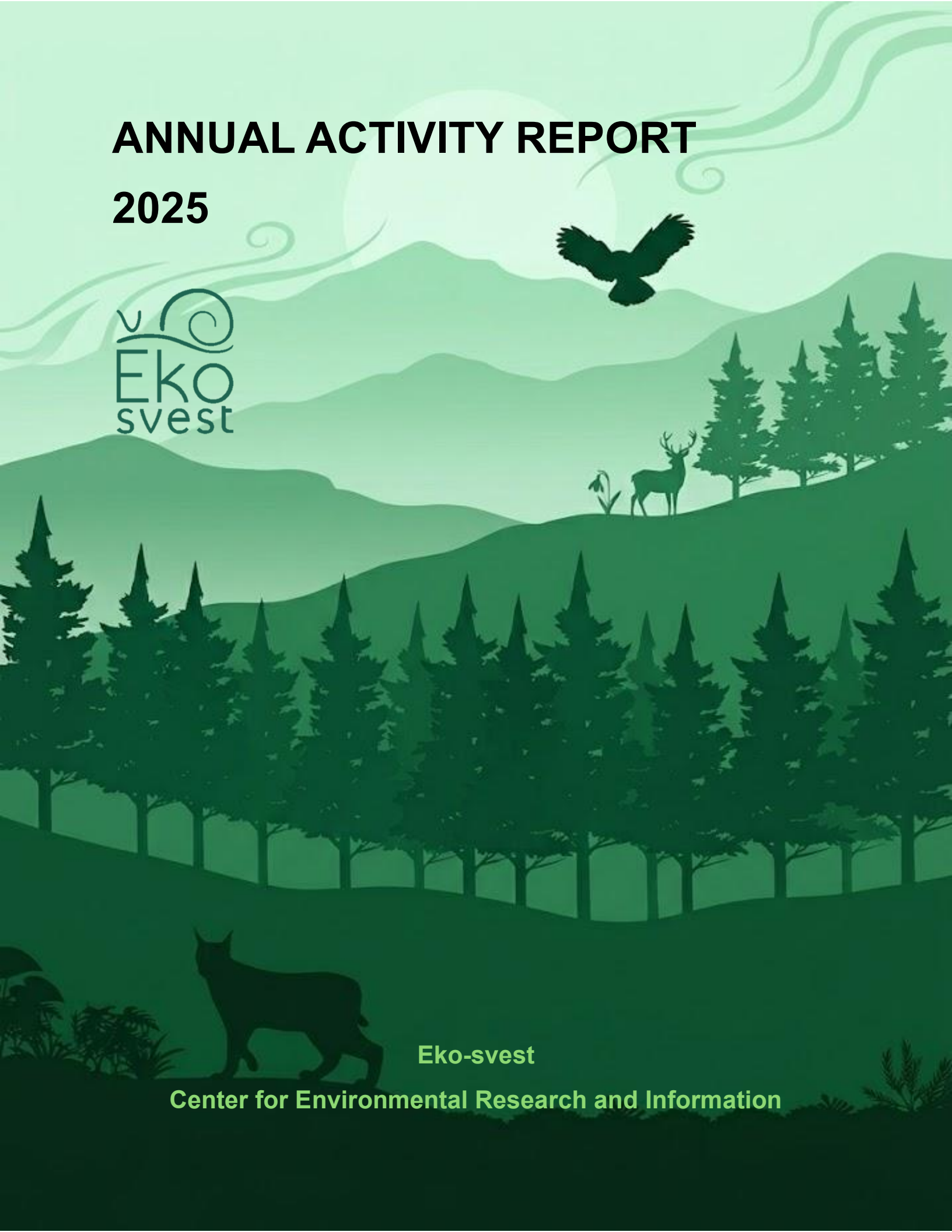
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2025



Eko-svest

Center for Environmental Research and Information

Introduction to the 2025 Annual Report

Dear all,

The past year, 2025, was marked by numerous political and social upheavals that fundamentally tested the integrity of the civil sector. We witnessed changes that directly impacted the stability of many professional organizations, especially those dedicated to the protection of human rights. The loss of financial support for some of our colleagues was not only a blow to the sector but also to the democratic capacity of our society.

In this turbulent period, **Eko-svest** managed to maintain its stability. Thanks to a clearly defined focus and long-standing partnerships with donors, we continued to realize our priorities without interruption. This year was especially significant due to the new partnership with the **Hans Wilsdorf Foundation**, as well as the extended strategic support from the **Government of Sweden** and **The Sigrid Rausing Trust**. These institutional grants are the backbone of our operations—they provide us with the necessary co-financing and allow us to unite resources to achieve significantly greater impacts and visible results.

