE Politics of care and resistance to the logic of exploitation

Researchers from the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory held a lecture titled "The Politics of Care and Resistance to the Logic of Exploitation." Starting from the concept of the "common good" and its distinction from the notion of "public interest," the lecturers presented its historical development from classical political philosophy to contemporary debates. They then introduced the concept of "care" as a third key notion of the lecture, focusing on socially organized regimes and policies of care and their normative implications.

Srdan Prodanović is a senior research associate at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory at the University of Belgrade. His research focuses on contemporary social theory, philosophy of social sciences, sociology of social change, and the sociology of everyday life. Ljiljana Pantović is a medical anthropologist and research associate at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory at the University of Belgrade. She conducts ethnographic research on women's reproductive health, everyday practices of care, and structural inequalities in healthcare. Bojana Radovanović is a senior research associate at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, where she coordinated the work of the Laboratory for Studies of Philanthropy, Solidarity, and Care – SolidCare Lab, from 2020 to 2024. She earned her doctorate at the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Cambridge.





17.12.2025.

## Završni javni čas Škole političke ekologije – Češki dom, Beograd

Predavanjem „Ekstraktivizam i renesansa“ završen je prvi semestar Škole političke ekologije.

Kroz analizu savremenih političkih i ekonomskih pritisaka sumirano je gde se danas nalazi Srbija i zašto se rasplamsava borba za prirodu i kao borba za demokratiju, javno zdravlje i dostojanstven život. Iva Marković i Iskra Krstić su ispred Polekola publici približile koncept ekstraktivizma kao ideologiju rasta i profita, a ne neutralnu tehnologiju. Poseban akcenat bio je na aktuelnom zaokretu Evropske unije ka slabljenju ekoloških i socio-ekonomskih standarda, kroz nove pakete mera koji ubrzavaju rudarenje, infrastrukturne projekte i tehnološku ekspanziju, uz sve manje demokratske kontrole.

Kroz razgovor o vodama, kritičnim mineralima i deregulaciji, predavanje je jasno pokazalo kako se pod narativom „modernizacije“ i „konkurentnosti“ proizvode lažne dileme između razvoja i zaštite, sadašnjosti i budućnosti. Upravo u tim tačkama prelamanja postaje vidljivo koliko su otpor, solidarnost i povezivanje društvenih pokreta ključni odgovor na novu renesansu starog modela eksploatacije.

## Final public class of the School of Political Ecology - Czech House, Belgrade

The lecture "Extractivism and Renaissance" marked the conclusion of the first semester of the School of Political Ecology. Through an analysis of contemporary political and economic pressures, the session summarized Serbia's current position and why the struggle for nature is intensifying as a fight for democracy, public health, and a dignified life. Iva Marković and Iskra Krstić, representing Polekol, introduced the audience to the concept of extractivism as an ideology of growth and profit, rather than a neutral technology. Special attention was given to the recent shift in the European Union towards weakening environmental and socio-economic standards, through new policy packages that accelerate mining, infrastructure projects, and technological expansion, all with decreasing democratic oversight.

By discussing water, critical minerals, and deregulation, the lecture clearly demonstrated how, under the narrative of "modernization" and "competitiveness," false dilemmas are created between development and protection, present and future. It is precisely at these points of tension that the importance of resistance, solidarity, and the networking of social movements becomes visible as a crucial response to the new renaissance of the old model of exploitation.



# Mediji

6.6.2025.

## Plezir Magazin – Iva Marković

O političkoj ekologiji i svesti u Srbiji, stanju u svetu i borbi za prirodu, Iva Marković je govorila u prolećnom dvobroju magazina Plezir.

[https://plezirmagazin.net/plezir-magazin-prolece-2025/\(188-197-strana\).](https://plezirmagazin.net/plezir-magazin-prolece-2025/(188-197-strana).)

13.9.2025.

## Iva Marković za Mašinu

Iva Marković je za Mašinu dala izjavu o privatizaciji javnih dobara tokom protesta Društvenog fronta u Beogradu.

11.10.2025.

## Iva Marković za Betu

O pritiscima na aktiviste za Betu je govorila programska direktorka Polekola Iva Marković.

## Plezir Magazin – Iva Marković

Iva Marković spoke about political ecology and consciousness in Serbia, the state of the world and the fight for nature in the spring issue of Plezir magazine.

## Iva Marković for Mašina

Iva Marković gave a statement for Mašina about the privatization of public goods during the Social Front protest in Belgrade.

## Iva Marković for Beta

The program director of Polekol, Iva Marković, spoke about the pressures on activists for Beta.

7.11.2025.

## Novi Magazin objavio je autorski tekst Strahinje Macića i Ive Marković

Autorski tekst Strahinje Macića i Ive Marković bavi se osvrtom na mišljenje Međunarodnog suda pravde o klimatskim promenama i ljudskim pravima.

"U julu ove godine, Međunarodni sud pravde (MSP) doneo je savetodavno mišljenje koje po mnogo čemu prevazilazi prethodne okvire njegovog rada. U pitanju je mišljenje o obavezama država u vezi sa klimatskim promenama". Ovaj dokument ima sve odlike značajnog doprinosa razvoju međunarodnog prava, a može imati snažne dugoročne političke posledice, navode autori. Kako se naglašava, mišljenje MSP dolazi u trenutku kada se povećava jaz između normativne progresije međunarodnog prava i političke regresije međunarodnih odnosa. "Pitanje odgovornosti za klimatske promene direktno zadire u osnovu ekonomske i energetske moći najrazvijenijih država, a njihova spremnost da se podvrgnu pravnim obavezama u ovom domenu ostaje ograničena (...) Primer koji ovoj normativnoj borbi svedoči je i tretman vojne industrije. Uprkos tome što ostaje jedan od najvećih potrošača fosilnih goriva i zagađivača, emisije povezane s vojnim operacijama uglavnom ostaju van domašaja klimatske pravde".

*Sa našeg sajta tekst - <https://polekol.org/2025/10/30/male-pobede-u-svetu-velike-klimatske-nepravde/>*

## Novi Magazin published the author's text by Strahinja Macić and Iva Marković

An expert text written by Strahinja Macić and Ivo Marković deals with the review of the opinion of the International Court of Justice on climate change and human rights.

