



Annual Report 2025

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OPENING REMARKS

One question lay at the heart of nearly every aspect of our work throughout 2025: **What remains of the environment and the public interest when public authorities no longer treat compliance with the law as the boundary of their actions?** The answer we encountered time and again was far from encouraging.

Throughout 2025, we witnessed repeated attempts to reshape public policy reforms, legislative amendments, spatial planning processes, permitting procedures, environmental impact assessments, and public participation requirements **to serve the needs of individual development projects, rather than allowing these procedures to define the limits under which such projects could proceed.** Safeguards intended to protect human health, public safety, the environment, and the country's natural and cultural heritage were no longer viewed as essential guarantees of the public interest, but rather **as administrative hurdles to be streamlined, expedited, or bypassed.**

When the law is applied inconsistently and ceases to bind certain investors or political actors in the same way it binds ordinary citizens, the consequences reach far beyond the degradation of the environment. They erode public trust in institutions, undermine legal certainty, and gradually remove the public interest from the decision-making process.

This is precisely why much of our work throughout the past year focused on engaging with courts and public authorities, initiating administrative proceedings, requesting inspection oversight, and pursuing legal remedies. Our work extended beyond individual mines, industrial facilities, construction projects, and spatial planning initiatives. At the heart of every case was the same fundamental principle: that the law must apply equally to everyone, regardless of the size of the investment, the political context in which a project is pursued, or the economic influence of its proponents.





OPENING REMARKS

Throughout the year, we were also faced with decisions that were far from easy. We concluded that, in the context of a seriously weakened rule of law, participation in processes that fail to provide a genuine opportunity for dialogue no longer serves its intended purpose. **At the same time, we continued to strengthen our cooperation with citizens, local communities, the professional community, and international partners, convinced that trust in public institutions can only be restored** through the consistent application of the law and transparent decision-making processes.

This report is more than a record of the activities carried out over the past year. It reflects a period in which the fundamental principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability were put to a serious test. Every administrative dispute, every appeal, every criminal complaint, and every comment submitted during planning procedures form part of the same story — the ongoing effort to ensure that the law continues to fulfil its fundamental purpose: protecting the public interest.

No strategy, plan, or investment can be truly sustainable if it comes at the expense of the rule of law, effective institutions, and public trust. That is why we will remain committed to the principles that lie at the heart of our work — not because we expect every legal action to succeed or every institution to act in accordance with the law, but because we believe that **abandoning the law can never lead to a more just, accountable, and sustainable society.**

Dragomir Ristanović,
Senior Public Policy Advisor, RERI



ABOUT RERI



Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute (RERI) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization, established in 2017 with the aim of achieving goals in the field of environmental protection, conservation, and improvement, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.



VISION

A society founded on the rule of law, where environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources are integral to public policy, recognised as matters of public interest, and where everyone is guaranteed the rights to access information, participate in decision-making, and have access to justice in environmental matters.

MISSION

Enhancing access to justice in environmental protection, ensuring the right to good governance, applying international and European environmental protection standards, and upholding human and civil rights. Applying legal rights and arguments in environmental protection and advocating for the right to access justice in environmental matters.



RETROSPECTIVE:

RERI's key activities in 2025

THE OLD SAVA BRIDGE

January

The beginning of the year was marked by the refusal of the [Ministry of Environmental Protection's Inspectorate to take action in relation to the unlawful demolition of the Old Sava Bridge](#). In its notification to RERI, the Inspectorate stated that it would not initiate an inspection, despite the fact that the demolition had commenced without a prior environmental impact assessment. The Inspectorate justified its decision by arguing that the demolition constituted a separate project, distinct from the construction of the new bridge, and therefore was not subject to the environmental impact assessment procedure.

EXPO 2027

In January 2025, the Government of the Republic of Serbia proposed [amendments to the Law on Planning and Construction and to the Law on Special Procedures for the Realization of the International Specialized Exhibition EXPO Belgrade 2027](#), removing the requirement to obtain key approvals and authorisations intended to ensure the safety of buildings, protect public health, and safeguard the environment. The proposed amendments were drafted without adequate public participation or access to information, and without a sufficiently reasoned explanation of the need for the proposed legislative changes. We warned that, if adopted, they would allow facilities to become operational without first obtaining an occupancy permit, while postponing approval of the environmental impact assessment study until the occupancy permit stage. In practice, this would permit projects to proceed before one of the core preventive environmental safeguards had been completed. We also expressed concern over the proposal to exempt projects of national importance from the requirement to obtain an opinion on whether a cultural heritage protection study should be prepared, thereby further weakening existing preventive protection mechanisms.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

We filed a lawsuit before the Administrative Court challenging the decision rejecting our request to be granted party status in the integrated permitting procedure for the „Serbia Zijin Copper“ installation in Bor. We argued that organisations acting in the public interest in the field of environmental protection must be afforded the right to participate as parties in administrative proceedings whose outcome may have significant implications for the environment and public health.

SERBIA ZIJIN MINING

Commercial offence proceedings were initiated against „Serbia Zijin Mining“ and the responsible individuals on suspicion that mining activities had been carried out in the area between the villages of Oštrelj and Bučje, near Bor, without the required approvals and prior to the completion of the environmental impact assessment procedure. The request alleged that the works formed part of the preparatory activities for the construction of a future flotation tailings facility and its associated infrastructure.

HYDROPOWER PLANT „BUK BIJELA“

As part of the transboundary consultation procedure for the proposed „Buk Bijela“ hydropower project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a submission was made to the Ministry of Environmental Protection highlighting deficiencies in the implementation of the procedure under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). The submission also raised concerns about the inadequate assessment of the project's potential transboundary and cumulative impacts on the Drina River, its hydrological regime, water quality, and biodiversity in the Republic of Serbia.

SERBIA ZIJIN MINING

We requested that the Mining Inspectorate of the Ministry of Mining and Energy carry out an extraordinary inspection of „Serbia Zijin Mining“ following indications that the company was disposing of and managing mining waste at the Čukaru Peki mine near Bor without a valid mining waste management permit.

OPEN-PIT MINE SEVERNI REVIR

Comments were submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection on the environmental impact assessment study for the proposed expansion of the Severni Revir open-pit mine at the Majdanpek copper mine. The submission pointed out that the study failed to assess the project as a single integrated development, did not adequately evaluate the cumulative impacts of the planned mining activities, and lacked essential information required to properly assess the project's environmental impacts.

UNDERGROUND MINE „BORSKA REKA“

Towards the end of the month, we appealed the decision concluding that an environmental impact assessment was not required for the project involving a change in the mining method at the Borska Reka underground mine, above elevation K-235. The appeal highlighted a number of procedural shortcomings, including the failure to give due consideration to comments submitted by the interested public during the decision-making process.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

An extraordinary administrative inspection was requested from the Administrative Inspectorate of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government concerning the work of the City Administration of Zrenjanin, following concerns that it had failed to act in accordance with the law in response to our request for an inspection of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing company. The request pointed to allegations that the facility had commenced operations without obtaining approval of its environmental impact assessment study.

USCE PARK

We submitted comments on the urban design project for Ušće Park in Belgrade, pointing out that the proposed Natural History Museum and Aquarium would exceed the maximum gross floor area permitted under the applicable planning document. We also raised concerns that the project, as proposed, could adversely affect existing green spaces and alter the groundwater regime, potentially giving rise to significant environmental impacts.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BOR

RERI participated in the public consultation on the Development Plan for the City of Bor, drawing the City Administration's attention to the fact that the draft plan fails to address the ongoing planning processes for new settlements intended to accommodate communities affected by the expansion of mining operations. We also emphasised the need for a more comprehensive assessment of the proposed railway relocation, particularly its potential implications for existing rural water supply sources.

SUSPENSION OF ALL COOPERATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES

February

Guided by our support for the students' demands and our firm belief that the rule of law must ultimately prevail, we decided to suspend all cooperation with the legislative and executive authorities in Serbia. As one of the civil society organisations joining this collective initiative, RERI withdrew from all forms of engagement, both formal and informal, with the working groups of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and its ministries, as well as from all other permanent and ad hoc bodies involving direct cooperation with public authorities.

THE LAW ON AIR PROTECTION

Together with several civil society organisations, we expressed serious concern about the lack of transparency and the limited opportunities for meaningful participation by both the public and the expert community in drafting the new Law on Air Protection. Despite the law's importance for protecting public health and improving the quality of life in Serbia, the legislative process was not conducted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. We also highlighted that the proposed legislation fails to address key shortcomings in the current regulatory framework, including air quality monitoring, timely

RIO TINTO

responses to air pollution incidents, and the effective supervision and enforcement of obligations imposed on polluters.

In partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and its offices in Berlin and Belgrade, RERI addressed a letter to the European Commission setting out the reasons why „Rio Tinto“’s proposed „Jadar“ project should not be designated as a Strategic Project under the Critical Raw Materials Act. The letter highlighted numerous procedural and legal irregularities, unlawful conduct by both the competent authorities and the project developer, the project’s failure to comply with relevant European Union standards, and the lack of transparency and meaningful public participation throughout the decision-making process. It also drew attention to the potentially serious impacts of the project on the environment, water resources, and biodiversity, while raising concerns about human rights violations, pressure on environmental defenders and activists, and broader rule of law deficiencies in Serbia.

HANSGROHE
VALJEVO

An extraordinary administrative review was requested from the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure concerning the conduct of the competent construction inspector, following the failure to act on our request for an extraordinary inspection of „Hansgrohe“’s facility in Valjevo. The request raised concerns that the company was carrying out construction works without the required building permit.

“NIKOLA TESLA A”
THERMAL POWER
PLANT

In response to the request to determine the scope and content of the environmental impact assessment study for the proposed co-incineration of alternative fuels at the „Nikola Tesla A“ Thermal Power Plant, comments were submitted highlighting deficiencies in the supporting documentation and uncertainties regarding the type and origin of the waste intended for co-incineration. The submission also emphasised the need for a comprehensive assessment of the potential environmental and public health impacts of using waste as a fuel.