However, 2025 did not pass without serious challenges. The greatest challenge remains the limited influence on legislative processes. Although as a civil sector we offer expertise, education, and transparency, the power for substantive change is in the hands of the institutions. We again faced apathy, a lack of accountability, and inertia on issues that stay unresolved for decades. The Nature Law, the Water Law, and the re-proclamation of Mavrovo National Park remain stuck in the labyrinths of bureaucracy, despite our long-standing efforts.

It is worrying that institutions are becoming increasingly resistant to public pressure and international obligations. But precisely in such state, we draw hope from local communities. Their voice is becoming louder and more determined.

We are proud of the cooperation with local self-governments who are true leaders of change:

- **The Municipality of Bitola**, which is leading the debate on a just energy transition louder than ever;
- **Kumanovo and Kriva Palanka**, as the first municipalities to take concrete steps to free the Pčinja and Kriva Reka rivers from concrete barriers;
- **The Municipality of Demir Kapija**, which remains unwavering in its commitment to protect its natural landscape.

During the year, we also noted a significant increase in local environmental activism for the rescue of Doshnica and Blateshnica from the construction of small hydropower plants, as well as for the protection of the village of Ljubojno from excessive logging.

Working with such stakeholders is a confirmation that the "bottom-up" principle, which we have been promoting for years, is finally becoming a reality. Local authorities and citizens are

increasingly present in decision-making processes, and their determination gives us the motive to move forward.

"At the end of 2025, it is clear that the path to systemic change is longer and harder than we predicted. But something else is also clear—the power of uniting is stronger than institutional unresponsiveness. Eko-svest remains the bridge between expertise, activism, and local needs. Our mission for 2026 is clear: to channel growing civic resistance into concrete policies and not allow nature to be a victim of political opportunism."

We are sincerely grateful to all our donors who supported us in 2025 and enabled the realization of 24 projects during the year:

The Government of Sweden, Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust, European Climate Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Euronatur Stiftung, European Commission (lead partner BOS- Serbia), French Development Agency (grant through Alka), Open Society Western Balkans, Germanwatch, University of Manchester, Heinrich Boell Stiftung, and Open Rivers Foundation.

The real change does not begin in parliamentary halls, but beside our rivers, in our protected areas, and in the heart of our communities.

To all donors, members, supporters, and partners—Thank you for being with us in this fight for our shared future.

Ana Colovic Lesoska,

Executive Director of Eko-svest

December 31, 2025

Key Achievements in 2025

For the first time in Macedonia, the removal of two river barriers was carried out, enabling the opening of 72 km of river flow. The first barrier on Kriva Reka near Kriva Palanka was successfully removed in August 2025. This was the first intervention of its kind in the country. The second barrier on Pchinja River, the largest recorded in Europe, was removed in the last quarter of the year. Our pioneering results were noted and highly rated by partners in the European network Dam removal Europe.

The newly established Green Phone and the legal support we continuously provide were increasingly used by citizens and local communities. One-third of all reported cases (40 in total) have already been resolved in the second half of 2025. With this, we support active citizenship through participation, awareness raising, and the engagement of civil society organizations, citizens, and local communities in solving specific environmental problems.

The Just Transition Plan in the Pelagonija region now includes an Eko-svest activity to develop a model for a citizen energy community on a location of degraded land within REK Bitola in the municipality of Novaci. This is in accordance with the measure stated in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and linked to Eko-svest's work on smart energy planning with a methodology for solar and wind energy locations. The fact that there is positive attitude toward energy transition, establishment of energy communities, and transition to renewable energy sources is encouraging, and it is confirmed by the latest survey of the population in the municipality of Novaci.

Activity Report for 2025

ENERGY

In the thematic area of energy, Eko-svest worked with partners to accelerate the just and sustainable transformation of the national energy system by strengthening communities, improving regulation, promoting renewable energy sources, and encouraging investment in energy efficiency and public involvement.

Achieved Results

Eko-svest achieved a key influence on national energy policies through expert analyses that contributed to the revision of policies regarding the use of fossil fuels, while simultaneously promoting energy efficiency and decentralized energy production. Through involvement in key consultative processes for significant legislative solutions, the organization managed to embed its smart planning methodology into the draft National Energy and Climate Plan and the draft Law on Renewable Energy Sources, thereby providing a framework for sustainable land use.

Within the framework of just transition, local initiatives in Bitola were institutionalized as an official Just Transition Forum, ensuring that community's voice is at the center of the process for closing thermal power plants. Although the rapid pace of legislative changes and the need for greater youth involvement remain a challenge, in 2025 Eko-svest established itself as an indispensable strategic partner linking scientific evidence, local communities, and creative forms of advocacy for an accelerated and just energy transition.