"In July of this year, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion that in many respects goes beyond the previous scope of its work. It is an opinion on the obligations of states in relation to climate change." This document has all the characteristics of a significant contribution to the development of international law, and may have strong long-term political consequences, according to the authors. As emphasized, the ICJ opinion comes at a time when the gap between the normative progression of international law and the political regression of international relations is widening. "The question of responsibility for climate change directly affects the basis of the economic and energy power of the most developed countries, and their willingness to submit to legal obligations in this domain remains limited (...) An example that testifies to this normative struggle is the treatment of the military industry. Despite remaining one of the largest consumers of fossil fuels and pollutants, emissions associated with military operations remain largely outside the reach of climate justice".

# Rodna ravnopravnost

Polekol se zalaže za rodnu ravnopravnost unutar grupa i organizacija koje se bave životnom sredinom. Radimo na tome da žene dobiju jednako pravo glasa unutar struktura ekoloških organizacija i jednaku vidljivost u javnosti. Povećavamo kapacitete žena putem umrežavanja i udruživanja, edukativnih programa i personalizovanom podrškom. Želimo da proširimo i poboljšamo ulogu žena u borbi za životnu sredinu kako bi se ekološko pitanje rešavalo iz rodne perspektive i napravimo most između ekologije i drugih oblasti zaštite ljudskih prava.

# Gender Equality

Polekol advocates for gender equality within groups and organizations working on environmental issues. We work to ensure that women have an equal voice within the structures of environmental organizations and equal visibility in the public sphere. We strengthen women's capacities through networking and collective organizing, educational programs, and personalized support. Our goal is to expand and improve the role of women in environmental struggles so that ecological issues are addressed from a gender perspective, while also building bridges between environmental protection and other areas of human rights.



8.3.2025.

## Osmi mart - Mreža žena - Beograd

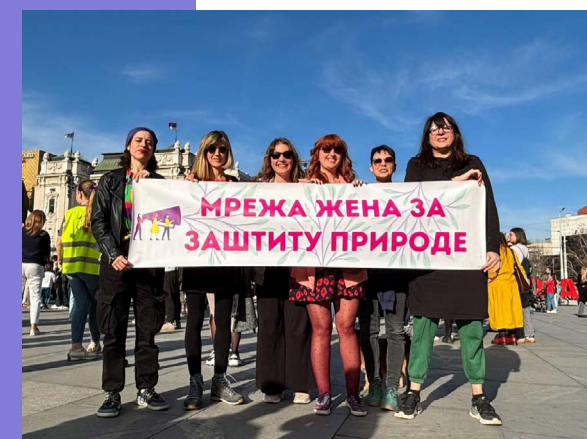
Borba za očuvanje prirode i borba za ženska prava su neraskidivo povezane. Priroda se iscrpljuje, eksploatiše i zanemaruje, baš kao i rad žena, njihova sigurnost, i glas u društvu, zato je Mreža žena za zaštitu prirode i životne sredine i ove godine učestvovala u protestnom maršu za Osmi mart!

Rame uz rame sa ženama koje se bore za ravnopravnost, pravo na rad, a protiv nasilja među govonicama su se našle i žene iz Pranjana i Gornjih Nedeljica koje se bore protiv štetnih rudarskih projekata. Ljilja Bralović iz Saveza ekoloških organizacija Srbije je podsetila okupljene na istaknute književnice, naučnice, umetnice i ratnice iz naše istorije, „čija se uloga prečesto zaboravlja. Žene iz SEOS-a su, uzdignute glave, poručile: "Neće kopati".

## March 8 – Women’s Network – Belgrade

The fight to protect nature and the fight for women’s rights are inseparably linked. Nature is being depleted, exploited, and neglected—just like women’s labor, their safety, and their voice in society. That is why the Women’s Network for the Protection of Nature and the Environment took part once again this year in the protest march for International Women’s Day!

Side by side with women who are fighting for equality, the right to work, and against violence, there were also women from Pranja and Gornji Nedeljice who are fighting against harmful mining projects. Ljilja Bralović from the Association of Environmental Organizations of Serbia reminded the audience of prominent women writers, scientists, artists and warriors from our history, whose role is too often forgotten. The women from SEOS raised their heads and said: "They shall not dig."





24.4.2025.

## Konferencija FemNet, Bar, Crna Gora

Nastavljamo da gradimo mostove među generacijama i zajednicama u borbi za pravedniji svet i očuvanu prirodu. Naša Iva Marković je u ime Mreže žena za prirodu je u sklopu konferencije Fem Net, govorila na panelu "Žene na prvoj liniji borbe za prirodu". Na panelu su doneti zaključci da je važno udruživanje i solidarnost, da se problemi tiču i sve nas dotiču, da trebamo učiti od starijih generacija, ali i od mladih i njihovih svežih pristupa borbi.

## FemNet Conference, Bar, Montenegro

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4.7. - 6.7.2025.

## 11. Letnji feministički susreti "Na prvoj liniji"

Na Letnjim feminističkim susretima u Bezdanu, koje je organizovao BeFem, Miroslava Nikolić iz Polekola je govorila o ulozi ekološkog pokreta u povezivanju ljudi iz različitih društvenih, političkih i geografskih konteksta, kao i o tome kako ovaj pokret uspeva da funkcioniše uprkos (ili upravo zahvaljujući) toj raznolikosti. Nikolić je istakla je važnost dijaloga, poverenja i solidarnosti u građenju savezništava širom Srbije. Razgovor je otvorio prostor za promišljanje ekologije kao borbe koja prevazilazi ideološke razlike i u sebi nosi potencijal za društvenu promenu i ujedinjenje.

## 11th Summer Feminist Gathering "On the Frontlines"

At the Summer Feminist Gathering in Bezdani, organized by BeFem, Miroslava Nikolić from Polekol spoke about the role of the environmental movement in connecting people from diverse social, political, and geographical contexts, and how the movement manages to function despite—or precisely because of—that diversity. Nikolić emphasized the importance of dialogue, trust, and solidarity in building alliances across Serbia. The discussion opened a space to reflect on ecology as a struggle that transcends ideological differences and carries the potential for social change and unity.





19.8.2025.

## Podrška Nikolini

Polekol je izašao na ulice da podrži protest „Sve smo mi Nikolina“, koji su organizovale žene zbora Ceraka u Beogradu. Protest je održan u znak solidarnosti sa studentkinjom Fakulteta političkih nauka u Beogradu Nikolinom Sindelić, koja je, prema svedočenju i izveštajima, bila izložena brutalnom policijskom zlostavljanju od strane komandanta JZO Marka Krička.