THE NATIONAL
FOOTBALL
STADIUM

During the public consultation on the Draft Spatial Plan for the Special Purpose Area of the National Football Stadium – Phase IV, conducted under an expedited 15-day procedure, comments and objections were submitted raising several procedural and substantive concerns. The submission pointed out that no early public consultation had been carried out, despite substantial changes to the proposed planning solutions since the previous consultation held in 2019. We also questioned the lawfulness of the procedure for obtaining the conditions issued by the competent public authorities. RERI raised concerns about the already overburdened municipal water source, the vaguely defined

SERBIA ZIJIN MINING

purpose of the approximately 250-hectare „theme park” envisaged under the plan, and the inadequate consideration of alternatives in the strategic environmental assessment.

Following „Serbia Zijin Mining”'s application for approval of the Updated Mining Waste Management Plan for the Čukaru Peki copper and gold mine, RERI submitted comments to the Ministry of Mining and Energy identifying a number of significant deficiencies in the proposed document. The submission noted, first and foremost, that the plan could not be regarded as a substantive update, as it differed only marginally from the previous version. It also highlighted many technical and regulatory shortcomings, including the inadequate classification of substances and mixtures contained in the mining waste, the omission of information on reagent consumption, and deficiencies in the proposed land reclamation procedures.

SHPP JOVANOVIĆ ARILJE

The Municipality of Arilje informed RERI that the investor had submitted an application for a screening decision to determine whether an environmental impact assessment was required for the expansion of the „Jovanović” small hydropower plant (SHPP Jovanović). The case was of particular importance, as RERI had previously challenged the legality of the construction documentation for the project. Given the numerous controversies surrounding the construction of SHPP Jovanović, including the investor's conviction for carrying out construction works without a building permit, RERI representatives inspected the case file on 12 February 2025. Although the Municipality of Arilje initially refused access to the file, the decision was reversed following an oral objection submitted to the Head of the Municipal Administration, allowing RERI to examine the complete project documentation. The inspection of the file revealed that, acting on the investor's application, the Municipality of Arilje had issued a decision concluding that no environmental impact assessment was required for the proposed expansion. RERI subsequently appealed that decision in its entirety, arguing that the planned expansion of SHPP Jovanović is subject to a mandatory environmental impact assessment procedure.

„KOLUBARA B” THERMAL POWER PLANT

Administrative court proceedings were initiated against the decision dismissing our appeal against the approval of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the Spatial Plan for the Special Purpose Area of the „Kolubara B” Thermal Power Plant. The lawsuit argued that, by rejecting the appeal, the competent authority had effectively denied the public the right to an effective legal remedy in decision-making procedures with the potential to significantly affect the environment.

MORAVACEM CEMENT PLANT POPOVAC

We submitted comments to the Ministry of Environmental Protection on the draft decision revising the integrated permit for the „Moravacem“ cement plant in Popovac, highlighting significant shortcomings in the assessment of the installation's environmental impacts, the proposed air and water quality monitoring measures, and the level of environmental protection afforded under the draft permit. We also called for the introduction of additional safeguards to ensure a higher standard of environmental protection.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

Together with the Association of Young Researchers from Bor, we requested that the Ministry of Environmental Protection carry out an extraordinary inspection of „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and „Serbia Zijin Mining“ in response to the long-standing exceedances of arsenic, cadmium, and other air pollutants recorded in Bor. The request called on the Ministry to determine whether the companies were implementing all measures required under the applicable regulations to prevent and reduce air pollution.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

Towards the end of the month, we brought proceedings before the Administrative Court challenging the decision approving the environmental impact assessment study for Linglong's tyre factory in Zrenjanin. The lawsuit raised serious concerns regarding the lawfulness of the decision-making process, including the inadequate consideration of comments submitted during the public consultation process and the authorities' failure to acknowledge that the project had already been completed and put into operation by the time the decision was adopted.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

Following a criminal complaint filed by RERI in relation to air pollution in Bor, the Basic Court in Bor convicted „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and the responsible individual of the criminal offence of environmental pollution. The judgment established that, during 2019 and 2020, the company had exceeded the legally prescribed emission limit values for sulphur dioxide, arsenic, and other air pollutants.

March

TERPEIS BALKANS

As part of the „TERPEIS Balkans“ regional project, the first of five Regional Expert Community Dialogues was held. The two-hour exchange of views and experiences focused on the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), its potential implications for the region, and the next steps facing the Contracting Parties to the Energy Community as they prepare for its implementation.

EXPO 2027

RERI raised concerns after the Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia announced a session of the Planning Commission with only two days' notice, leaving those who had submitted comments no time to prepare for or participate effectively in the proceedings. By doing so, the Agency effectively curtailed the legally guaranteed right of participants to present and explain their comments, further reflecting the Government's broader practice of bypassing procedural safeguards in order to accelerate the implementation of the EXPO 2027 project. We therefore called on citizens, civil society organisations, the expert community, members of Parliament, and local councillors to support the immediate suspension of both the planning process and all works related to the EXPO project until their implementation was brought into compliance with the applicable laws of the Republic of Serbia. The public session of the Commission was cancelled the following day.

SERBIA ZIJIN
COPPER

An extraordinary inspection was requested from the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government concerning the work of the Construction Inspectorate, following its failure to act on our request to determine whether „Serbia Zijin Copper“ was operating the „Zagrade“ lime factory near Bor without an occupancy permit.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection refused to approve the environmental impact assessment study for „Serbia Zijin Copper“'s proposed expansion of the „Zagrade“ lime factory near Bor. Throughout the procedure, together with the Association of Young Researchers from Bor and the Association Za česme, we pointed to numerous deficiencies in the documentation, including the inadequate definition of the project scope and the failure to apply Best Available Techniques (BAT). Following several extensions granted to the investor for the submission of additional documentation, the Ministry ultimately rejected the application due to the absence of the information necessary to properly assess the project's environmental impacts. At the same time, we highlighted that, according to publicly available information, the expanded facility had already been operating for several years without undergoing the required environmental impact assessment procedure and without appropriate inspection oversight.

THE NATIONAL
FOOTBALL
STADIUM

During the public presentation of the urban design project for the Aquatic Centre within the National Football Stadium complex, we pointed out that the project documentation itself had not been made available for public inspection and that only the public notice announcing the presentation had been published. We also noted that the project manager from the

„ČOKANJICA“ RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia had failed to respond to the submitted comments and that no repeat public presentation had been organised.

Comments were submitted on the Early Public Review Report prepared as part of the drafting of the Detailed Regulation Plan for the proposed „Čokanjica“ residential development, intended to accommodate communities relocated from areas affected by mining activities. The comments highlighted the untimely preparation of the planning document, the lack of clarity regarding the population groups and specific areas to which it applies, and its inconsistencies with the existing urban planning framework for the City of Bor. RERI also pointed to shortcomings in the assessment of the engineering and geological conditions, as well as deficiencies in the definition of key planning parameters, particularly those relating to open and green spaces.

„KOLUBARA“ AND „MORAVA“ THERMAL POWER PLANTS

Two lawsuits were filed before the Administrative Court in response to the Ministry of Environmental Protection's failure to decide on our appeals against decisions denying RERI party status in inspection proceedings concerning the „Kolubara“ and „Morava“ thermal power plants operated by EPS. The lawsuits argued that organisations acting in the public interest in the field of environmental protection must be afforded the right to participate in administrative proceedings concerning the operation of large industrial installations.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER / MINING

We initiated commercial offence proceedings against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and „Serbia Zijin Mining“ for operating installations without the required integrated permits. The complaints alleged that several installations and activities within the Bor mining and metallurgical complex had continued to operate despite the expiry of the statutory deadline for obtaining integrated permits.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

The Administrative Court upheld RERI's claim and annulled the decision terminating the environmental impact assessment screening procedure for the auxiliary facilities of Phase I of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin, remitting the case to the competent authority for reconsideration.

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

Administrative court proceedings were initiated challenging the decision of the Government of the Republic of Serbia rejecting RERI's appeal against the environmental impact assessment screening decision and the determination of the scope and content of the environmental impact assessment study for the National Football Stadium project in Surčin. The lawsuit challenged both the procedural shortcomings of the decision-

	making process and the manner in which comments submitted by the interested public had been considered.
EPS	Commercial offence proceedings were initiated against EPS and the responsible individuals for operating several thermal power installations without the required integrated permits. The request pointed out that the „Kostolac A“, „Nikola Tesla A“, „Nikola Tesla B“, „Morava“ i „Kolubara“ thermal power plants, as well as the „Vreoci Kolubara Prerada“ heating plant, had continued operating despite the expiry of the statutory deadline for obtaining integrated permits.
THE OLD SAVA BRIDGE	We brought proceedings seeking the annulment of the building permit issued for the construction of the new bridge intended to replace the Old Sava Bridge, together with a request for an interim measure suspending construction works pending the Court's decision. The claim argued that the building permit had been issued on the basis of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) approval that had expired under the applicable legal framework and that it had been unlawfully extended to parcels not covered by the location conditions.
SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER	We requested that the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure carry out an extraordinary inspection of „Serbia Zijin Copper“ following indications that the diversion tunnel for the Krivelj and Bor rivers and the Saraka stream, located within the „Veliki Krivelj“ tailings storage facility, had been constructed and put into operation without the required building and occupancy permits.
„HANS GROHE“ VALJEVO	Following the environmental inspector's failure to act on the request for an extraordinary inspection of „Hansgrohe“'s facility in Valjevo, RERI lodged a complaint with the Ministry of Environmental Protection concerning the inspector's conduct. The complaint pointed out that, several months after the inspection proceedings had been initiated, no information had been provided regarding their outcome, including whether the inspection had established that the company had commenced the project without obtaining prior approval of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study.
LINGLONG ZRENJANIN	A constitutional appeal was filed against the Administrative Court's judgment dismissing RERI's claim challenging the building permit issued for Phase VII of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin. The appeal argued that RERI had been denied the right of access to a court and to an effective remedy in proceedings concerning a project for which an environmental impact assessment had been deemed mandatory.

„PRERADA
VREOCI“

Towards the end of the month, we requested that the Secretariat for Inspection Affairs of the City of Belgrade carry out an extraordinary inspection of the „Prerada Vreoci“ Processing Plant operated by EPS’s Kolubara Mining Basin branch, following concerns that the installation had continued to operate without an integrated permit despite the expiry of the statutory deadline for obtaining one.