Just Transition Forum

Detailed Overview of Activities

We collaborated with external experts to prepare two analyses—on the upcoming Energy Efficiency Fund and on the impact of planned gas infrastructure on emissions. Both reports offer a series of recommendations that Eko-svest uses in its advocacy activities for moving away from fossil gas and investing in energy efficiency. The content of these reports was used to produce

informative videos broadcast on three different television channels. With this approach and the distribution of analysis results to the relevant stakeholders, we influence national and local policies. The Municipality of Kumanovo, which was part of our analysis and promotion of success stories, leads in promoting energy efficiency measures and is abandoning the subsidization of connections to the gas network. In this way, it becomes an example for other municipalities. The results of the gas infrastructure analysis clearly showed that more than one gas plant is not cost-effective. The Energy Project Construction Plan for 2026 of the Government includes only one such project, contrasting the originally planned 3 gas powerplants.

Good cooperation was maintained with the newly formed Ministry of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources with regular consultations on key legislation and consultative processes. Eko-svest submitted comments on the Strategy for Mineral Resources and contributed comments to three draft laws on renewable energy, geology, and mining. The initial draft law on renewable energy refers to the smart energy planning methodology developed by Eko-svest, MANU, and TNC.

Study visits

The advocacy platform for the improvement of legislation for prosumers (producer-consumers) has been continuously implemented for the second year through a public campaign and the new website https://prosumer.mk, which contains all necessary information for households wishing to produce their own energy. With these activities, Eko-svest directly acts toward improving legal regulation in this domain.

The roundtables of the local economic-social group co-organized with the municipality of Bitola for just transition were recognized by the Ministry of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources as the official Just Transition Forum. In addition to the implemented just transition campaign, our efforts continue with support for the local economic-social group's discussions on just transition priorities that will support actions at the national level. To support these processes, we published a Socio-economic Analysis of the Pelagonija Region. For the wider public, a monodrama by Marjan Georgievski on topic related to energy transition was promoted in Bitola. With aim to

involve the youth, in cooperation with UKLO Bitola, we organized the first youth citizens' assembly, where participants discussed the future of the region through the prism of sustainability and began the process of creating a concept for the first territorial just transition plan. As a main effect of our activities in coal-dependent regions, discussions about the closure of thermal power plants and just transition are present in the wider public as the only direction in which the community is moving.

Invitation to the Youth Assembly in Bitola

To advance the concept of prosumers in Macedonia, Eko-svest organized a roundtable in April 2025. The event enabled a constructive exchange of ideas and proposals, where present representatives from state institutions, the energy sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders discussed opportunities, challenges, and possible solutions in the implementation of local and decentralized electricity production from renewable sources. With such efforts, Eko-svest keeps the topic of energy sector decentralization high on the institutional agenda. While in the past there were not enough discussions on this topic, last year it gained significant public attention.

At the regional level, in cooperation with other civil society organizations, we published the policy document "Energy Transition in the Western Balkans" compiled through extensive consultations with the civil sector and used as a basis for regional advocacy.

Monodrama “Not Today” in Bitola

The energy program is implemented through projects funded by The European Climate Foundation, The European Commission (via grant implemented by Belgrade Open School), The Nature Conservancy, The University of Manchester, The Open Society Foundation, The Heinrich Boll Foundation, Germanwatch e.V., and the Government of Sweden (Sida).

CLIMATE

In the thematic area of climate, Eko-svest rounded off the "Civil Society Organizations in Action for Climate Change" program, focused on raising public awareness, building capacities for CSOs, and advocacy for climate policies. With support from Sweden, Eko-svest continued to implement this program in 2025, aiming to achieve its strategic goal:

To encourage systemic climate action by advancing ambitious and applicable climate policies, supporting decarbonization and just transition initiatives, and strengthening civil society to catalyze public pressure—resulting in a significant reduction in emissions, increased climate resilience, and the adoption of new climate policies by 2028.

Achieved Results

Eko-svest successfully catalyzed systemic action for the climate through the strategic strengthening of the civil sector and direct influence on the creation of ambitious climate policies. A key strategic success is the active contribution to the preparation of the draft Law on Climate Action, providing a legal basis for long-term emission reduction. Eko-svest actively advocated for civil sector participation in the national coordination body for climate action in the draft law; as a result, the latest version of the draft law provides for three representatives from citizens' associations in the composition of the national coordination council for climate action, one of whom is a youth representative, proposed by the Climate Coalition. As a result of the efforts of the national climate coalition, the draft law on climate action supports the EU's commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Over 1 million citizens were reached with public campaigns in the domain of climate action during 2025.

Detailed Overview of Activities

In March, a delegation of mayors and representatives of eight municipalities from North Macedonia and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning participated in a study visit to Sweden dedicated to climate action. Mayors and representatives from the municipalities of Bitola, Strumica, Delchevo, Gevgelija, Demir Kapija, Kumanovo, Lozovo, and Plasnica, as well as a representative from the department for cooperation with local self-government at the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, visited Malmö and Lund to learn about practical measures for environmental protection, urban planning and development, and cooperation with the academic community and citizens to create sustainable and resilient cities. Eko-svest also organized a workshop to improve climate change communication among all stakeholders and with the public, aiming to increase knowledge and information on these topics among relevant institutions and CSOs working on the issues to achieve the country's set climate goals and raise citizen awareness.