Polekol je prisustvom izrazio jasan stav: nasilje nad aktivistkinjama je nasilje nad svima nama. Smatramo da ovakvo ponašanje ne sme ostati bez posledica. Učestvovanjem u ovom protestu, Polekol se pridružio zahtevu za hitnu smenu i krivično gonjenje Marka Krička, kao i za sistemsku odgovornost svih institucija koje su dozvolile ovakav čin.

## Support for Nikolina

Polekol took to the streets to support the protest “We are all Nikolina,” organized by the women of Citizens’ Assembly of Cerak in Belgrade. The protest was held in solidarity with Nikolina Sindelić, a student at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, who, according to testimonies and reports, was subjected to brutal police abuse by Commander of Unit for the Protection of Certain Persons and Facilities, Marko Kričak.

By participating, Polekol made a clear statement: violence against activists is violence against all of us. We believe such behavior must not go unpunished. Through this protest, Polekol joined the call for the immediate dismissal and criminal prosecution of Marko Krička, as well as systemic accountability of all institutions that allowed such an act to occur.



5.9. - 7.9.2025.

## Sastanak Mreže žena za zaštitu prirode, Kopaonik

Na Kopaoniku je od 5. do 7. septembra održan seminar „Žedne pravde – Ženski glas za vodu“, koji je okupio 40 aktivistkinja iz cele Srbije u okviru Mreže žena za prirodu i životnu sredinu. Tokom tri dana razgovaralo se o problemima dostupnosti vode, klimatskim promenama, održivom razvoju i pritiscima sa kojima se žene suočavaju u borbi za prirodna dobra.

Učesnice su se usredsredile na posledice lošeg upravljanja vodnim dobrima, primere otpora ekstraktivizmu širom Evrope i važnosti ženske solidarnosti. Učesnice su imale prilike da u okviru tradicionalne terenske posete obiđu mini hidroelektrane na Samokovskoj reci, izgrađene pre zakonske zabrane izgradnje MHE u zaštićenim predelima. Ova hidroelektrana je narušila tok reke i prirodne lepote specifične za područje Nacionalnog parka Kopaonik.



## Meeting of the Women’s Network for Environment and Nature, Kopaonik Gender equality

From September 5 to 7, a seminar titled “Thirsting for Justice – Women’s Voice for Water” was held at Kopaonik, bringing together 40 activists from across Serbia as part of the Women’s Network for Environment and Nature. Over the three days, participants discussed issues of water accessibility, climate change, sustainable development, and the pressures women face in the fight for natural resources.

The participants focused on the consequences of poor water management, examples of resistance to extractivism across Europe, and the importance of women’s solidarity. As part of a traditional field visit, they had the opportunity to see small hydropower plants on the Samokovska River, built before the legal ban on constructing small hydropower plants in protected areas. This hydropower plant has disrupted the river’s flow and damaged the natural beauty specific to the Kopaonik National Park area.





15.10.2025.

## Dan žena sa sela – FAO UN – Sjenica

Povodom obeležavanja Svetskog dana žena sa sela, 15. oktobra, u Sjenici je održan je panel UN organizacije za hrana i poljoprivredu (FAO). U razgovoru su učestvovali predstavnici institucija i aktivistkinje, od kojih je ispred Polekola govorila Miroslava Nikolić.

Razgovaralo se o značaju udruživanja i formiraja zadruga, potrebi za boljom i inkluzivnijom infrastrukturom, kao i većom uključenošću žena u savetodavnim telima na lokalnu. Učesnice su naglasile da bi se položaj žena unapredio kada bi se prilikom kreiranja politika i budžeta uzimao u obzir rodni aspekt i tražile održive alternative za očuvanje zajedničkih dobara.

Govorilo se o potrebi za unapređivanjem energetske održivosti i neophodnosti bezbednog prostora za okupljanje žena i donošenje odluka. Nikolić je poslala poruku da je važno povezati se, tražiti pomoć i ne odustati od borbe jer je snaga u ljudima, i da se zajedno mogu izvoriti kao takvi mogu se izvoriti za prava koja im pripadaju.



## 11th Rural Women's Day – FAO UN, Sjenica

On the occasion of World Rural Women's Day, October 15, a panel organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was held in Sjenica. The discussion included representatives of institutions and activists, with Miroslava Nikolić speaking on behalf of Polekol.

The conversation focused on the importance of forming cooperatives and associations, the need for better and more inclusive infrastructure, and greater involvement of women in local advisory bodies. Participants emphasized that women's position would improve if gender perspectives were considered in policymaking and budgeting, and they called for sustainable alternatives to protect common resources.

The discussion also highlighted the need to improve energy sustainability and to provide safe spaces for women to gather and make decisions. Nikolić conveyed the message that it is important to connect, seek support, and not give up the fight, as strength lies in people, and together they can advocate for the rights they are entitled to.



21.10.2025.

## Životna sredina i pravo na vodu u ženskom rodu – Beograd

U okviru programa „Njeno pravo na grad“, Iva Marković i Žaklina Živković iz Organizacije za političku ekologiju Polekol su održale predavanje posvećeno ekofeminističkim politikama u naseljima. Razgovaralo se o položaju žena u zagađenoj životnoj sredini i klimatskim promenama, bitkama koje žene nose u lokalnim i globalnim ekološkim inicijativama, šta znači pravo na vodu u gradovima i selima, a sa osvrtom na ekologiju aktuelnih protesta iz ženske perspektive.

Šta znači boriti se za prirodu kada se istovremeno borimo za rodnu ravnopravnost? Kako izgleda otpor kada je isprepletan sa brigom o zajednici, porodici i sopstvenoj sigurnosti? Ova tema otvorila je prostor za razgovor o često nevidljivim ishodišta ekoloških politika i načinu na koji žene stvaraju alternative u komšiluku, na ulici, u kriznim situacijama.

## Environment and the right to water from a female perspective – Belgrade

As part of the program „Her Right to the City“, Iva Marković and Žaklina Živković from the Organization for Political Ecology Polekol gave a lecture focused on ecofeminist policies in local communities. The discussion addressed the position of women in polluted environments and under climate change, the battles women carry in local and global environmental initiatives, what the right to water means in cities and villages, and reflections on ecology from the perspective of ongoing women-led protests.

What does it mean to fight for nature while also fighting for gender equality? What does resistance look like when it is intertwined with care for the community, family, and personal safety? This topic created space for a conversation about the often invisible outcomes of environmental policies and the ways in which women create alternatives in their neighborhoods, on the streets, and in crisis situations



# Mediji

22.7.2025.