SERBIJA ZIJIN
COPPER

In early April 2025, the Ministry of Environmental Protection refused to approve the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for the proposed expansion of „Serbia Zijin Copper“’s „Zagrade“ lime factory. In practice, however, the significance of this decision was limited. According to the information available, the company had been carrying out activities at the expanded facility for more than three years without completing the required EIA procedure or obtaining the necessary permits, while the competent inspection authorities failed to intervene. Throughout the EIA procedure, RERI, together with partner organisations, consistently highlighted serious deficiencies in the study, including inadequate technical documentation, the potential use of drinking water for industrial purposes, and the failure to apply Best Available Techniques (BAT). The Ministry rejected the application only after repeatedly extending the deadlines for the submission of additional documentation. By that time, the expanded facility had already been completed and put into operation without the required building and occupancy permits. Meanwhile, the competent authorities failed to take effective action, shifting responsibility from one institution to another.

April

LINGLONG
ZRENJANIN

A constitutional appeal was filed challenging the denial of access to justice in proceedings concerning the building permit issued for the auxiliary facilities of Phase I of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing factory in Zrenjanin. The appeal argued that organisations working in the field of environmental protection must be allowed to challenge before the courts decisions relating to projects that may have significant impacts on the environment.

THE NATIONAL
FOOTBALL
STADIUM

In April, we took part in the public hearing on the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the National Football Stadium project, organised by the Ministry of Environmental Protection at the Surčin Municipal Administration. At the hearing, we pointed out that construction of the stadium was already well underway, although the environmental impact assessment procedure had not yet been completed, rendering the ongoing works unlawful.

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

RERI submitted comments on the application for approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the National Football Stadium project. The submission argued that the preparatory works should be assessed as an integral part of the project, given their scale and potential environmental impacts, including the installation of more than 2,000 foundation piles within a protected water source area. It also pointed out that the study failed to assess the project's impacts on the future resident population, despite plans to develop a residential area for approximately 4,000 people within the stadium and EXPO complex. In addition, the study did not provide an adequate solution for wastewater management, as the site is not served by a sewerage network connected to the nearest wastewater collectors. In light of these shortcomings, RERI recommended that the Ministry of Environmental Protection refuse to approve the Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

Several complaints were submitted regarding the failure of the competent inspection authorities to act on requests for extraordinary inspections concerning „Serbia Zijin Copper“. The complaints addressed the authorities' prolonged inaction in cases involving air pollution in Bor, the operation of a laboratory without an occupancy permit, and the construction of a selenium processing facility without a final and legally effective building permit.

„BORSKA REKA“ DEPOSIT IN BOR

Administrative court proceedings were initiated on the grounds of administrative silence after the Government of the Republic of Serbia failed to decide on the appeal lodged in the environmental impact assessment procedure for the copper ore processing project at the „Borska reka“ deposit in Bor.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

We also requested that the City Administration of Zrenjanin carry out an extraordinary inspection of „Linglong International Europe“ following concerns that auxiliary facilities within the tyre manufacturing plant had been put into operation without prior approval of the environmental impact assessment study.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

Commercial offence proceedings were initiated against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and the responsible individuals for carrying out mining operations at the „Veliki Krivelj“ mining site without the required authorisations. The request was filed after the Mining Inspectorate established that the activities were being conducted in breach of the applicable permitting requirements and ordered their suspension.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

In April, we filed four constitutional appeals against judgments of the Administrative Court in cases concerning building permits issued for different phases of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin. The appeals argued that RERI had been denied the right to a fair trial and access to a court, as the courts refused to recognise its legal standing as an organisation acting in the public interest in the field of environmental protection in proceedings concerning projects with potentially significant environmental impacts.

„JADAR“ PROJECT

Following the Government of the Republic of Serbia's failure to decide, within the statutory time limit, on the appeal against the decision determining the scope and content of the environmental impact assessment study for the proposed underground exploitation of the „Jadar“ lithium and boron deposit, we brought proceedings before the Administrative Court challenging the authorities' unlawful inaction.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

RERI filed a criminal complaint against a provincial construction inspector for failing to report suspected unlawful construction at the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin. The complaint followed information indicating that, during an inspection, the inspector had identified structures built without the required building permits but had failed to notify the competent Public Prosecutor's Office, despite being under a legal obligation to do so.

EPS

The Ministry of Environmental Protection's refusal to carry out an extraordinary inspection of EPS's thermal power plants, despite indications that they were operating without the required integrated permits, was formally challenged before the competent authority. We argued that the Ministry had misinterpreted the legal requirements governing integrated permitting and had failed to determine whether the installations met the conditions for lawful operation.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

In late April, we initiated commercial offence proceedings against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and the responsible individuals for implementing the „Zagrade“ lime factory capacity expansion project without prior approval of the environmental impact assessment study. We argued that the expansion had been completed and the installation put into operation before the environmental impact assessment procedure had been concluded.

PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

May

In May, [four United Nations Special Rapporteurs called on the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to initiate negotiations on an additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights recognising the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment](#). The recognition of this right would strengthen States' existing obligations, encourage the adoption of more ambitious environmental legislation and policies, and enhance the protection of fundamental human rights increasingly threatened by pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Together with more than 500 civil society organisations and over 200 members of the academic community, we endorsed this important initiative.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

We filed a criminal complaint against a national construction inspector on suspicion of failing to report unlawful construction, despite having established during several inspections that „Serbia Zijin Copper“ was carrying out construction works on facilities in Bor without the required building permits.

VELIKI KRIVELJ COPPER MINE

In response to the environmental and social impacts of mining activities at the „Veliki Krivelj“ copper mine, we joined Healthy Environment Europe in addressing the Council of Europe to highlight the challenges faced by the local community. The submission drew attention to damage to residential properties caused by mining-induced vibrations, residents' exposure to dust and other pollutants, and the adverse impacts on soil quality and the availability of water resources. It also stressed the need to secure the local population's right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment through a legally binding instrument.

EXPO 2027

On 16 May 2025, [the Government of the Republic of Serbia resubmitted the proposed amendments to the Law on Special Procedures for the Implementation of the International Specialized Exhibition EXPO Belgrade 2027 to the Parliament without conducting a prior public consultation](#), despite the fact that the amendments would allow facilities to be used without an occupancy permit and remove the requirement to carry out environmental impact assessments. RERI considered the absence of a public consultation to constitute a serious breach of the legislative process and called on members of Parliament, the expert community, and the public not to support the proposed amendments. At the same time, we urged the Government to withdraw the draft legislation and ensure meaningful public participation in the decision-making process.



„NIKOLA TESLA A“ THERMAL POWER PLANT

The Administrative Court ruled in RERI's favour, set aside the decision dismissing its claim, and ordered the proceedings to continue in the case challenging the approval of the environmental impact assessment study for the legalisation of Units A1 and A2 of the „Nikola Tesla A“ Thermal Power Plant. In its ruling, the Court accepted RERI's arguments that, when assessing whether the claim had been filed within the statutory time limit, due regard had to be given to the procedural status of an environmental organisation in environmental impact assessment proceedings.

HOTEL „JUGOSLAVIJA“

RERI submitted comments on the application for a screening decision to determine whether an environmental impact assessment was required for the proposed mixed-use residential and commercial development with an underground garage on the site of the Hotel „Jugoslavija“. The comments identified a number of significant shortcomings in the proposed project. In particular, they pointed out that the demolition of the existing Hotel „Jugoslavija“ had not been considered as an integral part of the overall development. They also noted the failure to assess the project's potential impacts on internationally protected bird areas located just 70 metres from the site, as well as its possible effects on groundwater quality, hydrological conditions and the Danube flood protection system. These risks are further compounded by the planned construction of three underground levels and buildings reaching heights of up to 150 metres.

BORSKA REKA ORE DEPOSIT

After the Ministry of Environmental Protection issued a decision in mid-December 2024 determining that no environmental impact assessment was required for the „Change in the Excavation Method at the Borska Reka Ore Deposit“ project, RERI appealed the decision before the first-instance authority. The appeal was successful, and the contested decision was set aside. However, in the repeated proceedings, the Ministry adopted a new decision reaching the same conclusion, once again determining that the project was not subject to an environmental impact assessment. RERI subsequently appealed to the Government of the Republic of Serbia, acting as the second-instance authority, seeking the annulment of the Ministry's new decision. The appeal was accompanied by additional evidence demonstrating procedural irregularities in the environmental impact assessment screening procedure, including the failure to provide relevant documentation.

MARINA
DORĆOL

On 16 May 2025, a RERI representative participated in the public discussion „Marina Dorćol, the Linear Park, Pariska Street: Urban Planning or Urban Destruction?“, organised by the Stari Grad Citizens' Assembly. The event provided an opportunity to discuss ongoing and planned urban development projects in the local community and to examine whether these projects genuinely serve the public interest or primarily advance private investment interests.

„KOLUBARA“
THERMAL POWER
PLANT

We challenged the Ministry of Environmental Protection's refusal to carry out an extraordinary inspection of the „Kolubara“ Thermal Power Plant, despite concerns that the installation was operating without the required integrated permit. In our complaint, we argued that the scheduling of a routine inspection could not justify the failure to take prompt action where there were reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of the legislation governing integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC).

„DARK WATERS“
PROJECT

At the closing conference of the „Dark Waters“ project, implemented with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we presented [the key findings and recommendations emerging from a two-year programme of expert consultations, research, monitoring, and analysis of systemic challenges in Serbia's wastewater management sector](#). Our analysis showed that the sector's planned development has, to a significant extent, departed from the principles of transparency, public accountability, and good governance.

THE JUST
TRANSITION
ACTION PLAN

[Together with the Belgrade Open School, we informed civil society organisations and the public about the public consultation on the Just Transition Action Plan launched by the Ministry of Mining and Energy](#) on 21 May 2025, despite its earlier announcement that no such consultation would be held. Proceeding from the principle that a just energy transition cannot be achieved without meaningful public participation, the Belgrade Open School, RERI, and the Balkan Fund for Local Initiatives had already withdrawn from the Ministry's working group in December 2024 and called for the drafting of the Action Plan to be opened to the wider public. The public consultation provided an important opportunity for citizens and stakeholders to call on the Government to take a responsible approach to both the positive and the adverse impacts of the energy transition.