In Skopje, we organized an event to present the methodology for PLS (Post-Legislative Scrutiny) of environmental and climate change legislation in Macedonia. The goal of the event was to open a discussion on using PLS as an instrument and guide for the successful implementation of obligations arising from the Law on Environment and the Law on Climate Action.

Training for communicating climate change

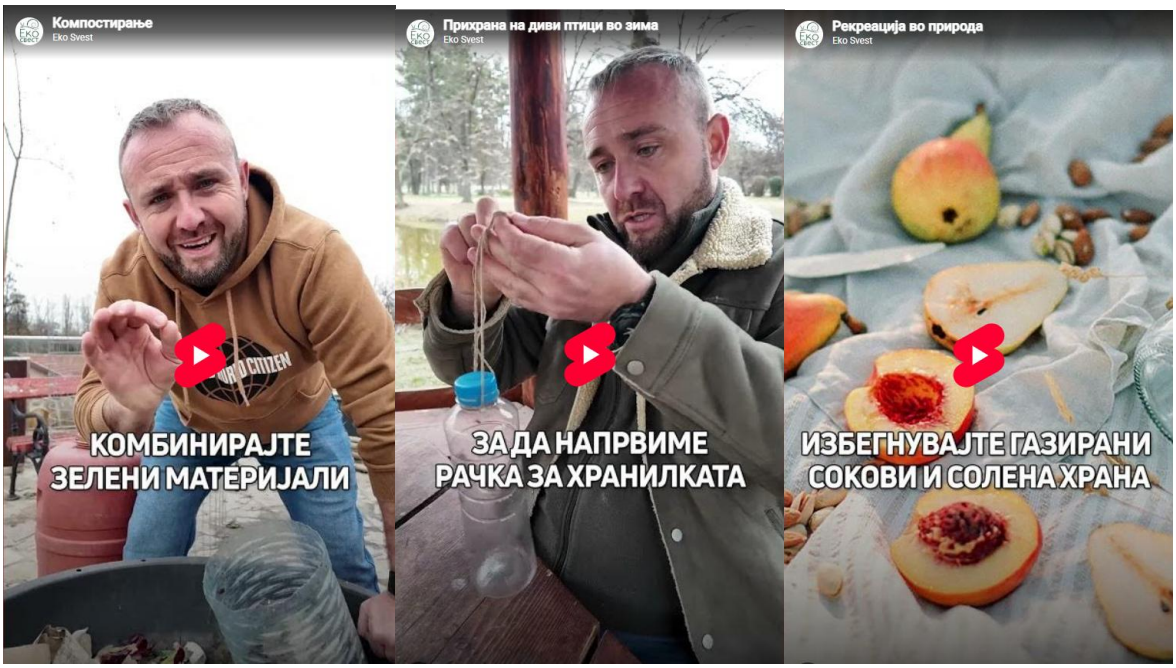
We rounded off the program with a final event in May, where achieved results were presented to representatives and collaborators from line institutions, municipalities, and civil society organizations. Through three panel discussions, the challenges and opportunities in strengthening knowledge and initiating participation in policy and law-making relevant to climate change were explained. Participants concluded that in all occasions where the National Climate Coalition was a partner in policy co-creation, the documents prepared took into account all arguments and all stakeholders and the processes ensured transparency and learning for all involved parties. The results and acquired experiences are already embedded in the activities that Eko-svest continues to implement in this area.

In the initial phase, intensive consultative processes took place. Eko-svest submitted comments on the National Energy and Climate Plan, participated in consultative processes for the NECP and its SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment), as well as for the GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Inventory. The final version of the NECP recognizes Eko-svest's work on smart energy planning and prescribes this methodology as a measure in the plan.

To raise awareness of the connection between climate and urban biodiversity, we conducted a viral social media campaign for urban biodiversity, which was well-received by the public and resulted in many TV appearances. Eko-svest analyzed the programs of political parties for the local elections regarding their readiness for climate action and published a climate action "traffic light." We prepared four courses on climate change, available for free on our educational platform eko.net.mk. We also completed the second season of the energy and climate series with a total of 10 videos via an innovative format titled "Eko-svest Explores."

Eko-svest contributed to the Shadow Report for 2025 on North Macedonia's progress toward the EU, providing the analysis of the climate sub-chapter. The report results were promoted through a public event organized on December 12, 2025, jointly with other CSOs. Eko-svest shared an opinion on the latest EU Progress Report for 2025 for Chapter 27.