## Gostovanje u Tampon zoni

Žaklina Živković, Iva Marković i Miroslava Nikolić su gostovale u podcastu Tampon zona i pričale o temi prava na vodu, uticaja klimatskih promena, upravljanju vodama u dobu klimatskih promena i ekofeminizmu.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3KoZIOE5yQ>  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DMa1CKjBGkb/>

## We talked in the Tampon zone podcast

Žaklina Živković, Iva Marković and Miroslava Nikolić were guests in the Tampon zone podcast and talked about the topic of the right to water, the impact of climate change, water management in the age of climate change and ecofeminism.



# Ekstraktivizam

Polekol se bavi unapređenjem znanja o ekstraktivizmu kao sistemu praksi otuđivanja prirodnih resursa iz ranjivijih zemalja i oblasti – ali i uverenja kojima se te prakse legitimišu. Ekstraktivizam kao sistem uverenja koristi lažnu predstavu da je kapitalistička ekonomija, sa nejednakim odnosima moći, "prirodno" (i nepromenjivo) stanje ljudskog društva. On je primenjuje na eksploataciju i izvoz prirodnih resursa iz zemalja i oblasti sa manjom ekonomskom i vojno-političkom moći u bogatije i moćnije regione pod pretpostavkom "slobodne ekonomske razmene". Rad Polekola na istraživanju teorije i prakse ekstraktivizma, diseminiranju znanja i organizovanju otpora protiv ekstraktivističkih praksi komplementaran je sa ostalim strateškim oblastima: razumevanju političke ekologije, zalaganju za pravo na vodu, promovisanju rodne ravnopravnosti i demokratizacije učešća građana u procesima donošenja odluka. Intenzivan otpor na koji nailaze rudarski projekti širom Srbije ilustruju veliku potrebu za ovakvim delovanjem.

# Extractivism

Polekol works to advance knowledge about extractivism as a system of practices that alienate natural resources from more vulnerable countries and regions – as well as the beliefs that legitimize these practices. Extractivism, as a system of belief, relies on the false notion that the capitalist economy, with its unequal power relations, represents the "natural" (and unchangeable) state of human society. It applies this logic to the exploitation and export of natural resources from countries and regions with less economic and military-political power to wealthier and more powerful regions, under the assumption of "free economic exchange." Our work on researching the theory and practice of extractivism, disseminating knowledge, and organizing resistance to extractivist practices is complementary to our other strategic areas: advancing the understanding of political ecology, advocating for the right to water, promoting gender equality, and strengthening the democratization of citizen participation in decision-making processes. The strong resistance faced by mining projects across Serbia illustrates the urgent need for this kind of work.



5.2.2024.

### **Javna reakcija 47 ekoloških organizacija povodom kontraverznog dokumentarca “Not in My Country: Serbia’s Lithium Dilemma”**

Povodom prikazivanja kontroverznog dokumentarca “Not in My Country: Serbia’s Lithium Dilemma” u Evropskom parlamentu, koji je snimljen tako da predstavlja jednostrani korporativni marketing i uvredljivo iskrivljuje realnost borbe protiv rudarenja litijuma u Srbiji, Polekol je napisao javnu reakciju koje je potpisalo 47 i objavilo ekoloških organizacija.

### **Public reaction of 47 environmental organizations regarding the controversial documentary “Not in My Country: Serbia’s Lithium Dilemma”**

On the occasion of the screening of the controversial documentary “Not in My Country: Serbia’s Lithium Dilemma” in the European Parliament, which was filmed in such a way as to represent one-sided corporate marketing and offensively distort the reality of the fight against lithium mining in Serbia, Polekol wrote a public reaction that was signed and published by 47 environmental organizations.



5.2.2024.

### **Zahtevi za zaštitu stručnjaka Zavoda za zaštitu prirode Srbije**

Zavod za zaštitu prirode Srbije je izdao uslove zaštite prirode za Projekat „Jadar” u procesu koji je netransparentan, neregularan i suprotan interesima građana i prirode. Nakon otkrića CINS-a da su ti uslovi menjani bez saglasnosti dela stručnjaka i prilagođeni interesima kompanije Rio Sava, zajedno sa 32 organizacije koje se bave zaštitom životne sredine Polekol je zahtevao zaštitu stručnjaka Zavoda koji su se suprotstavili ovakvom načinu donošenja rešenja, ostavku direktorke Zavoda za zaštitu prirode Srbije, sankcionisanje odgovornih u Ministarstvu zaštite životne sredine i reviziju zakonskog okvira.

### **Requests for the protection of experts of the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia**

The Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia issued nature protection conditions for the “Jadar” Project in a process that is non-transparent, irregular and contrary to the interests of citizens and nature. After CINS discovered that those conditions were changed without the consent of experts and adapted to the interests of the Rio Sava company, together with 32 organizations dealing with environmental protection, Polekol demanded the protection of experts of the Institute who opposed this way of making decisions, the resignation of the director of the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, the sanctioning of those responsible in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the revision of the legal framework.





20-21.3.2025.

## Proslava godišnjice osnivanja udruženja Nu Dau – Ne dam iz Majdanpeka

Polekolovi Žaklina Živković i Strahinja Macić su učestvovali su na sastanku ekoloških organizacija sa istoka Srbije koji je organizovalo udruženje Ne dam - Nu Dau! Na jednom mestu okupili su se Tvrđava iz Smedereva, Čuvari Homolja iz Žagubice, Balkanski centar za prava prirode kao i brojni profesori i stručnjaci koji podržavaju ekološke borbe. Učesnici su obišli površinski kop rudnika, Rajkovu pećinu i akumulaciju Zaton. Ovom prilikom obeležena je i godišnjica osnivanja udruženja Nu Dau - Ne dam.

## Celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the association Nu Dau – Ne dam from Majdanpek

Žaklina Živković and Strahinja Macić from Polekol participated in a meeting of environmental organizations from eastern Serbia organized by the association Ne dam - Nu Dau! ( I refuse). The Fortress from Smederevo, the Guardians of Homolja from Žagubica, the Balkan Center for Nature Rights, as well as numerous professors and experts who support environmental struggles, gathered in one place. The participants visited an open pit mine, Rajkova cave, and the Zaton reservoir. On this occasion, the anniversary of the founding of the association Nu Dau – Ne dam was also marked.





4-7.5.2025.