SHPP „TOŠOVIĆI“

RERI requested that the Municipality of Raška issue a formal decision or other appropriate legal act declaring that the building permit for the „Tošovići“ small hydropower plant (SHPP Tošovići) had ceased to be valid and was no longer in legal force. The permit, originally issued by the Municipality of Raška,

„PRERADA VREOCI“
PROCESSING
PLANT

June

authorised the construction of the small hydropower plant. The request relied on the statutory provision that a building permit ceases to be valid if the investor fails to obtain an occupancy permit within five years from the date the permit becomes final. As no occupancy permit had been obtained within the prescribed period, RERI requested that the competent authority formally acknowledge the expiry of the building permit. In response, the Municipality of Raška dismissed RERI's request, stating that it monitors the validity of building permits ex officio and would itself issue a decision, in due course, on whether the building permit should be declared no longer valid.

In early June, we filed a complaint concerning the conduct of an inspector from the Secretariat for Inspection, Supervision and Communication of the City of Belgrade after the inspector failed to take action despite establishing, during an inspection, that the EPS-operated „Prerada Vreoci“ Processing Plant was operating without the required integrated permit. The complaint pointed out that, although the unlawful operation of the installation had been confirmed, the inspector failed to order corrective measures or initiate the appropriate enforcement proceedings.

„OLD MOUNTAIN
FOR NEW
GENERATIONS“
PROJECT

As part of the project „Old Mountain for New Generations – Towards Accountable and Inclusive Biodiversity Protection“, we organised a two-day training programme in Pirot entitled „Improving Monitoring Procedures, Planning, Construction, Management, and Nature Protection within Stara Planina National Park“. The training provided civil society organisations from the Stara Planina region with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Serbia's policies and legal framework governing nature conservation within Stara Planina National Park.

EXPO 2027

Irregularities in the implementation of the EXPO 2027 project continued throughout June. This time, the Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia effectively undermined the public hearing by applying an amended rulebook that had not yet entered into force, allowing Planning Commission sessions to be held electronically in response to heightened public interest. We called on the competent authorities to cancel the unlawfully convened session and to prevent the further misuse of procedural rules in decision-making processes that may have serious consequences for public safety, human health, and the environment.

LINGLONG
ZRENJANIN

We appealed the decision determining that no environmental impact assessment was required for „Linglong“'s „Facilities Complex within the Free Trade Zone“ project in Zrenjanin.

THE JUST TRANSITION PLAN

In the appeal, we argued that some of the facilities had already been put into operation without the required permits, making it necessary to carry out an environmental impact assessment of the existing situation. We further contended that the decision had been adopted in breach of fundamental rules governing administrative procedure.

Together with other civil society organisations in Serbia, we called on the Ministry of Mining and Energy to develop a new Just Transition Action Plan. We pointed out that, at a time when concrete measures to reduce dependence on coal and strengthen the resilience of local communities should already be underway, the Ministry had instead launched a public consultation on a draft document that effectively postpones the energy transition until 2030, limiting the proposed measures to preparatory activities aimed at mitigating its adverse impacts.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

Following RERI's commercial offence complaint against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ for carrying out mining operations at the „Veliki Krivelj“ exploitation field without the required approvals, the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Zaječar filed an indictment with the Commercial Court in Zaječar.

BELGRADE WATERFRONT

We drew attention to a series of unlawful practices by the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and the Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia in connection with the implementation of the „Belgrade Waterfront“ project. Although the authorities formally organised a public presentation of the proposed amendments to the spatial plan for the project's expansion, procedural restrictions, including extremely short deadlines, mandatory advance registration, and insufficient venue capacity, effectively prevented part of the public and civil society organisations from participating. In doing so, the authorities infringed the public's statutory right to access information and to participate in the planning process.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

A constitutional appeal was filed against the Administrative Court's judgment denying RERI the right to challenge the building permit issued for Phase III of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin. The appeal argued that the judgment violated RERI's right to a fair trial, as the Court failed to recognise the procedural rights of an organisation acting in the public interest in the field of environmental protection and did not take into account the relevant national and international standards governing access to justice in environmental matters.

TERPEIS BALKANS

As part of the „TERPEIS Balkans“ regional project, [we organised the workshop „Decarbonisation through Public Policy Instruments in Serbia“](#), which explored the risks of corruption in climate policymaking and the potential misuse of circular economy principles. Particular attention was given to the social dimension of the energy transition and the need to move beyond strategic planning towards the implementation of concrete and actionable measures. Participants concluded that stronger cross-sectoral cooperation and meaningful public participation are essential to improving public policies.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

[For nearly a decade, the residents of Krivelj, a village near Bor, have been waiting for the adoption of a spatial plan and the implementation of a collective relocation programme, while continuing to face the consequences of „Serbia Zijin Copper“’s unlawful activities.](#) According to residents and publicly available information, the company began mining operations in June in the immediate vicinity of residential properties without obtaining the permits required by law. In response, we joined the residents of Krivelj in initiating commercial offence proceedings and called on the Ministry of Mining and Energy to revoke the company’s exploitation permit in Veliki Krivelj.

RERI filed a criminal complaint against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and the responsible individuals on suspicion that the company had caused pollution of the air, soil, and water in Bor and the surrounding settlements through prolonged and repeated exceedances of the legally prescribed emission and environmental quality limit values. The complaint relied on evidence of exceedances in ambient concentrations of sulphur dioxide, arsenic, cadmium, and other hazardous pollutants, elevated levels of heavy metals in soil, and repeated exceedances of the permitted concentrations of pollutants and priority substances in surface waters.

„FUNDAMENTALS FIRST“ PROJECT

[As part of the project „Fundamentals First – Improving the Rule of Law and Inclusiveness in the Western Balkans Energy Transition“,](#) we organised a regional event in Podgorica bringing together members of parliament, representatives of international organisations, experts, young people, and civil society organisations. The event provided a forum for exchanging views on how to advance the energy transition across the region. A central message emerging from the discussions was that a just and sustainable transition cannot be achieved without the active and responsible engagement of legislative authorities, whose role is essential in shaping inclusive and sustainable policies that reflect the needs of the Western Balkans.

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

On 16 June 2025, RERI filed a criminal complaint with the Third Basic Public Prosecutor's Office against the Ministry of Finance, acting as the investor in the National Football Stadium project and its associated facilities, on reasonable suspicion that it had committed the criminal offence of construction without a building permit under Article 219a of the Criminal Code. The complaint was based on evidence that, by 16 June 2025, construction works on the site had exceeded the scope authorised by the permits issued at that time, namely the location conditions and the building permit covering preparatory works. RERI submitted photographs and video footage documenting the construction of above-ground structural elements for which no valid building permit had been issued. Despite the evidence provided and several follow-up requests urging the authorities to act, the Public Prosecutor's Office failed to take appropriate action. At a meeting held in September 2025, the competent public prosecutor announced that an inspection would be carried out to examine whether construction had taken place without the required building permit. By that time, however, the investor had already obtained the relevant permit. RERI therefore requested the appointment of an expert witness to determine whether the disputed works had been carried out before the permit was issued. No decision had been taken in the case by the end of 2025, and the proceedings remained unresolved throughout 2026.

EXPO 2027

July

During the public hearing on the draft amendments to the Law on Special Procedures for the Implementation of the International Specialized Exhibition EXPO Belgrade 2027, RERI raised a number of concerns regarding the proposed legislation. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to clearly define the Law's territorial and temporal scope, as well as the number of future implementation phases, in order to prevent its misuse and ensure that it is applied exclusively to facilities directly related to the Exhibition. We also called for the removal of the provisions allowing occupancy permits and approvals of environmental impact assessment studies to be deferred.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Serbia repeatedly disregarded mandatory procedures and key preventive safeguards in the implementation of the EXPO 2027 project. Construction of the National Football Stadium continued beyond the scope of the building permit in force at the time, which authorised only the preparatory works (Phase I), while no building permit had yet been issued for the above-ground structure (Phase II). In addition, the environmental impact assessment procedure had not been completed, and the project documentation had not undergone all of the required stages of technical review, despite construction being well underway.

SERBIA ZIJIN
COPPER

In light of these circumstances, we filed a criminal complaint against the Minister of Finance for construction without a building permit, supported by compelling evidence substantiating these allegations.

Ten residents of Krivelj, Bor, and Slatina, together with RERI, filed a criminal complaint against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ in connection with the long-term pollution to which they have been exposed as a result of the company’s operations. The complaint highlighted excessive emissions of heavy metals that have contaminated the air, water, and soil, exposing local communities to an increased risk of cancer and other serious health impacts.

BELGRADE
WATERFRONT

We submitted comments on the proposed amendments to the Spatial Plan for the „Belgrade Waterfront“ project, which would nearly double the project’s footprint. The Planning Commission session was held electronically, with members of the public required to register in advance and provide personal data, despite the absence of any legal basis for imposing such conditions on public participation. In addition, the supporting planning documentation was not made publicly available, with the authorities claiming that they currently lacked the technical capacity to publish it.

LINGLONG
ZRENJANIN

Following the Administrative Court’s dismissal of RERI’s claim challenging the building permit issued for Phase VI of the „Linglong“ tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin, we filed a constitutional appeal alleging violations of the right to a fair trial and the right of access to justice in environmental matters.

SERBIA ZIJIN
COPPER

In late July, we requested that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the Ministry of Health carry out extraordinary inspections of „Serbia Zijin Copper“ to determine whether the company’s use of water from Lake Bor for industrial purposes complied with the applicable environmental protection and public health requirements.

„OLD MOUNTAIN
FOR NEW
GENERATIONS“
PROJECT

Throughout August, we continued implementing the project „Old Mountain for New Generations – Towards Accountable and Inclusive Biodiversity Protection“ through a series of activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders and engaging young people in biodiversity conservation. A second consultative meeting was held in Pirot, bringing together representatives of the protected area manager, local governments, and tourism organisations to discuss the alignment of local policies with the ongoing process of designating

August

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

Stara Planina as a national park. Alongside this institutional dialogue, we organised a two-day multidisciplinary study visit for students from five faculties – the Faculties of Biology, Geography, Forestry, Architecture, and Organisational Sciences. Through fieldwork and an interactive programme, participants explored the challenges of sustainable management and conservation of the area's natural resources.