Urban biodiversity Campaign



The climate program is implemented through projects funded by the Government of Sweden (Sida) and The European Climate Foundation.

WATER PROTECTION

In the thematic area of water protection, Eko-svest implemented a series of projects and activities to contribute to achieving the strategic goal: Legal and practical socio-ecological protection and restoration of at least three rivers in the country and their promotion as "axes" of local sustainable development.

Achieved Results

Eko-svest achieved significant progress towards the strategic goal through the release of 72 kilometers of river flow by removing barriers on Kriva Reka and Pchinja, as well as through key steps for the legal protection of the river Vardar in the Demir Kapija region. With the development of a new methodology for ecological flow and its submission to the relevant institutions, the organization strengthened the technical basis for long-term water management, while through continuous monitoring of the case in the Bern Convention and reporting to the Council of Europe, it ensured international legal intervention regarding the protection of rivers and nature.

Dam removal on Pchinja River (before and after)

In parallel with the field work, we raised public awareness and involved local communities through innovative tools such as art exhibitions, film awards, and educational programs in schools. These activities promoted rivers as axes of sustainable development, transforming local residents into active protectors of water resources.

Detailed Overview of Activities

In April in Skopje, we organized the third international conference for river protection in Southeast Europe. The conference was organized by the international organization The Nature Conservancy and Eko-svest, within the framework of the regional initiative "Together for Rivers." The conference was attended by over 70 representatives of CSOs, local communities, institutions, and the academic community from across the region to discuss key issues for river protection, exchange different experiences, and present successful examples of their work. The conference served as a key platform for strengthening the regional coalition, providing international support, and exchanging knowledge. In this context, we received broad support for Eko-svest's initiative to proclaim a protected area in Demir Kapija, which will provide legal protection for the lower course of the Vardar and its tributaries, as well as opportunities for local sustainable development.

Participants at the International River Protection Conference in Skopje

In cooperation with the municipalities of Kriva Palanka and Kumanovo, we removed two obsolete river barriers on Kriva Reka and Pčinja, freeing 72 kilometers of river flow. Through this direct physical restoration of two rivers, i.e., two river ecosystems, we provided conditions for the unhindered migration of fish and aquatic species and natural sediment transport in the rivers. By removing the barriers, we also removed decades-old safety risks for local communities.

Eko-svest prepared an analysis of the main threats to rivers in the Mavrovo and Šar Planina national parks, as well as a methodology for measuring ecological flow with a practical tool for water resource management on rivers. The analysis and methodology were submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the State Environmental Inspectorate, and the managements of the national parks, after which we conducted practical training for their further use. At the same time, we awarded two grants to local organizations from Mavrovo and Šar

Planina for local community participation in monitoring the conditions of rivers in these regions. The methodology for identifying threats in protected areas was applied during the preparation of the Valorization Study for Demir Kapija as an apprach highly valued by the Ministry. By establishing science-based tools for managing ecological flow and identifying threats to river ecosystems, and their application in the Demir Kapija study, we made a direct contribution to improving the legal and technical basis for long-term river protection.

Due to limited progress in the implementation of Recommendation 211 of the Bern Convention for the case of Mavrovo National Park, Eko-svest submitted reports and presented the case at the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee in Strasbourg. As a result of our intervention, the Standing Committee decided to conduct an on-site visit to the case in 2026 to address the lack of progress. In the meantime, we continue the pressure on the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and Mavrovo National Park to finalize the re-proclamation process, which would end future hydropower projects in the protected area.

Eko-svest at the Standing Committee meeting of the Bern Convention

For three years in a row, including this year in August, Eko-svest awarded a prize for the best documentary film with an environmental topic at the Flip Book festival. Due to our presence at this festival, the category for environmental film has been established as a permanent category of this international event, which directly contributes to institutionalizing environmental topics in the cultural context and ensuring the critical mass and public support necessary for changing the social narrative in favor of river conservation.

The Museum of the City of Skopje hosted an exhibition by contemporary artist Gjorgje Jovanovik, titled "Stories from the Margins." One of the exhibited stories was directly inspired by Eko-svest's work, as it tells the story of a local community fighting against the construction of a small hydropower plant. The exhibition was open for 3 weeks and had more than 450 visitors. As a result of the direct attendance and intense media presence, we contributed to raising public awareness of river problems in the country and emphasized the struggle of local communities at the center of the attention of the urban audience . We continued our cooperation with the primary

school in Demir Kapija and art collectives to connect art, education, and river protection with local students. As a direct result of creative workshops, students now have an art installation in their school used for educational purposes for river protection. With this initiative, we directly invest in future generations, establishing a new generation of active citizens who will be true protectors of our rivers.

