

НАСЛОВ → “Kriva Reka: Building flood-resilient communities through URBANFLOODS Project”

5 April - World Environment Day



On the April 5, world marks the celebration of World Environment Day – the largest global platform for public outreach and environmental awareness. It serves as a time for reflection and action on some of the most urgent ecological challenges facing our planet.

On this occasion, North Macedonia also highlights its environmental priorities: reducing flood risks, enhancing climate resilience, and protecting vulnerable communities. These efforts are especially visible in the Kriva Reka area, where forward-thinking strategies are transforming local responses to the increasing number of river floods.

This year’s theme, “Beat Plastic Pollution,” strongly resonates with the goals of the URBANFLOODS project, particularly in regions like Kriva Palanka (Kriva Reka), where the environmental impact of pollution and extreme weather events is acutely felt. While the global spotlight is on reducing plastic waste – a central issue in the global environmental crisis – the theme is closely tied to broader goals of resilience and sustainability.

Plastic pollution not only harms biodiversity and ecosystems but also clogs waterways, worsens flooding, and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations. It is not an isolated environmental issue, but a critical component of the triple planetary crisis:

- The climate crisis,

- The nature and biodiversity loss crisis, and
- The pollution and waste crisis.

These interlinked threats exacerbate the vulnerability of urban areas, especially flood-prone regions like Kriva Reka, where unmanaged waste and inadequate drainage systems significantly increase the risk and severity of sudden floods.

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

North Macedonia's environmental actions directly support two key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 13: Climate Action

- *Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.*

Through early warning systems, community training, and climate-resilient infrastructure, URBANFLOODS enhances the ability of communities along Kriva Reka to withstand extreme weather events.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- *Target 11.5: Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, especially on the poor and vulnerable.*

With a focus on inclusive planning and risk reduction, the project helps ensure that no one is left behind when floods strike.

Call to Action

On this World Environment Day, let us remember that reducing plastic waste is not only beneficial for the planet – it is also crucial for protecting our communities from floods and other climate-related hazards.

The journey of Kriva Reka within the URBANFLOODS project is a powerful example of how integrated and sustainable action can protect lives, preserve ecosystems, and build climate-resilient cities.

We encourage all national and local stakeholders – citizens, municipalities, and international partners – to remain committed to climate action and environmental sustainability.

Want to learn more?

Check your local municipality's website for information on flood zones and emergency procedures.

You can also follow updates from the [Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of North Macedonia](#), the [Crisis Management Center](#), [URBANFLOODS](#) Project, along with its

partners in North Macedonia: the [Center for Knowledge Management](#) and the [Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering \(FCSE\)](#).