We filed a lawsuit before the Administrative Court challenging the Ministry of Environmental Protection's unlawful decision approving the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the construction of the National Football Stadium. The claim argued that construction had commenced before approval of the EIA study had been obtained, that the study failed to assess the works already carried out and instead presented the project as if it were still at the planning stage, and that its serious shortcomings created a risk of pollution and permanent damage to the water source area.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

RERI filed a complaint regarding the conduct of an official of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure for failing to act on our request for an extraordinary inspection of „Serbia Zijin Copper“, submitted following concerns that the company was operating a laboratory within its new smelter without the required occupancy permit. As neither the inspection request nor the subsequent complaint had been addressed within the statutory time limits, we requested that an administrative supervision procedure be initiated to examine the Ministry's handling of the case.

During the same month, RERI requested an extraordinary inspection following concerns that „Serbia Zijin Copper“ was operating facilities within its new smelter complex in Bor without the required occupancy permits.

THE URBAN PLAN OF KOVAČICA

At the request of local activists from the village of Debeljača in Vojvodina, RERI monitored the drafting of the urban plan for a proposed industrial zone in the vicinity of the settlement. On 15 August 2025, RERI submitted comments on the draft plan, highlighting the insufficient level of detail in several planning solutions, as well as the absence of measures governing waste management within the planning area and the establishment of a shelter for abandoned animals. During the public session of the Planning Commission, it was announced that RERI's comments had been accepted. As a result, the proposed landfill site will be relocated farther away from the settlement, while the requirements governing the operation of the animal shelter will be defined in greater detail. At the time of writing, the planning document had not yet been adopted.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

Also in August, we called for an extraordinary administrative supervision of the Construction Inspectorate's handling of our earlier request for an extraordinary inspection of „Serbia Zijin Copper“, after the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure failed to act within the prescribed time limits. The inspection was sought to determine whether the laboratory within the company's new smelter complex in Bor was operating without the required occupancy permit.

THE DRAFT STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL AND OTHER GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

RERI submitted comments on the Draft Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2025–2040, with projections to 2050 and on the Programme for the Implementation of the Energy Development Strategy. The comments called for a comprehensive review of all mining and protected areas, highlighted inconsistencies with higher-level planning documents, pointed to the absence of a regulatory framework for carbon pricing, and noted that the Programme had been prepared without a strategic environmental assessment. Following the submission of RERI's comments, the competent authorities announced that a decision would be adopted to initiate the strategic environmental assessment procedure for the Programme.

JADAR PROJECT

September

We filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court challenging the Government of the Republic of Serbia's decision affirming the Ministry's determination of the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the „Jadar“ project. After taking more than six months to decide on RERI's appeal, the Government upheld the Ministry of Environmental Protection's decision, relying on several contradictory and factually inaccurate findings. In its claim, RERI asked the Administrative Court to annul the contested decision and to deal with the case as a matter of urgency, warning that any further delay could allow the project to proceed despite the serious legal deficiencies identified in the decision-making process.

HOW CLEAN IS „CLEAN“ ENERGY?

At an international conference hosted by the Open University of Catalonia in Barcelona, RERI Legal Adviser Darjana Macanović presented her research paper, „How Clean is „Clean“ Energy? The EU's Green Transition and Environmental Justice in the Case of Serbia's Potential Lithium Mining“. The presentation examined the legal irregularities surrounding the proposed „Jadar“ lithium mining project in Serbia, which has been designated by the European Union as a Strategic Project under the Critical Raw Materials Regulation. It also explored the relationship between the project and the application of the EU's Critical Raw Materials Regulation from the perspective of environmental justice.

SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

At a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, we addressed the issue of access to justice in Bor, one of Serbia's environmental „sacrifice zones“. We highlighted that residents of the village of Krivelj are routinely denied the opportunity to participate in decision-making procedures, even where unlawful mining activities are taking place in the immediate vicinity of their homes.

„PRERADA VREOCI“

Following an inspection confirming that the „Prerada Vreoci“ Processing Plant was operating without the required integrated permit, we requested that the City of Belgrade Secretariat for Inspection Affairs carry out a further extraordinary inspection. The purpose of the request was to establish whether the operator, EPS, had in the meantime initiated the procedure for obtaining the integrated permit required for the operation of the installation.

EXPO 2027

At the invitation of the Blokovski Assembly and the Obrenovac Citizens' Assembly, we took part in two public discussions dedicated to [the EXPO 2027 project](#) and the [just green transition](#). The discussions provided an opportunity to engage directly with citizens on the potential environmental risks and benefits of the EXPO complex, as well as the implications of the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for workers, their families, and local communities.

EUROPEAN GREEN BELT

[RERI marked the European Green Belt Days 2025 by hosting a public event at its offices](#). As part of the programme, we delivered a lecture for students entitled „Regulatory and Planning Framework for Stara Planina National Park – Obstacles and Challenges“, followed by a [short video presentation](#) highlighting the study visit to Stara Planina. The event concluded with a discussion on the key challenges facing nature protection and the significance of the European Green Belt initiative.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

We challenged the decision dismissing our commercial offence complaint against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ and the responsible individuals for constructing and putting into operation the expanded capacities of the „Zagrade“ lime factory without prior approval of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study.

THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM OF THE BERLIN PROCESS

At the [Civil Society Forum of the Berlin Process](#), we spoke about the importance of strengthening legal mechanisms for environmental protection and advancing a human rights-based approach to environmental governance. We emphasised that the genuine application of the rule of law is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving both a successful just energy transition and effective environmental protection. The Forum also presented the [Recommendations to the Leaders of the Berlin Process](#), to which RERI contributed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPATIAL PLAN „VRŠAČKE PLANINE“

RERI conducted a field visit and provided expert support to the „Padina“ Environmental Movement and the „Stanište“ Ecological Centre in response to concerns over the planned construction of a large wind farm in Vojvodina and the relocation of a meteorological radar facility within the Vršacke Planine Landscape of Outstanding Features protected area. We participated in the public consultation on the proposed amendments to the spatial plan for the protected area, which would permit the construction of a radar centre on the highest peak in Vojvodina despite its anticipated impacts on the environment and the landscape. Through written comments and our participation in the electronic public hearing, we drew the attention of the Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia to numerous legal and procedural shortcomings of the proposed amendments and called for all further proceedings to be suspended.

EXTRAORDINARY INSPECTIONS

We also drew attention to the Ministry of Environmental Protection's practice of rejecting our requests for extraordinary inspections on the grounds that no intervention was warranted because routine annual inspections had already been scheduled. In the first half of 2025, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate carried out inspections of 29 operators and initiated only a single set of commercial offence proceedings for operating without a permit, despite the fact that more than 150 installations continue to operate without the permits required by law.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

In a complaint submitted to the Appellate Public Prosecutor's Office, we sought the annulment of the decision of the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Zaječar dismissing the complaint against „Serbia Zijin Copper“ for operating its TIR branch and the „Zagrade“ lime factory without the required integrated permits. Departing from its previous practice, the Prosecutor's Office dismissed the complaint on the erroneous assumption that a company previously sanctioned for operating without approval under the environmental impact assessment regime cannot also be held liable for operating without an integrated permit.

„URBAN JUSTICE – GREEN FUTURE“

In Novi Sad, we organised „Urban Justice – Green Future“ training programme in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for the Western Balkans. The event brought together representatives of local civil society organisations, legal practitioners, and experts in urban planning and environmental protection to strengthen capacities for monitoring planning and environmental decision-making processes, identifying corruption risks, and using legal tools to safeguard the public interest.

LINGLONG ZRENJANIN

Following the dismissal of RERI's appeal by the second-instance authority, we filed a claim with the Administrative Court seeking the annulment of the decision adopted in the environmental impact assessment screening procedure for the auxiliary facilities of the Linglong tyre manufacturing plant in Zrenjanin.

SERBIA ZIJIN COPPER

United Nations Special Rapporteurs requested that the Republic of Serbia, „Serbia Zijin Copper“, the People's Republic of China, and „Zijin Mining Group“ respond to allegations concerning severe environmental pollution and human rights violations arising from mining activities in the Bor region. The communication was issued following a submission by residents of the villages of Krivelj and Slatina near Bor, together with the Association of Young Researchers from Bor, RERI, and FIAN International, drawing the Special Rapporteurs' attention to the environmental and human rights impacts of the company's operations.

October

THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

We hosted the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights during its country visit to Serbia from 6 to 15 October. Following its visit to the Bor region, the Working Group warned that „the village of Krivelj bears a disproportionate share of the adverse impacts, including heavy metal pollution, harming water, livestock, and agriculture“, stressing that the risks to people and the environment „cannot be ignored“. As part of its visit to Loznica, the Working Group met with local activists and residents to discuss the proposed „Jadar“ project. United Nations representatives expressed concern over the lack of meaningful participation of local communities in decision-making processes, as well as allegations of harassment, physical attacks, detention, criminal complaints, and lawsuits targeting activists protesting the project and drawing attention to its serious risks to the environment and public health.

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

RERI filed a claim with the Administrative Court seeking the annulment of the Ministry of Environmental Protection's decision approving the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for the National Football Stadium project and its associated facilities. The claim argued that the Ministry had acted in breach of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment by failing to properly assess the environmental impacts of the preparatory works, disregarding the risks posed to the protected water source area, and omitting a meaningful assessment of reasonable alternatives.

AIR QUALITY IN ZRENJANIN

Together with organisations Gradanski preokret and Zona Zrenjanin, we organised a public discussion „Air Quality in Zrenjanin“, bringing together experts and citizens to discuss the impacts of air pollution on human health and the need to improve the transparency of air quality monitoring, strengthen public participation, and support local environmental initiatives.

THE EU'S CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM)

The Ministry of Finance launched a brief public consultation on draft legislation introducing the taxation of greenhouse gas emissions and imports of carbon-intensive products in response to the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which will enter into full application in 2026. The consultation took place despite Serbia's delayed preparations for CBAM compliance, notwithstanding the country's strong export dependence on the EU market and the carbon-intensive nature of its economy. Our analysis of the proposed solutions identified a number of significant shortcomings, including insufficient engagement with the public and the business community, references to strategic documents that have yet to be adopted, and the absence of a clear framework for directing the revenues generated towards decarbonisation efforts. [Together with the Belgrade Open School and the Centre for Environmental Improvement, we therefore called for the withdrawal of the draft laws and the development of more robust legislative solutions based on comprehensive impact assessments, particularly in light of their planned entry into force on 1 January 2026.](#)

PANEL DISCUSSION „FACTS WITHOUT FILTERS” IN SMEDEREVO

[Together with the Association Crveni bedževi, we organised the panel discussion „Facts Without Filters” in Smederevo.](#) The event was prompted by air pollution data for 2024, which confirmed what residents have long experienced — that the air is becoming increasingly difficult to breathe while meaningful change remains slow to materialise. It provided an opportunity to hear from experts and engage in an open discussion on possible solutions to the city's longstanding air quality challenges.

