



Youth Water Community CEE Workshop

**Plastic Pollution Reduction in Rivers:
Current Status, Solutions and Remaining Challenges**



5th December 2017, Tirana, Albania



Background information and Agenda

Background

The need to reduce plastic concentration in the rivers and consequently seas and oceans is increasing. This is one of the raising issues around the globe and special attention is dedicated to it. Countries representatives under Youth Water Community for Central and Eastern Europe (YWCCEE) decided to help the global initiatives, and empower these ideas by Youth energy and creativity. As a most illustrative example, YWCCEE chooses the Ishmi River Basin located in Albania. As a first step towards the plastic free rivers the project of cleaning the Ishmi River called “Fishme, Ishmi” is prepared.

Aim and objectives of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop is to discuss current status, solutions and challenges related to the plastic pollution, for ensuring the sustainability of river ecosystems among Youth representatives from YWCCEE, with focus on colleagues located in Albania. With this workshop, first actions in building capacity will be made, with the Youth to be involved in the planned “Fishme, Ishmi” project.

The specific objectives of the Workshop are

- to gain an overview on the situation with regard to plastic pollution, water management and the environment in the Ishmi river catchment;
- to share practical experiences, innovative solutions and latest scientific research results for the mitigation of environmental impacts of plastic in the rivers
- to discuss practical examples for strategic approaches, including the involvement of stakeholders, for ecological restoration of existing plastic pollutions, and
- to establish a team of volunteers which will bring the knowledge gained at the university to the concrete field and labour works, as well as the cleaning actions planned for “Fishme, Ishmi” project.

The Workshop will allow to share ideas, local knowledge and experiences in order to further support national activities for the practical application of the plastic removal actions.

Workshop concept and structure

The Workshop combines one session with presentations, one interactive session and sufficient time allocated to discussions. The Workshop language is English. The results of the interactive session and discussion should provide useful input for the planning of the next steps towards the plastic free Ishmi River.

A Workshop Summary Report will be prepared after the Workshop; presentations will be made available after the Workshop.

Workshop venue

The Workshop will be held at the *Agricultural University of Tirana, Rectorate building, first floor, meeting hall, Koder Kamez, Tirana, Albania.*



5. December 2017

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of Participants

Opening Session

09:00 Introduction to the Workshop (*Mr Elvis Kamberi, Assistant Lecturer, Agricultural University of Tirana*)

09:15 Welcome address by the host (*Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Dean, Agricultural University of Tirana*)

PRESENTATION SESSION: Setting the scene

09:30 1. Environmental policies related to the plastic pollution

(*Ms Jelena Krstajic, RBM Assistant, ICPDR*)

09:45 2. Human rights to clean rivers

(*Ms Barbara Grzebulska, Regional Environmental Center Poland, Expert I, Water and Natural Resources Unit*)

10:05 Questions and Answers

10:15 3. Plastic pollution impacts on the water ecosystems – from rivers to ocean

(*Mr Cătălin Cîmpianu, Phd student, Alexandru Ioan Cuza*)

10:30 4. Fishme, Ishmi Project presentation

(*Mr Elvis Kamberi, Assistant Lecturer, Agricultural University of Tirana*)

10:45 5. Plastic pollution transport and plastic flow modelling

(*Mr Žiga Ščukovič, MSc Student at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering - Environmental Studies*)

11:00 Questions and answers

11:10 Coffee Break

INTERACTIVE SESSION

11:30 5. Integration exercise - Ribbon affirmations (*All participants*)

11:50 6. Quiz – Plastic Awareness (*All participants*)

12:10 7. Plastic in the ocean – Documentary movie

12:30 Lunch Break

13:15 8. Fishme, Ishmi – make it possible, structure a team (*All participants, facilitated by YWCCEE*)

8.1 Public participation and stakeholder engagement (*Ms Jelena Krstajic, RBM Assistant, ICPDR*)

14:00 9. Next activities (*Mr Elvis Kamberi, Assistant Lecturer, Agricultural University of Tirana*)

14:15 10. Conclusion and closing of the Workshop