## Cena održive budućnosti: poruke aktivista sa Zapadnog Balkana iz Nemačke – Kassel, Berlin i Frankfurt

Iskra Krstić je učestvovala u radnim sastancima delegacije stručnjaka i aktivista iz Bosne i Hercegovine i Srbije, i sindikata, predstavnika nemačke administracije i aktivističkih organizacija u Kaselu, Berlinu i Frankfurtu. Namera posete, koju je organizovala platforma Zdručeni balkanski otpor i rad – ZBOR, bila informisanje aktera u Nemačkoj o nepravедnim uslovima onoga što se predstavlja kao evropska zelena transformacija, ali u zajednicama na terenu sve više liči na otimanje sirovina za restrukturiranje industrije zemalja globalnog Severa. Članovi delegacije su članice i članovi organizacija i grupa koje se opiru ekstraktivističkim politikama i projektima i sada traže internacionalne saveznike. Putovanje su podržale i pratile Globalna partnerska mreža Univerziteta u Kaselu, PowerShift, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung i Berliner Gazette. .



## Celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the association Nu Dau – Ne dam from Majdanpek

Iskra Krstić participated in working meetings of a delegation of experts and activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and trade unions, representatives of the German administration and activist organizations in Kassel, Berlin and Frankfurt. The purpose of the visit, organized by the United Balkans Movement and Labor platform – ZBOR, was to inform individuals and groups in Germany about the unfair conditions of what is presented as a European green transformation, but in communities on the ground increasingly resembles the seizure of raw materials for the restructuring of the industries of the global North. The members of the delegation are members of organizations and groups that resist extractive policies and projects and are now looking for international allies. The trip was supported and monitored by the Global Partnership Network of the University of Kassel, PowerShift, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung and Berliner Gazette



13.05.2025.

## Deregulacija i pristup sirovinama po svaku cenu – odgovor na aktuelne krize? Berlin

Na panel-diskusiji o globalnoj trci za litijumom i drugim kritičnim sirovinama razgovaralo se o posledicama rastuće deregulacije, pritisaka na rudarske regione i slabljenja obaveza u oblasti ljudskih prava i zaštite životne sredine u kontekstu energetske tranzicije i geopolitike. Učesnici su otvorili pitanja nejednakih odnosa moći u globalnim lancima snabdevanja, različitih iskustava zajednica pogođenih eksploatacijom i rizika „trke ka dnu“ u standardima zaštite. Na panelu su govorili Pia Marchegiani (Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina), Žaklina Živković (Organizacija za političku ekologiju - Polekol), Farai Maguwu (Center for Natural Resource Governance, Zimbabwe), Tihomir Dakić (Centar za životnu sredinu, BiH) i Johanna Sydow (Heinrich Böll Foundation Nemačka).

## Deregulation and access to raw materials at all costs – a response to current crises? Berlin

A panel discussion on the global race for lithium and other critical raw materials discussed the consequences of increasing deregulation, pressures on mining regions and weakening human rights and environmental obligations in the context of energy transition and geopolitics. Participants raised issues of unequal power relations in global supply chains, the different experiences of communities affected by exploitation and the risk of a "race to the bottom" in protection standards. The panelists were Pia Marchegiani (Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina), Žaklina Živković (Organization for Political Ecology - Polekol), Farai Maguwu (Center for Natural Resource Governance, Zimbabwe), Tihomir Dakić (Center for the Environment, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Johanna Sydow (Heinrich Böll Foundation Germany).





13.06.2025.

## **Rudarenje kritičnih sirovina van kontrole i pismo Generalnom sekretaru u UN**

Polekol je među više od 150 organizacija iz celog sveta koje su potpisale pismo upućeno Generalnom sekretaru UN-a, od koga su tražile da odmah pokrene rad ekspertske grupe za pravednu tranziciju u sektoru kritičnih sirovina. Ovo je od velike važnosti, zato što rudnici koji se otvaraju da bi se „spasila planeta“ najčešće truju vodu, uništavaju zemljište i proteruju ljude iz svojih zajednica. A među onima koji najviše ispaštaju su upravo oni koji najmanje zagađuju, a to su lokalne zajednice.

## **Mining of critical raw materials out of control and a letter to the UN Secretary General**

Polekol is among more than 150 organizations from around the world that signed a letter addressed to the UN Secretary General, who they asked to immediately launch an expert group for a just transition in the sector of critical raw materials. This is of great importance, because the mines that are opened to "save the planet" often poison the water, destroy the land and drive people out of their communities. And among those who suffer the most are precisely those who pollute the least, namely local communities.



7.8. - 8.8.2025.

## **Mi ne kopamo našu budućnost, mi je zajedno čuvamo! – Tuzla, BiH**

U Tuzli je održana regionalna solidarna akcija aktivista povodom sve češćih pokušaja institucionalnog nametanja planova za istraživanje i eksploataciju litijuma, nikla, bakra i drugih teških metala širom regije. Povod za okupljanje je bio je Nacrt prostornog plana Tuzlanskog kantona, koji predviđa mogućnost rudarenja kritičnih mineralnih sirovina u ovom dijelu BiH.

Aktivisti iz regiona okupljeni u Regionalni savez "Održimo rijeku Balkana" poslali su iz Tuzle jasnu poruku da granice ne dele borbu za prirodu! Zahtevali su hitno ukidanje planova za eksploataciju litijuma, nikla i drugih kritičnih sirovina u Tuzlanskom kantonu i najavili nastavak beskompromisne zajedničke borbe za zaštitu vode, zemlje i vazduha. Građani poručuju da odbijaju da Balkan postane rudarska kolonija u ime „zelene tranzicije“ i pozivaju na pravednu, solidarnu tranziciju koja uključuje sve lokalne zajednice i štiti prirodu i ljude u regionu.

Savezu koji okuplja preko 30 pokreta i inicijativa na ovom okupljanju su se pridružili i novi pokreti iz Bosne i Hercegovine: Karton revolucija, Mladi za Kupres, Čuvari Majevice, Čuvari Ozrena Ekološko udruženje Eko Put i Prijedor se budi. Svaka tranzicija mora biti pravedna i prema rudarima i seljacima i mladima i svima koji žive u ovom regionu!

## **We don't dig our future, we save it together! – Tuzla, BiH**

A regional solidarity action by activists was held in Tuzla on the occasion of increasingly frequent attempts to institutionally impose plans for research and exploitation of lithium, nickel, copper and other heavy metals throughout the region. The reason for the gathering was the Draft Spatial Plan of the Tuzla Canton, which envisages the possibility of mining critical mineral resources in this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Activists from the region gathered in the Regional alliance "Defend the rivers of the Balkans" sent a clear message from Tuzla that borders do not divide the fight for nature! They demanded the immediate cancellation of plans for the exploitation of lithium, nickel and other critical raw materials in the Tuzla Canton and announced the continuation of the uncompromising joint struggle for the protection of water, land and air. The citizens say that they refuse the Balkans to become a mining colony in the name of a "green transition" and call for a just, solidary transition that includes all local communities and protects nature and people in the region.