PUBLIC EVENT „THREE CITIES – ONE PROBLEM” IN BOR

[In late October, together with the Association of Young Researchers from Bor, we organised the public event „Three Cities – One Problem” in Bor, where we presented the findings of our analysis of air quality in the city.](#) The presentation of the key findings was followed by an open discussion with residents on the persistent problem of air pollution in Bor and the challenges associated with improving local air quality.

„VITUŠ” AND „TOŠOVIĆ” SMALL HYDROPOWER PLANTS

Following the authorities' failure to act on RERI's formal requests seeking the invalidation of the building permits issued for the „Vituš” and „Tošović” small hydropower plants, we requested that the competent Administrative Inspectorate carry out a supervisory review of the authority's conduct. In both cases, RERI sought the invalidation of the building permits on the grounds that the investors had failed to comply with the statutory requirements. Despite its legal obligation to decide on these requests, the Municipality of Raška failed to adopt the necessary decisions within the prescribed time limits.

„TRUJKANOV
POTOK“
SETTLEMENT NEAR
THE CITY OF BOR

RERI submitted comments on the Decision initiating amendments to the urban plan for the proposed „Trujkanov Potok“ settlement near the city of Bor, which is intended to accommodate the resettlement of communities affected by mining activities. The comments emphasised that the planning process must be guided by the protection of the rights and interests of local residents, the principles of sustainable urban development, and a comprehensive assessment of potential environmental impacts.

DRAFT
AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CRIMINAL CODE

During the public consultation on the Draft amendments to the Criminal Code, RERI submitted [comments](#) advocating for stronger and more effective criminal law protection of the environment in line with the EU Environmental Crime Directive. The comments identified shortcomings in the proposed definitions of environmental offences, highlighted evidentiary standards that could hinder effective prosecution, raised concerns over the narrowing of legal protection afforded to natural assets, and pointed to the absence of clear and workable legal thresholds. Particular emphasis was placed on the risk that vague or unduly restrictive formulations could weaken the preventive function of environmental criminal law and make it more difficult to establish liability for serious environmental harm. Following the conclusion of the public consultation and the publication of the report summarising its outcomes, RERI continued its public advocacy efforts by publishing an analytical [blog article](#) examining deficiencies in both the report and the transparency of the consultation process, with particular attention given to the shortcomings of the proposed legislative solutions.

SERBIA ZIJIN
MINING

We filed a complaint with the Appellate Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade challenging the decision dismissing RERI's commercial offence complaint against „Serbia Zijin Mining“ for putting a new installation into operation without the required integrated permit.

MALI RZAV
RIVER

At the request of the civil society organisation Save the Rzav, RERI sought an extraordinary inspection by the Construction Inspectorate of the Municipality of Arilje to determine whether the barriers constructed on the Mali Rzav River comply with the Water Law and the Law on Planning and Construction. The submission called for an examination of the relevant technical documentation, verification that all legally required approvals and permits had been obtained, and an assessment of the manner in which the structures are being used. It also emphasised the need to determine whether the barriers meet the applicable safety requirements and whether their existence and operation may adversely affect the surrounding environment and the condition of the local ecosystem.

EXPO 2027

At the invitation of the [Blokovski Citizens' Assembly](#) and the [Obrenovac Citizens' Assembly](#), RERI representatives took part in two public forums dedicated to the EXPO 2027 project and the just green transition. The discussions provided an opportunity to engage directly with citizens on the potential environmental risks and benefits of the EXPO 2027 project, as well as the challenges and implications of the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for workers, their families, and local communities.

HOTEL
„JUGOSLAVIJA“

Following the demolition of Hotel „Jugoslavija“, the developer of the „Danube Riverside“ project applied to the Ministry of Environmental Protection for a subsequent environmental impact assessment procedure for the construction of a new hotel on the same site, without including the demolition works within the scope of the assessment. RERI appealed the decision determining the scope and content of the EIA study, arguing that the developer had artificially fragmented the project into separate components in order to avoid assessing its overall and cumulative environmental impacts. The appeal further pointed out that the supporting documentation failed to provide an adequate assessment of the project's potential impacts on nearby protected natural areas and groundwater resources, and did not contain sufficient information on the types and quantities of waste expected to be generated during its implementation.

THE GENERAL
STAFF AND
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE
COMPLEX

November

[On 2 November, members of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party \(SNS\) submitted to the National Assembly a lex specialis concerning the „revitalisation“ of the General Staff and Ministry of Defence complex.](#) The law was adopted [on 7 November](#), paving the way for the demolition of the complex and the construction of luxury developments. RERI described the adoption of the legislation as a unilateral and irresponsible measure that disregarded both the principles of the rule of law and the State's constitutional obligation to protect cultural heritage, while excluding meaningful consultation with the expert community. We therefore called for its immediate withdrawal and, as part of [a working group representing more than 4,500 experts, warned that the revocation of the site's cultural heritage status had been carried out unlawfully.](#) We further emphasised that the complex remained protected under the applicable legal framework and that its demolition would jeopardise the broader historical and cultural context of the site, setting a dangerous precedent in the Republic of Serbia.

THE GENERAL STAFF

Following the adoption of the disputed law, the Savski Venac Real Estate Cadastre Office issued a decision removing the cultural heritage designation from the General Staff site. RERI appealed the decision, challenging its lawfulness. The Savski Venac Real Estate Cadastre Office dismissed the appeal on the grounds that it had been submitted by an unauthorised party, notwithstanding the detailed legal arguments submitted in support of RERI's standing to participate in the proceedings. RERI subsequently lodged an appeal with the Geodetic Authority of the Republic of Serbia, which has yet to issue a decision. To date, RERI has filed two appeals in the administrative proceedings, preventing the decision of the Savski Venac Real Estate Cadastre Office from becoming final and legally effective. The case illustrates a broader pattern whereby institutions formally adhere to the letter of the law while systematically excluding organisations acting in the public interest from participating in decision-making processes, thereby leaving contested decisions without effective legal scrutiny.

„STATEMENT OF EXPERTS ON AIR QUALITY“

RERI organised an event to present the [„Statement of Experts on Air Quality in the Republic of Serbia – Towards a Healthier Society and a Sustainable Future“](#). The event sought to foster a broader understanding of air quality as both a public health and a sustainable development issue, highlighting its far-reaching implications for society. It also provided participants with an opportunity to engage directly with the authors of the Statement and leading environmental experts in an open discussion on the challenges and priorities for improving air quality in Serbia.

CEMENT PLANT „RATARI- JAZOVNIK“

In November, an early public consultation was held as part of the preparation of the Spatial Plan for the Special Purpose Area of the „Ratari-Jazovnik“ Cement Production Technological Complex. In response, RERI joined environmental experts, residents, and students from Obrenovac in preparing and submitting comments to the Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia, raising concerns regarding the proposed planning framework and its potential environmental implications.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

[We brought together students, researchers, and activists to explore how young people perceive the state of the environment and the impacts of industrial pollution in Serbia, as well as the shortcomings of public communication on these issues.](#) Participants highlighted that official environmental data are often incomplete, difficult to access, and presented without sufficient context. Industrial pollution was identified as one of the country's most pressing environmental challenges, with significant implications for both human health and the environment. The discussion also underscored the importance

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT RAW MATERIALS WEEK

of continuous and accessible communication, noting that citizens place the greatest trust in information that is expert-led, clear, and transparent.

RERI representatives participated in a roundtable discussion organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brussels as a side event of Raw Materials Week. The event brought together regional experts to examine how mining practices, transparency, and the rights of local communities shape the development of critical raw materials supply chains in Europe, with particular attention given to the experiences of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

„STARA PLANINA“ NATIONAL PARK

As part of the European Green Democracy Week, we hosted an interactive panel discussion at Europe House dedicated to the protection of Stara Planina and the challenges facing this unique natural area. The discussion explored the issues that have emerged following the designation of Stara Planina as a National Park, the experiences of students who participated in the project's activities, and the importance of ensuring meaningful public participation in decision-making processes. Participants shared a common view that the long-term preservation of Stara Planina will depend on sustained collaboration, perseverance, and the active involvement of citizens.

„NIKOLA TESLA B“ THERMAL POWER PLANT

The Administrative Court held an oral hearing in the proceedings challenging the decision determining the scope and content of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for the flue gas desulphurisation installation at the „Nikola Tesla B“ Thermal Power Plant, in which RERI participated. The Court's decision is currently pending.

„KOLUBARA A“ I „MORAVA“ THERMAL POWER PLANTS

We filed a complaint against EPS concerning the unlawful operation of the „Kolubara A“ and „Morava“ thermal power plants, both of which failed to meet the 2023 deadline for achieving substantial emission reductions. The complaint pointed out that the installations continue to operate despite the expiry of the applicable compliance deadlines and that their emissions of air pollutants remain well above the permitted limits. According to publicly available data, the two power plants emitted 17,868 tonnes of sulphur dioxide, 1,794 tonnes of nitrogen oxides, and 935 tonnes of particulate matter during the previous year. We called for the competent authorities to take urgent action, warning that the continued unlawful operation of these installations prolongs citizens' exposure to hazardous air pollution.

„PRERADA VREOCI“

Following our request for a further extraordinary inspection of the „Prerada Vreoci“ Processing Plant to determine whether EPS had initiated the procedure for obtaining the required integrated permit, we filed a complaint concerning the conduct of an inspector of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government in relation to the administrative supervision procedure carried out at our request. The complaint highlighted that the administrative review failed to examine whether the competent authorities had acted in accordance with the law after it had been established that the installation was operating without an integrated permit.