The water protection program is implemented through projects funded by The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Open Rivers Programme, EuroNatur Stiftung, the Government of Sweden (Sida), and The Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Exhibition in the Museum of City of Skopje

NATURE PROTECTION

In the thematic area of nature, Eko-svest implemented a series of projects and activities to contribute to achieving the strategic goal:

Support the establishment of an efficient mechanism for the protection of nature, ecosystems, wildlife, and their habitats through advocacy and education for best practices and policies.

Achieved Results

The organization strengthened its influence at the international level as a member of the IUCN, where it successfully initiated and ensured the adoption of a global resolution for the integration of citizen science into biodiversity protection. At the local level, through organizing international training for students, establishing volunteer clubs in Vevchani, and using creative tools such as documentaries and educational displays, the organization successfully connected environmental knowledge with practical protection in the field.

On national level, Eko-svest, supported by a large number of CSOs, began a campaign for a new Law on Nature, intensifying the public demand for improving the legal framework for biodiversity protection and contributing to moving the process forward within the institutions. These activities directly contribute to the long-term resilience of ecosystems and habitats, positioning local communities, the professional public, and practitioners as key partners in the preservation of natural heritage.

Detailed Overview of Activities

This year, Eko-svest organized the International Nature Conference, where over 90 participants from a wide range of national and international stakeholders exchanged views and concluded that urgent progress is needed in the adoption and implementation of nature legislation. The new Law on Nature should prescribe a ban on infrastructure projects in protected areas. This was the first event of its kind and participants considered it very useful and timely. The event was conceived as a key moment in the "New Law on Nature" campaign, demanding the adoption of a new law for nature protection that fully implements the recommendations of the Bern Convention. The campaign page with materials and video statements serves as the basis for the continuous campaign, supported by 15 CSOs. For the wider public, we conducted a nature protection campaign, through which our recommendations on the Law on Nature were promoted, reflecting EU directives and real protection needs. Additionally, as part of our advocacy activities, we submitted comments on the Strategy for the Conservation of the Balkan Lynx.

One year after joining the IUCN, our presence at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi positioned Eko-svest as an active partner from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, initiating the formation of a Working Group for Citizen Science. Within this working group, together with other members, we proposed resolution no. 126 "Advancing Citizen Science to Support and Democratize Conservation." The resolution was adopted, mandating the Director General of the IUCN and the organization to integrate citizen science into their core work. Eko-

svest's educational work involving citizen science will further increase with our full membership in the national Experiential Learning Network in North Macedonia, as well as by joining the ECSA network.

Participants at the International Nature Conference, Skopje

Despite the change of mayor in Demir Kapija, Eko-svest continues to collaborate for the proclamation of the Demir Kapija region as a Monument of Nature. Work on the Valorization Study of the area is almost finished, paving the way for protection and official proclamation expected at the beginning of 2026. Additionally, Eko-svest received office space in Demir Kapija from the Municipality of Demir Kapija, where we plan to organize public events and educational activities with youth.

140 participants joined the 30-kilometer bicycle tour organized every year on Mount Jablanica. Eko-svest organized a one-week training and nature workshops for 30 young students from three Balkan countries, focusing on river protection. Young participants from North Macedonia continue to collaborate with our local office in Vevchani as a volunteer club.

A new documentary film, focused on the link between people and nature, was filmed and promoted in Vevchani and at the Drim Short festival. Eko-svest in Vevchani provided training for forest fire prevention and environmental protection. We continuously promote the Permanent Nature Exhibition "Journey through the Natural Treasures of Vevchani Springs," which offers educational content for the visitors.

Eko-svest at the IUCN Congress in 2025

The nature protection program is implemented through projects funded by The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust, EuroNatur Stiftung, The Nature Conservancy, French Development Agency through the Balkan BOOST project, The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, and the Government of Sweden (Sida).

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

The thematic area of active citizenship is a horizontal area for Eko-svest, as we consider access to information, public participation, and access to justice as rights integrated into all our thematic areas. The strategic goal for this area is:

To encourage active and informed civic participation in environmental decision-making by strengthening citizens, communities, and partner organizations with legal support, innovative digital tools, and educational resources.

Achieved Results

Eko-svest acted successfully to encourage active citizenship by establishing a specialized sector for legal support, which became a key pillar for protecting communities in cases such as "Zhivojno," "Konjari," and the protection of the Doshnica river. Through the use of the Green Phone and legal advocacy, a large number of local communities were provided with support in their struggle to protect nature and natural resources. The organization responded to more than 40 reports from citizens and facilitated access to justice and ensured consistent compliance with the Aarhus Convention in environmental decision-making processes.

Simultaneously with the legal support, Eko-svest promoted innovative and educational forms of civic engagement, such as the "Eko-trampa" (Eco-swap) event in Skopje, which directly involved over 250 citizens in practical solutions for sustainable living.

In Eko-svest, a rulebook for members/supporters and a volunteering program were developed. In 2025, we also got the first 8 volunteers who actively participate in Eko-svest's activities.

