



Balkan Rivers News

Dear Friends of the Balkan Rivers,

Read in this newsletter about European banks investing in the destruction of Europe's last free rivers. Watch in the videos below what is being lost in the process. Take action against it by signing the petition "[No Money. No Dams](#)".

The Blue Heart Team wishes you a happy spring time!



JOIN THIS UNIQUE EVENT:
**3 DAYS FOR ACTIVISTS, NGOS, EXPERTS,
FISHERMEN AND OTHER RIVER LOVERS.**

For the first time, people from all over Europe, who fight, campaign, and care for rivers, come together to share experience, create new ideas and new networks.

September
27-29, 2018
Sarajevo,
Bosnia-Herzegovina

Special event on 29th:
open-air concert
for the Blue Heart of Europe.

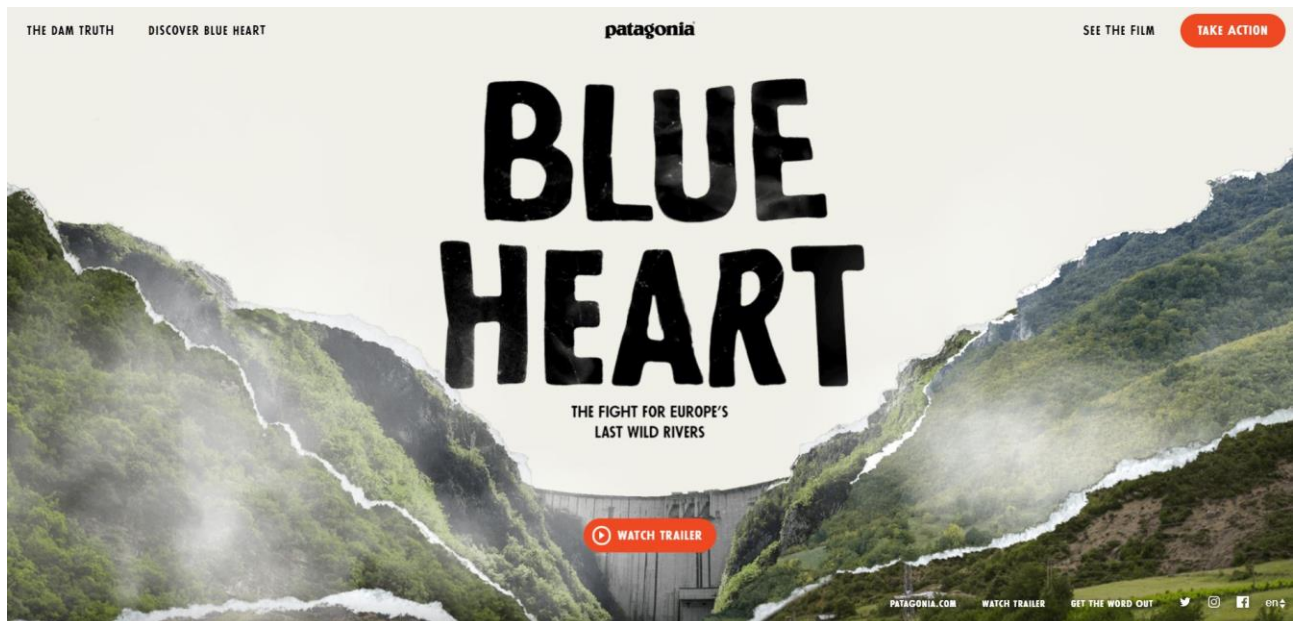
SAVE THE DATE
AND SHARE THIS INFORMATION.
MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SOON.

www.balkanrivers.net
Organized within the campaign
Save the Blue Heart of Europe

Contact: jelena.ivanic@czzs.org



SAVE THE DATE: 1st European Rivers Days 2018! From September 27 to 29, we will hold a first European river summit in Sarajevo. Goal of the meeting is to bring together river lovers and initiatives from all over Europe in order to exchange experience, develop ideas and network. The summit ends with a public Balkan Rivers open-air concert featuring artists from the Balkan region. **Please share and save the date!**



Patagonia Platform Launch! The outdoor outfitter Patagonia is not only supporting our anti-dam campaign but is also helping to demystify hydro as green and renewable source of energy in general. For this purpose, they have just launched the new [website "The dam truth"](#) and started the [petition "No money. No dams."](#) Please sign!



Assessment of sediment transport in the Vjosa has started! The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), together with the Polytechnic University of Tirana, have started an assessment of sediment transport in the Vjosa river in Albania. They are measuring the amount of gravel, sand and fine sediments the river transports into the Mediterranean Sea each year. The results will allow conclusions about the efficiency of the projected hydropower projects. [MORE](#)



Financing for hydropower in protected areas in Southeast Europe: 2018 update

March 2018



Bankwatch Study - International banks fuelling a hydropower tsunami that's decimating pristine Balkan rivers! In 2015, we commissioned Bankwatch with a study to investigate the role European public banks play in the hydropower tsunami in the Balkans. The brand-new update of the study shows their involvement is even greater than previously known: multilateral development banks have supported no fewer than 82 hydropower projects across southeast Europe, even in protected areas. [MORE](#)



Broken rivers

The impacts of European-financed small hydropower plants on pristine Balkan landscapes

Bankwatch Study: Broken Rivers! Within the context of the Blue Heart of Europe campaign, the NGO Bankwatch visited eight recently constructed small hydropower plants in Albania, Macedonia and Croatia. All of them were financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). All findings are published in this [Bankwatch report](#). If you always wanted to know whether 'small' is actually 'beautiful' when it comes to hydropower, find out the truth in this study. [MORE](#)



Bankwatch webstory: Why not even small HPPs should be built in protected areas! How come that a destructive project like that is being approved within a protected area? How can it be that a project within a protected area even receives funding? How is it possible that the funding comes from a European public development bank, the EBRD? Read how that happens [in this Bankwatch webstory](#)



New initiative: Stop HPP Mokrice - NE JEZimo SAVE! The Sava is one of the most interesting and complex rivers in Europe and the longest river in Slovenia. Twelve new hydropower projects are planned on the Sava in Slovenia alone. A new local initiative is taking action against the planned HPP Mokrice. “NE JEZimo SAVE - Stop HPP Mokrice” stands up against the irreversible destruction of the river at their doorstep. [MORE](#)

VIDEOS



"Una - The One" - A Fly Fishing and Conservation Film! Like most of Europe's last free-flowing rivers in the Balkan region, the Una is in permanent danger of being destroyed by a series of hydro dams. The Una is one of the few last rivers in the world with a healthy, wild Hucho population and an amazing fishery. For Bosnian guide Anes Halkic, the Una is not just a river. It is his life. [Watch the trailer!](#)



Nature Park Lonjsko Polje in Croatia! Nominated for World Heritage Site status, Lonjsko Polje in Croatia is 50 000 hectares stretch of floodplain in the Posavina region, between the Sava River and Mt Moslavačka Gora. This huge retention basin is famed for the diversity of its flora and fauna. [Watch this video](#) portraying the beauty and diversity of the Lonjsko Polje!



Albanian Vjosa documentary: Diga mbi Vjosë! Albanian filmmaker Artan Rama from "Elementi i pestë" accompanied our national and international scientists on an Vjosa expedition in April 2017 and filmed a documentary about the planned destruction of Europe's last big wild river. It is about the uniqueness of the ecosystem Vjosa, about affected residents, as well as about the court decision in favour of a free-flowing Vjosa. [ENJOY!](#)

**All the best,
Your Blue Heart Team**