ACADEMY „KNOWLEDGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT“

In Belgrade, we launched the first module of the third Academy „Knowledge for the Environment“, bringing together 20 students and young professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of key environmental governance issues in Serbia. The programme covered access to information of public importance, the spatial and urban planning system, preventive environmental protection measures in plans and development projects, the energy transition and air quality protection in Serbia, as well as the collection and management of air quality data.



„TERPEIS BALKANS“

As part of the „TERPEIS Balkans“ project, we hosted the fourth of five regional Expert Community Dialogues. The two-hour discussion focused on Serbia's proposed carbon taxation framework for imports of carbon-intensive products and the readiness of the Western Balkan countries for the full implementation of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in 2026.

„TERPEIS BALKANS“

In December, we organised the panel discussion „Jadar: A Strategic Project or a Strategic Mistake?“, which presented the key findings of the publication of the same title and explored the legal, economic, and social implications of the proposed project. Particular attention was given to environmental protection, respect for human rights, and the perspectives of the local communities that would be most directly affected by its implementation.

December

CEMENT PLANT „RATARI- JAZOVNIK“

Together with the residents of Ratari, we organised a public discussion on the proposed construction of a cement plant near the village. The discussion focused on the potential environmental impacts of new industrial developments, particularly given that they are planned for an area already burdened by the consequences of the thermal power plant's operation in breach of the conditions set out in its integrated permit. Participants also emphasised that, due to the inadequate response of the competent authorities, both the right to a healthy environment and environmental impact assessment procedures have too often remained little more than formal guarantees, rather than serving as effective mechanisms for protecting human health and the environment.

THE GENERAL STAFF

We initiated constitutional and legality review proceedings before the Constitutional Court challenging the Law on Special Procedures for the Implementation of the Project for the „Revitalisation and Development“ of the Area between Kneza Miloša, Masarikova, Birčaninova and Resavska Streets in Belgrade. In the initiative, we argued that several provisions of the Law pave the way for the demolition of the General Staff and Ministry of Defence complex to make room for high-rise commercial developments, in breach of Article 89 of the Constitution, which guarantees the protection of cultural heritage. The decision designating the complex as a cultural monument was declared null and void, notwithstanding the fact that the site forms part of the protected cultural and historical area along Kneza Miloša Street, which includes monuments such as the Seventh Regiment Barracks and the Stone Palace and where the construction of high-rise buildings is not permitted. The Law further provides for its immediate application without any legitimate justification, while potential conflicts between its provisions, the Constitution, and other applicable legislation cannot be resolved through „authentic interpretation“.

THE DRAFT LAW ON INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

RERI organised an event to mark the publication of the „Analysis of the Foundations for the Draft Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control“, which examines both the implementation of the existing legislation and the rationale for adopting a new legal framework. The discussion focused on a number of key challenges, including the lack of alignment with Best Available Techniques (BAT), inadequate budgetary allocations that continue to be treated as short-term expenditures rather than strategic investments, institutional and judicial shortcomings in the enforcement of environmental legislation, and the vital role of local communities in addressing industrial pollution.

„GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN INTEGRATED PERMITTING PROCEDURES”

In Požarevac, we presented the „Guidelines for Active Public Participation in Integrated Permitting Procedures”. Our legal team introduced participants to the integrated permitting process, the opportunities available for public participation, and the legal mechanisms for protecting procedural rights throughout the proceedings. The presentation was followed by a discussion of the challenges currently facing the local community. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of building meaningful public participation on the existing knowledge, experience, and capacities of local communities, as this provides the strongest foundation for effective engagement in environmental decision-making processes.

ACADEMY „KNOWLEDGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”



The second module of the third Academy „Knowledge for the Environment” was successfully completed, providing participants with an opportunity to gain practical experience through attendance at public hearings, the analysis of real-life cases, and

collaborative work on environmental challenges across a range of thematic areas. Working in teams, participants developed and presented proposals addressing issues in four thematic fields, applying the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the programme to practical environmental governance challenges.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE, „ENERGY TRANSITION THROUGH LEGAL LENSES”

RERI hosted the annual regional conference, „Energy Transition Through Legal Lenses”, bringing together experts and stakeholders to discuss the key legal, institutional, and practical dimensions of the energy transition in the region. The conference programme featured three thematic panels addressing regional energy and climate policies, the development of renewable energy sources – from prosumers to large-scale infrastructure projects – and the latest legislative developments shaping Serbia’s energy sector.





BLOG

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control of Industrial Pollution in Serbia

Although the 2004 Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control was conceived as a key instrument for regulating the country's largest industrial polluters and aligning Serbia's legal framework with European Union standards, its implementation has failed to deliver the intended results even after two decades. A significant number of installations continue to operate without integrated permits, while compliance deadlines are repeatedly postponed and effective oversight and enforcement remain lacking. The underlying problem lies not in the permitting procedures themselves, but in the tolerance of unlawful operations, weak enforcement policies, limited institutional capacity, and the exclusion of the public from decision-making processes. The new legislation will therefore be effective only if it is implemented consistently, introduces clear and dissuasive sanctions, mandates the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT), and ensures meaningful public participation in regulatory oversight.

It's Time to Talk About Air Quality — Even When It's Not Winter

Although partially improved following the public consultation process, the proposed amendments to the Law on Air Protection still fail to address the fundamental shortcomings of Serbia's air quality regime, particularly with regard to the enforcement and sanctioning of polluters, as they do not provide for clear and effective penalties.

Other serious deficiencies that may undermine effective air quality protection and create opportunities for abuse include exemptions granted to certain operators, the removal of the provision relating to the „interested public“, and the introduction of reporting obligations without clearly defined consequences for non-compliance.

(In)Visible Pollution: Industrial Wastewater Management in Serbia

Industrial wastewater management in Serbia poses a serious threat to both the environment and public health. The discharge of untreated wastewater has become commonplace as a result of weak enforcement, ineffective regulatory oversight, and inadequate sanctions for non-compliance. The problem is particularly acute in the case of major industrial polluters, including Zijin in Bor, the steel plant in Smederevo, and the Electric Power Industry of Serbia (EPS), where outdated technologies, the absence of adequate wastewater treatment facilities, and the failure to apply Best Available Techniques (BAT) continue to drive water pollution. Addressing these challenges requires the establishment and consistent implementation of more robust preventive mechanisms, including meaningful environmental impact assessments and a more effective integrated permitting system. Stronger inspection and enforcement practices, coupled with significantly more dissuasive penalties, are equally essential to prevent further breaches of environmental legislation, safeguard natural resources, and protect public health.



BLOG

Between Profit, Protecting People and Nature: Where Does Environmental Accountability Disappear?

The Ministry of Justice's report on the public consultation process concerning the Draft amendments to the Criminal Code reflects a formalistic and insufficiently transparent approach. It fails to disclose who participated in the consultation, what comments were submitted, or the reasons why particular proposals were accepted or rejected. Such an approach suggests that meaningful public consultation was lacking, which is a matter of particular concern when reforming criminal legislation. At the same time, the proposed provisions relating to environmental protection reveal significant shortcomings. While they envisage stricter liability where harm to human health occurs, they impose almost unattainable standards for proving causation between environmental pollution and its health consequences. The proposed amendments also fail to provide comprehensive protection for the full range of protected natural assets, leaving serious harm to such assets inadequately addressed under criminal law. Moreover, key legal concepts, including „significant damage“, remain insufficiently defined, creating scope for arbitrary interpretation and weakening the effectiveness of environmental criminal law protections. Without clear, precise, and workable legal standards, there is a real risk that the legislation will prove ineffective in practice and that holding major polluters accountable will remain exceptionally difficult.

Air Pollution in Serbia – A Silent Crisis Taking Our Breath Away

The expert community has warned that people in Serbia are exposed daily to air pollution that poses a serious threat to their health. According to expert estimates, more than 14,000 premature deaths each year may be linked to exposure to polluted air, while the current air protection framework falls short of safeguarding the fundamental right to a healthy environment. Analyses show that concentrations of PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter, NO₂, SO₂, and other air pollutants continue to exceed legally prescribed limit values, particularly in urban and industrial areas, while the implementation of the measures set out in the 2022 Air Protection Programme remains limited. Experts emphasise that air pollution is not merely an environmental issue but a major public health and social challenge that disproportionately affects children, pregnant women, older persons, and other vulnerable groups. Its consequences extend to increased pressure on the healthcare system, rising healthcare costs, and reduced productivity. In their joint statement, the experts call on the authorities to urgently align national legislation with Directive (EU) 2024/2881, establish a transparent and reliable air quality monitoring system, ensure the meaningful involvement of the scientific community in the development of local air quality plans, redirect subsidies towards clean energy sources, and develop health indicators capable of informing evidence-based policymaking. These measures are essential to ensuring a science-based and just transformation of Serbia's air quality policy.

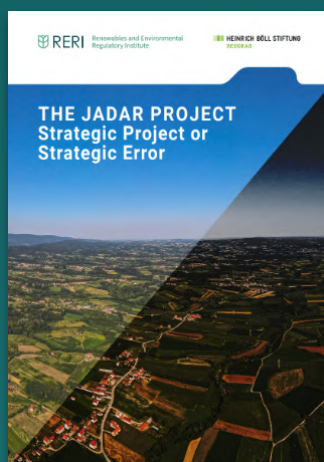
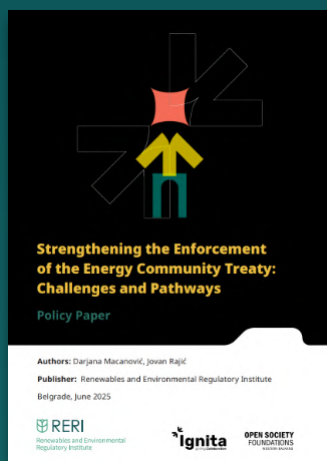
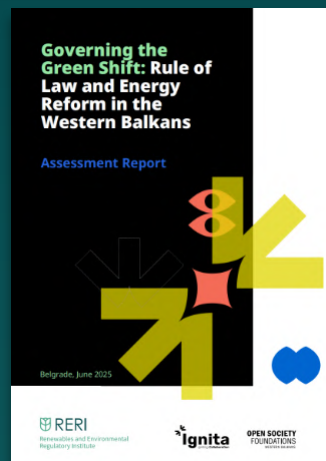
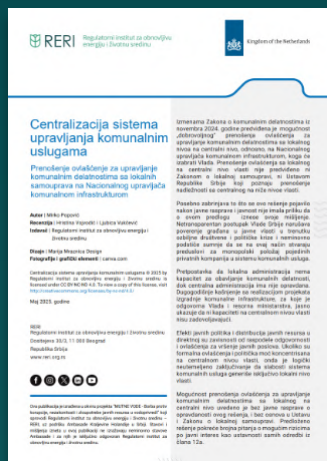
BLOG

Does Obrenovac Really Need a Cement Plant?