Through continuous work with young volunteers on topics such as composting and ecological education, the organization strengthened the local community not just as an observer, but as an active and informed partner possessing tools and resources to exert effective pressure on institutions.

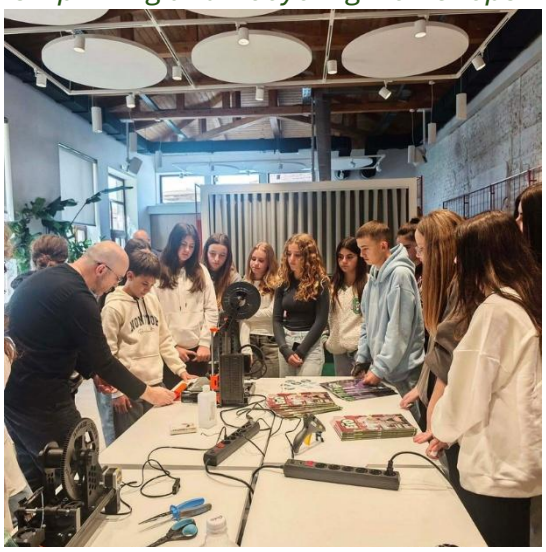
The first Eco Swap Fair in Skopje

Citizen science and the use of advanced technologies are another approach through which Eko-svest reaches youth. Partner organizations from Mavrovo and Shar Planina actively used the Crowdwater application to record problems related to rivers in these areas.

Detailed Overview of Activities

Eko-svest promoted active citizenship through participation, awareness raising, and the engagement of CSOs, citizens, and local communities. The Green Phone (071 600 333) and legal support were increasingly used by citizens and local communities. Over 27 requests for information, complaints, and letters were sent to relevant institutions related to the following cases: construction of a small hydropower plant on the Doshnica river, extraction of mineral resources in Konjari, a lignite mine in Zhivojno, the proclamation of Mavrovo NP, etc. In all cases, Eko-svest sought environmental protection, better standards, compliance with the Aarhus Convention and national legislation, and protection of local communities based on scientific data. This coordination is carried out by the new legal support sector in which two lawyers are engaged, and we involve external experts, professors, and professionals in the field. At the end of the year, half of the received cases were successfully resolved.

3D printing and Recycling workshops



In Skopje, more than 250 citizens and young volunteers were engaged in the first "Eko-trampa" exchange event, aimed at supporting the exchange of items and clothing. Feedback from citizens was positive, and participants requested more activities like this in larger numbers and more frequently.

Active citizenship and citizen science were in the focus of work with youth through workshops on using advanced tools as well as recycling plastic and using it as filament for 3D printing. Additionally, we worked with youth, educating them on how to compost and how to create super eco-heroes.

Activities in active citizenship are supported by The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, and the Government of Sweden (Sida).

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our goal within this area, of an internal nature, is:

To continue building a strong, sustainable, and effective civil society organization, capable of maximizing its impact in the long-term protection of the environment.

Achieved Results

During 2025, Eko-svest successfully realized its strategic goal of building a stable and sustainable organization through comprehensive strengthening of internal capacities and modernization of operations. Key results include a raised level of professionalism and technological readiness through intensive training and mentoring programs, which directly led to greater efficiency and financial independence by reducing the need for external services. With the upgrade of IT infrastructure, the introduction of new sectors (legal support and communications), and the opening of the new branch office in Demir Kapija, the organization expanded its operational power and local influence. Additionally, through the finalization of results-based management tools and consistent adherence to the principles of transparency and accountability, Eko-svest confirmed its ability to effectively and long-term address environmental challenges while strengthening the trust of the public and partners.

Detailed Overview of Activities

Eko-svest continues to provide opportunities for continuous professional development of employees, mentoring support, and team strengthening. Additionally, each of the employees is encouraged to participate in training and relevant events at national and international level. During 2025, professional mentoring and support for team building were organised for the Eko-svest team, based on a structured development program implemented by a professional coach with expertise in supporting environmental leaders.

Group coaching session for the Eko-svest team

During 2025, a cycle of 30 training sessions on artificial intelligence intended for all employees was conducted. These sessions allowed for a detailed introduction to advanced AI tools, their potential, and specific application in daily operations, significantly raising the team's technological readiness.

In parallel, Eko-svest's IT infrastructure was significantly upgraded, ensuring greater systemic independence and security in processes. By strengthening internal technical and human capacities, we reduced the need for external collaborators, resulting in increased efficiency and significant financial savings.