The alliance that gathers over 30 movements and initiatives at this gathering was joined by new movements from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Karton Revolucija, Mladi za Kupres, Čuvari Majevice, Čuvari Ozren Ecological association Eko Put and Prijedor is waking up. Every transition must be fair to the miners and peasants and young people and everyone who lives in this region!



19.9. - 22.9.2025.

## Fotografisali smo Homolje Teren – Homolje: Crna reka, Tisnica, Jagnjilo, vrh Zdravča 897m

U saradnji sa Renderima istočne Srbije i fotografima Predragom Ilićem, Tijanom Jevtić, Nadom Ćosić, Jovicom Kostićem, Anđelom Radun i Anđelom Stojić bili smo u radnoj poseti Homolju.

Fotografi su zabeležili lepote Crne reke, Jagnjila, vrha Zdravča i drugih čarobnih mesta nad koje se nadvila opasnost da ih zbrišu rudnici i vetroparkovi. Njihovi autorski radovi će široj javnosti približiti prirodne lepote Homolja, kako bismo svi zajedno dobili širu podršku za njenu zaštitu.

## We photographed Homolje Terrain – Homolje: Crna reka, Tisnica, Jagnjilo, Zdravča peak 897m

In cooperation with Renders of Eastern Serbia and photographers Predrag Ilić, Tijana Jevtić, Nada Ćosić, Jovica Kostić, Anđela Radun and Anđela Stojić, we paid a working visit to Homolj.

Photographers captured the beauty of the Black River, Jagnjil, Zdravča peak and other magical places over which the danger of being wiped out by mines and wind farms loomed. Their author's works will bring the natural beauty of Homolje to the wider public, so that we can all get wider support for its protection.



27.09.2025.

## Poseta aktivista i sindikalaca iz Nemačke i Austrije Srbiji

Delegacija aktivista, eksperata i sindikalaca iz auto industrije iz Nemačke i Austrije posetila je Bor, Majdanpek i Gornje Nedeljice kako bi se iz prve ruke uverila u štetne ekstraktivističke prakse u rudarskoj industriji u Srbiji. Polekolova izvršna direktorka Žaklina Živković je zajedno sa meštanima i aktivistima inicijative Ne damo Jadar predstavila razloge zašto se rudnik litijuma u Jadru neće realizovati, ali i pružila širu sliku o zagađenju životne sredine koje stanovništvo Srbije već trpi. Uspešnost ove posete pokazuje i vest da će se poseta uzvratiti, odnosno da će u 2026. biti organizovana poseta aktivista iz Srbije Nemačkoj i Austriji, kako bi se dalje pronela vest o ekološkom aktivizmu u Srbiji.

## Visit of Activists and Trade Unionists from Germany and Austria to Serbia

A delegation of activists, experts, and automotive industry trade unionists from Germany and Austria visited Bor, Majdanpek, and Gornje Nedeljice to witness first-hand the harmful extractivist practices in Serbia's mining sector. Polekol's Executive Director, Žaklina Živković, together with local residents and activists from the "Ne damo Jadar" initiative, presented the reasons why the planned lithium mine in Jadar will not be realized, while also providing a broader picture of the environmental pollution that communities across Serbia are already enduring. The significance of the visit is reflected in the announcement that it will be reciprocated: in 2026, activists from Serbia will travel to Germany and Austria to further share experiences and strengthen international solidarity around environmental activism in Serbia.





10.10.2025.

### **Konferencija i publikacija (E)mission Possible: Green Deal & Western Balkans – BiH**

U Parlamentarnoj skupštini Bosne i Hercegovine, u saradnji sa Evropskim liberalnim forumom, Fondacija Boris Divković organizovala je konferenciju za publikaciju "(E)mission Possible: Zeleni dogovor i Zapadni Balkan", koja ima za cilj da prati napredak zemalja u sprovođenju preporuka koje proizlaze iz Zelenog dogovora. Na panelu pod nazivom „Između obaveze i kapaciteta: Zeleni dogovor na Zapadnom Balkanu“, govorili su stručnjaci i aktivisti, među kojima je ispred Polekola govorio Strahinja Macić.

Macić je pored izlaganja objavio i tekst koji se bavi sukobom između građana i vlasti u Srbiji povodom eksploatacije litijuma u Jadru, koji je postao simbol isključivanja javnosti iz odlučivanja i podređivanja javnog interesa privatnim investitorima. Ukazuje se na haotičnu i protivrečnu energetska politiku države, odsustvo Prostornog plana i institucionalnu zatvorenost koja onemogućava održiv i pravedan razvoj. Kritikuje se i uloga Evropske unije koja, u potrazi za kritičnim sirovinama, gubi kredibilitet odustajanjem od principa vladavine prava i zaštite prirode. Proces energetske tranzicije u Srbiji opisan je kao spor, nesistematičan i vođen profitnim, a ne javnim interesima, dok se građanska energija prepoznaje kao neiskorišćen potencijal. Uprkos svemu, u tekstu preovlađuje uverenje da rastuća ekološka svest i angažman građana mogu postati pokretačka snaga za pravedniju i održiviju energetska politiku.



### **Conference and publication (E)mission Possible: Green Deal & Western Balkans – BiH**

In the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the European Liberal Forum, the Boris Divković Foundation organized a conference for the publication "(E)mission Possible: The Green Deal and the Western Balkans", which aims to monitor the progress of countries in implementing the recommendations arising from the Green Deal. On the panel entitled "Between obligation and capacity: Green deal in the Western Balkans", experts and activists spoke, among whom Strahinja Macić spoke in front of Polekol.

In addition to the presentation, Macić also published a text dealing with the conflict between citizens and authorities in Serbia regarding the exploitation of lithium in Jadu, which has become a symbol of excluding the public from decision-making and subordinating the public interest to private investors. It points to the chaotic and contradictory energy policy of the state, the absence of a Spatial Plan and the institutional closure that prevents sustainable and fair development. The role of the European Union, which, in the search for critical raw materials, is losing credibility by abandoning the principles of the rule of law and nature protection is also criticized. The process of energy transition in Serbia is described as slow, unsystematic and driven by profit rather than public interests, while civil energy is recognized as an unused potential. Despite everything, the belief prevails in the text that the growing environmental awareness and engagement of citizens can become the driving force for a fairer and more sustainable energy policy.