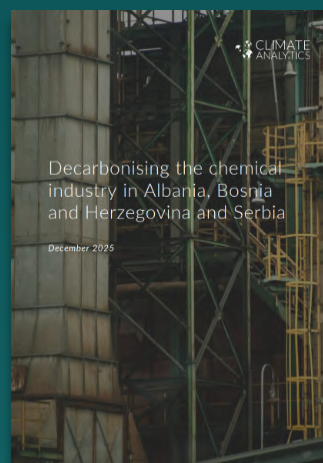
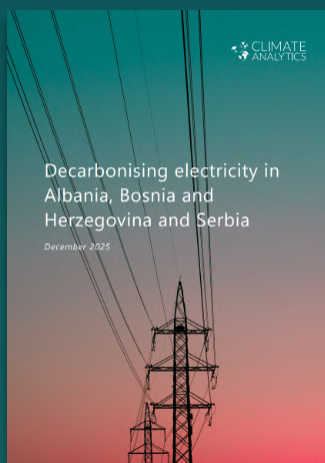
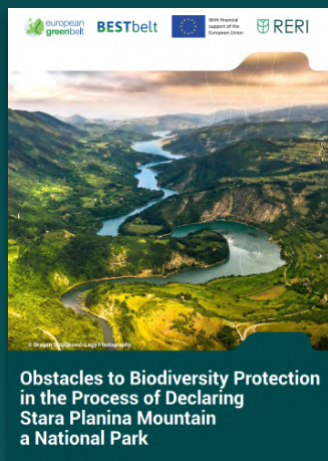
The Agency for Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia has initiated the preparation of a Spatial Plan for the Special Purpose Area for the construction of the „Ratari-Jazovnik“ cement plant and the expansion of the adjacent quarry. The proposed project has raised significant concerns among local residents regarding its potential impacts on air, water, and soil quality, as well as its implications for agriculture and the anticipated increase in heavy traffic. Obrenovac and its surrounding areas are already recognised as environmentally degraded and heavily burdened by pollution, making the proposed development difficult to reconcile with existing policy commitments aimed at preventing further environmental deterioration. Additional concerns stem from the lack of clear information regarding the planned cement production capacity, the limited transparency of the supporting planning documentation, and the proposed use of raw materials originating from the „Nikola Tesla A“ and „Nikola Tesla B“ thermal power plants. Against this backdrop, there are growing fears that the area could become yet another environmental „sacrifice zone“, much like Bor. While cement production plays an important role in infrastructure development and the construction sector, careful consideration must be given to whether its potential benefits justify the risks posed to human health and to citizens' right to a healthy environment and clean air.



PUBLICATIONS

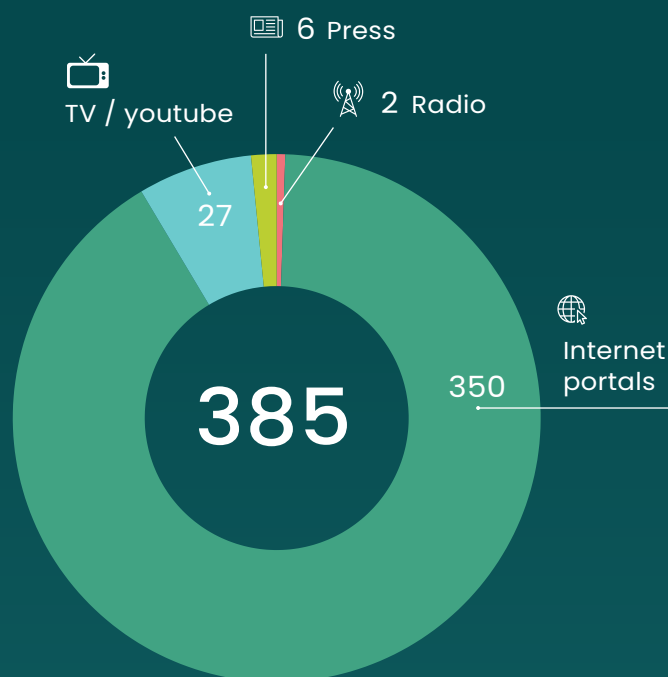


PUBLICATIONS

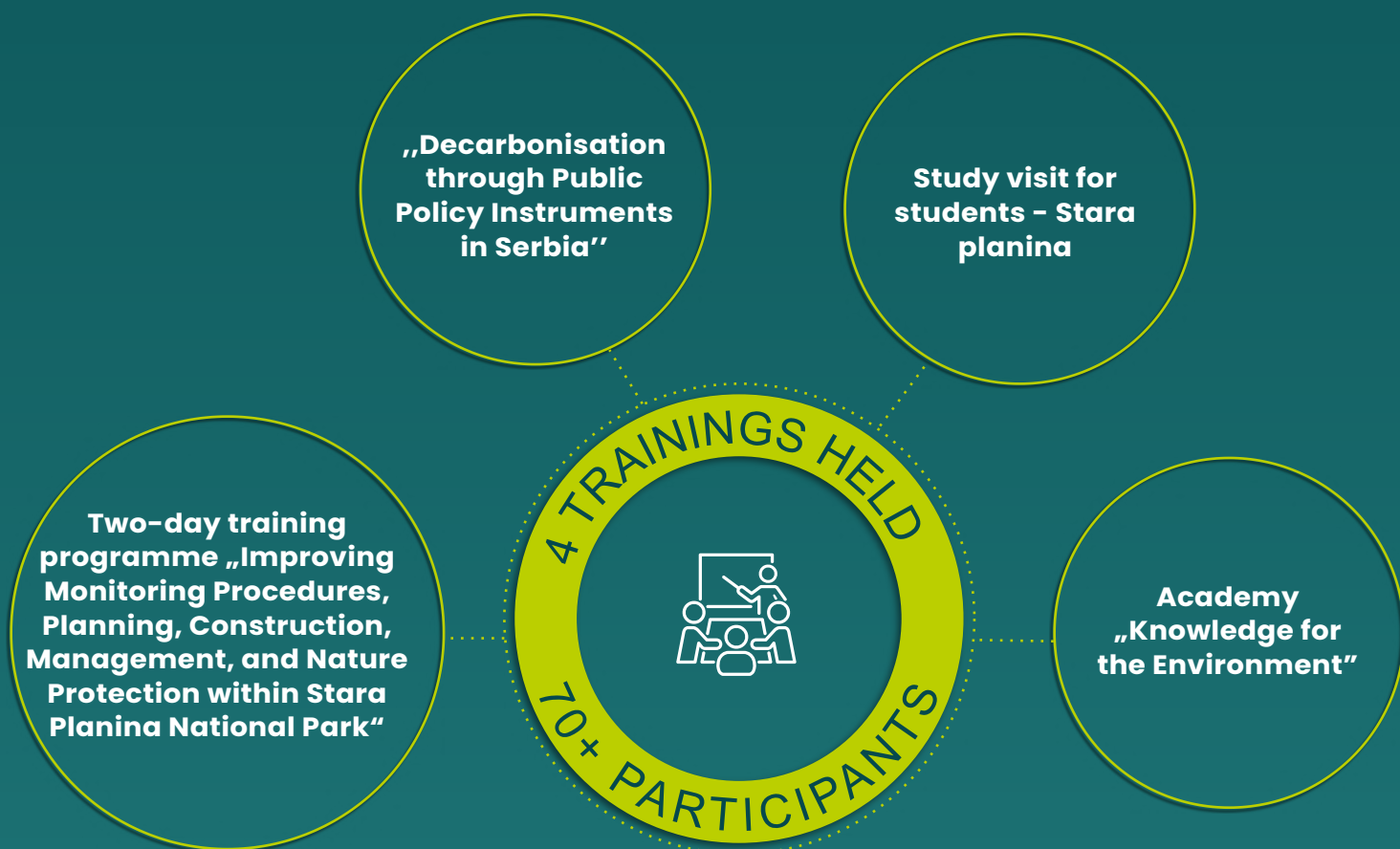


RERI IN NUMBERS

Graph 1 - Media presence by type of media



EVENTS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



EVENTS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





PROJECTS

November 2023 – March 2026

TERPEIS Balkans – Triggering Emissions Reductions in the Power and Energy Intensive Sectors

Donor: European Climate Initiative (EUKI)

January 2025 – December 2025

Towards the Green and Resilient 2030 – Civil Society Contributes to Achievement of the Green Agenda Goals

Donor: Delegation of the European Union

May 2024 – June 2025

Fundamentals First – improving the rule of law and inclusiveness in the Western Balkans energy transition

Donor: Open Society Foundations Western Balkans

October 2024 – December 2025

Old mountain for new generations – Towards accountable and inclusive biodiversity protection

Donor: Best Belt

September 2024 – October 2025

Air pollution from industry facilities in Serbia

Donor: European Climate Foundation

December 2024 – November 2025

Coal power litigation Serbia

Donor: European Climate Foundation

September 2022 – May 2025

DARK WATERS – Combating Corruption, Illegalities and Misuse of Public Resources in Water Management

Donor: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

January 2025 – December 2025

Energy Systems in Serbia and the Western Balkans

Donor: ClientEarth

PROJECTS

August 2025 – February 2026

Strategic Partner in the Shadow of the Sun: A Non-Transparent Energy Transition

Donor: Transparency Serbia

March 2025 – October 2025

Fundamentals First – Promoting the rule of law and the EU environmental standards in critical raw materials exploitation

Donor: Hajnrih Bel Foundation

June 2025 – October 2025

OUR LAW, OUR RIGHT – In the fight for clean air

Donor: WWF Adria – Serbia

May 2025 – November 2025

Horizons Without Pollution: Public Participation in Legislative Reform and Procedures for Effective Control and Protection Against Industrial Pollution; Horizons Without Pollution

Donor: Young Researchers of Serbia

ANNUAL BUDGET 389.753 EUR

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2026

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