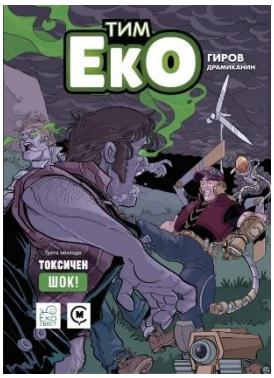
For better planning and monitoring of progress in program implementation, assessment of achievement of set goals, and embedding learned lessons into future activities, Eko-svest worked on the development of a policy and corresponding tools for results-based program management. After their alignment and finalization, this improved way of working will begin to be applied from 2026.

Certain policies were regularly reviewed and updated to adapt to existing national regulation, strengthening the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and equal opportunities. The organizational structure of the organization has been improved, and with the introduction of a legal support sector, the part for promoting active citizenship was strengthened. The team expanded in the area of communications, as well as in financial and administrative operations. This year Eko-svest opened a new branch in the Municipality of Demir Kapija.

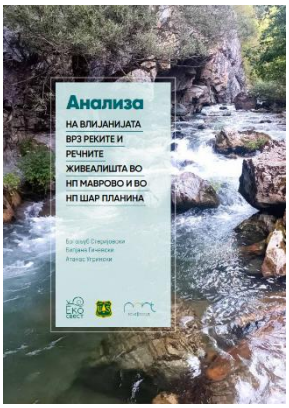
The organization held its regular annual assemblies, published the annual report for 2024, and completed the annual audit. All key documents are published on the organization’s website www.ekosvest.com.mk.

The continuous organizational development of Eko-svest is supported by The Government of Sweden (Sida), The Sigrid Rausing Trust, and The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation.

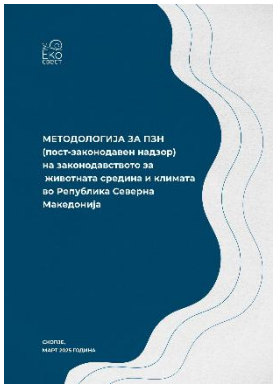
Publications in 2025



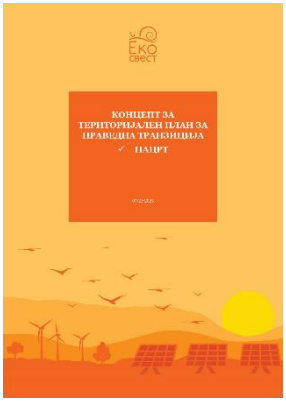
Team ECO- Toxic schock- comic book



Analysis of the impacts to rivers and river habitats in Mavrovo and Shar Mountian National Parks

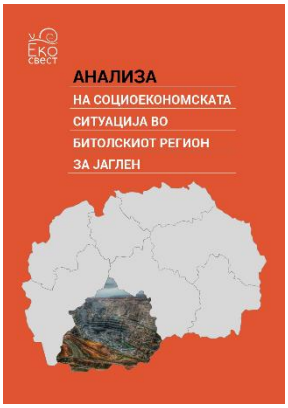


Methodology for Post-Legislative Scrutiny of Environmental and Climate Legislation in the Republic of North Macedonia



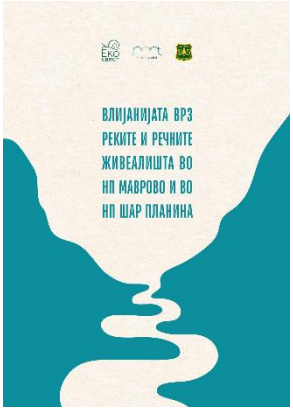
Concept for a territorial just transition plan

Policy Brief: Communicating Climate Change with All Stakeholders in N. Macedonia



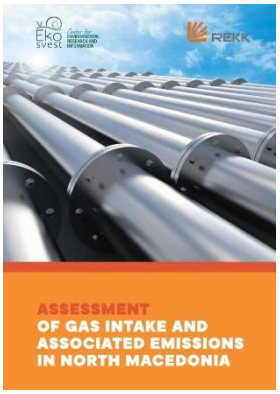
Analysis of the socio-economics in the Bitola coal region

Advocacy Platform for Improving Legislation on Energy Communities and Prosumers in the Republic of North Macedonia



Summary of the analysis of impacts to rivers and river habitats in the Mavrovo and Shar Mountain National parks

AAnalysis of the Energy Efficiency Fund in North Macedonia



ПAssessment of gas intake and associated emissions in North Macedonia

The Eko-svest Team in 2025

- **Ana Colovic Lesoska**, Executive Director
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- **Zarko Koneski**, Program Manager
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- **Naum Ilieski**, Local Project Coordinator in Vevchani

Governing Board of Eko-svest (2025)

- **Fidanka McGrath**, President of Eko-svest
- **Toni Popovski**, Member of the Governing Board
- **Metodija Minoski**, Member of the Governing Board
- **Igor Kambovski**, Member of the Governing Board
- **Dejan Zrmanovski**, Member of the Governing e Board
- **Vanja Džinlev**, Member of the Governing Board