24-26.10.2025

## Sastanak Regionalnog saveza “Odranimo prirodu Balkana”, Bijeljina – Gornje Nedeljice

U Bijeljini je održano okupljanje aktivista i aktivistkinja udruženih u regionalni savez “Odranimo r(ij)eke Balkana”, čiji su članovi organizacije i pokreti koji se suprotstavljaju štetnim projektima na našim rekama, šumama, pašnjacima i u našim zavičajima.

Polekolove Iskra Krstić i Žaklina Živković su u okviru ovog sastanka održale predavanje na temu rastućih ekstraktivnih praksi i Direktive o kritičnim sirovinama Evropske Unije. U jeku sve intenzivnijih napada velikih stranih rudarskih kompanija, i sa Istoka i sa Zapada, na prirodna bogatstva regiona, u prvom redu Srbije i Bosne i Hercegovine, od ključnog je značaja zajedničko i solidarno delovanje aktivista i aktivistkinja i ovdšnjeg stanovništva u borbi protiv planova koji su Balkan označili “žrtvenom zonom” kako rudarskih korporacija, tako i ciljeva EU zelene tranzicije.

Savez “Odranimo r(ij)eke Balkana” odlučio je da promeni svoj naziv u “Odranimo prirodu Balkana”, jer izrastao u savez koji okuplja čuvarice i čuvarice kako reka, tako i šuma, zavičaja i cele prirode regije. Ovim činom otvara novo poglavlje za borbu koja nije samo sprečavanje, već iskreno i ujedinjeno zalaganje za sigurnu i dostojanstvenu budućnost te harmoniju između čoveka i prirode.

Uz poruku da odbrana prirodnih bogatstava ne poznaje granice, okupljanje ovog regionalnog saveza završeno je odlaskom u posetu Saboru Saveza ekoloških organizacija Srbije koji je održan u Gornjim Nedeljicama, na kojem je prisustvovalo nekoliko stotina aktivista i aktivistkinja i organizacija i pokreta iz cele Srbije i regije.

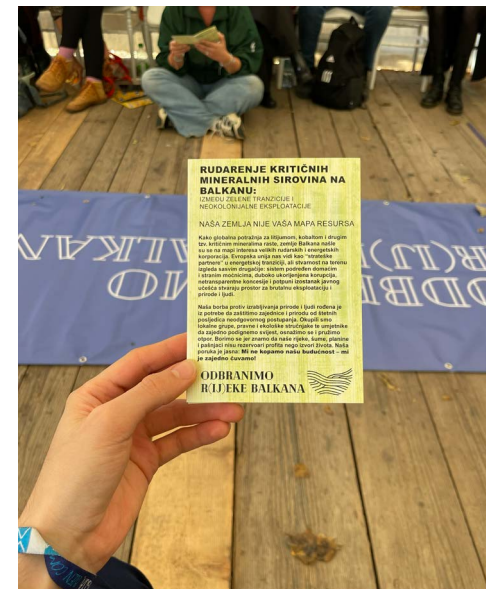
## Meeting of the Regional Alliance “Defend the nature of the Balkans”, Bijeljina – Gornje Nedeljice

In Bijeljina, activists united under the regional alliance “Defend the rivers of the Balkans” gathered. Its members include organizations and movements opposing harmful projects affecting our rivers, forests, pastures and our local communities.

Polekol’s Iskra Krstić and Žaklina Živković gave a presentation at this meeting on the growing extractive practices and the European Union’s Critical Raw Materials Directive. Amid increasingly aggressive incursions by large foreign mining companies, from both the East and the West, targeting the region’s natural resources—especially in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina—solidarity and coordinated action by activists and local communities are crucial in resisting plans that have designated the Balkans as a “sacrifice zone” for both mining corporations and EU green transition objectives.

The alliance “Defend the rivers of the Balkans” has decided to change its name to “Defend the nature of the Balkans,” reflecting its growth into a coalition that protects not only rivers but also forests, local landscapes, and the region’s entire natural heritage. This change marks a new chapter in a struggle that is not just about prevention, but about a committed and unified effort for a safe and dignified future and harmony between people and nature.

With the message that the defense of natural resources knows no borders, the regional alliance concluded its gathering with a visit to the Assembly of the Alliance of Ecological Organizations of Serbia in Gornje Nedeljice, attended by several hundred activists, organizations, and movements from across Serbia and the region.





26.10.2025.

## SEOS sabor – Gornje Nedeljice

Polekol se i ove godine među brojnim ekološkim aktivistima pridružio četvrtom saboru Saveza ekoloških organizacija Srbije. Na saboru su se okupili ljudi iz Srbije, Bosne i Makedonije, koji veruju da je drugačija budućnost moguća, ljudi koji brane reke, šume i sela i ljudi koji su glasno rekli dosta je podela! Sa SEOS Sabora poslata je poruka da je borba za odbranu prirode zajednička za sve ljude Balkana koji veruju da je očuvanje i zaštita prirode jedini siguran način da se osigura dostojanstven i siguran život kako za nas sad tako i za sve buduće generacije. Zajedno, iz svih krajeva Srbije i regiona, nastavljamo da gradimo pokret koji povezuje i osnažuje.



## SEOS assembly – Gornje Nedeljice

Polekol joined the fourth assembly of the Association of Environmental Organizations of Serbia (SEOS) together with numerous environmental activists. The assembly gathered people from Serbia, Bosnia and Macedonia, who believe that a different future is possible, people who defend rivers, forests and villages and people who loudly said enough is enough division! The SEOS Parliament sent a message that the fight for the defense of nature is shared by all the people of the Balkans who believe that the preservation and protection of nature is the only sure way to ensure a dignified and safe life for us now and for all future generations. Together, from all parts of Serbia and the region, we continue to build a movement that connects and empowers.



24.10.2025.

## Podneli smo primedbe na predlog prostornog plana Boljevca

Identifikovali smo probleme u predlogu prostornog plana opštine Boljevac, i pozvali građane da na njih reaguju. Osnovne pretnje predstavljaju brane na svim pritokama Crni Timoka, male hidroelektrane, vetroelektrane u zaštićenom području i alpska skijališta.

## We sent remarks to the spatial plan of Boljevac

We identified problems in the spatial plan proposal of the municipality of Boljevac, and invited citizens to respond to them. The main threats are dams on all tributaries of Crni Timok, small hydroelectric power plants, wind power plants in the protected area and alpine ski resorts.





17.12.2025.

## **Reakcija Polekola na novi set mera Evropske unije**

Polekol nastavlja da ukazuje na zabrinjavajući zaokret Evropske unije ka slabljenju ekoloških propisa pod izgovorom „pojednostavljanja“ i ubrzanja strateških investicija. Najavljene deregulativne mere, usmerene na olakšavanje eksploatacije kritičnih sirovina, rudarenja i razvoja energetske intenzivnih tehnologija poput veštačke inteligencije, predstavljaju ozbiljnu pretnju ekosistemima, javnom zdravlju i demokratiji.

Posebno je problematično što se razmatra ublažavanje procedura procene uticaja na životnu sredinu i revizija ključnih direktiva EU o vodama, prirodi i industrijskim emisijama, čime se dugogodišnji standardi zaštite stavljaju u funkciju geopolitike i interesa krupnog kapitala. Polekol se protivi takvoj logici eksploatacije, u kojoj se kratkoročna konkurentnost stavlja ispred zaštite prirodnih dobara i dugoročne održivosti.

Ovakvi trendovi dodatno produbljuju klimatsku krizu i podrivaju poverenje građana u institucije, dok se glasovi lokalnih zajednica, nauke i civilnog društva sistematski marginalizuju. U kontekstu iskustava regiona Zapadnog Balkana, gde je deregulacija već dovela do brojnih nepovratnih šteta, Polekol upozorava da Evropska unija ne sme krenuti tim putem. Umesto regresije, zagovaramo doslednu primenu postojećih zakona, jačanje javnog nadzora, očuvanje prava na zdravu životnu sredinu i zaštitu vode i drugih prirodnih dobara kao javnog dobra, u interesu sadašnjih i budućih generacija.

## **Polekol's reaction to the new set of European Union measures**

Polekol continues to point to the European Union's worrying turn towards weakening environmental regulations under the pretext of "simplification" and accelerating strategic investments. The announced deregulatory measures, aimed at facilitating the exploitation of critical raw materials, mining and the development of energy-intensive technologies such as artificial intelligence, represent a serious threat to ecosystems, public health and democracy.

It is particularly problematic that the easing of environmental impact assessment procedures and the revision of key EU directives on water, nature and industrial emissions are being considered, thereby putting long-standing protection standards into the function of geopolitics and the interests of big capital. Polekol opposes such exploitation logic, in which short-term competitiveness is placed before the protection of natural resources and long-term sustainability.

Such trends further deepen the climate crisis and undermine citizens' trust in institutions, while the voices of local communities, science and civil society are systematically marginalized. In the context of the experiences of the Western Balkan region, where deregulation has already led to numerous irreversible damages, Polekol warns that the European Union must not go down that path. Instead of regression, we advocate consistent application of existing laws, strengthening of public oversight, preservation of the right to a healthy environment and protection of water and other natural resources as a public good, in the interest of current and future generations.

26.10.2025.

## **Podneli smo primedbe tokom ranog javnog uvida u PPPN rudnog ležišta Čoka Rakita u rejonu Crnog vrha**

Skrenuli smo pažnju na to da se područje planirano za rudnik nalazi u neposrednoj blizini Parka prirode "Kučaj-Beljanica", koji je u postupku proglašenja za nacionalni park. U pitanju je stanište brojnih zaštićenih i ugroženih vrsta, koje su verovatno prisutne i na području planiranom za rudnik. Budući nacionalni park je samo 3km udaljen od mineralnog ležišta. Područje zahvaćeno predmetnim planom se, uz to preklapa sa budućim Natura 2000 područjima Crni vrh i Homoljske planine.

PPPN je sporan i zbog toga što se oslanja na zastarele planove višeg reda. "Opet se planiraju pojedinačna područja bez usvojenog krovnog, strateškog dokumenta na nivou Republike", naveli smo. "Plan se oslanja i na Regionalni prostorni plan za područje Podunavskog i Braničevskog upravnog okruga, koji je poslednji put preispitan 2015. godine, ali predviđa važnu obavezujuću odredbu zabranu instaliranja novih preradnih kapaciteta (flotacije, topionice...) metaličnih ruda u blizini zaštićenih područja; Program zaštite prirode RS koji je istekao 2023. godine i radne verzije Strategije razvoja turizma 2020-2025, koja će po svemu sudeći prestati da važi i pre nego što bude usvojena. Drugim rečima, ne postoji nijedan strateško-razvojni dokument koji sagledava trenutne fizičko-ekološke, ekonomske i socijalne potrebe određene teritorijalne jedinice, pa samim tim ne postoje ni jasno definisani principi i ciljevi prostornog razvoja na republičkom ili administrativnom nivou", istakao je Polekol u primedbama.

## **We submitted objections during the early public inspection of the Special purpose spatial plan of the Čoka Rakita ore deposit in the Crni Vrh region.**

We drew attention to the fact that the area planned for the mine is located in the immediate vicinity of the Kučaj-Beljanica Nature Park, which is in the process of being declared a national park. It is the habitat of numerous protected and endangered species, which are probably also present in the area planned for the mine. The future national park is only 3 km away from the mineral deposit. The area affected by the subject plan also overlaps with the future Natura 2000 areas Crni vrh and Homoljske planina.

SPSP is also controversial because it relies on outdated higher-order plans. "Again, individual areas are being planned without an adopted umbrella, strategic document at the level of the Republic", we stated. "The plan also relies on the Regional Spatial Plan for the area of the Danube and Braničevo Administrative Districts, which was last reviewed in 2015, but foresees an important binding provision prohibiting the installation of new processing capacities (flotation, smelting...) of metallic ores near protected areas; the Nature Protection Program of the RS that expired in 2023 and the working versions of the Tourism Development Strategy 2020-2025, which apparently will cease to be valid even before it is adopted. In other words, there is no strategic-development document that takes into account the current physical-ecological, economic and social needs of a certain territorial unit, and therefore there are no clearly defined principles and goals of spatial development at the republican or administrative level," stated Polekol in our remarks.

# Mediji

9.11.2025.

## Iskra Krstić - Intervju za Berliner Gazette

Naša Iskra Krstić govorila je za Berliner Gazette tokom njihove konferencije u Berlinu. U razgovoru je otvorila važne teme, poput onih kako se u Srbiji prepliću društvena previranja i savremeni geopolitički i ekonomski pritisci.

## **Iskra Krstić - Berliner Gazette interview**

Our Iskra Krstić gave an interview for the Berliner Gazette during their conference in Berlin. In the conversation, she opened up about important topics, such as how social turmoil and contemporary geopolitical and economic pressures are intertwined in Serbia.



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