Dear WHO representatives,

We would like to inform you that the alarming air pollution has been present in BiH for many years. Continuous air monitoring determines the exceedance of hourly, daily and annual limit values for SO2 and PM particles (PM10 or PM2.5). Furthermore, the chemical composition of these particles is not investigated in Bosnia and Herzegovina, although it is known that dust generated by industrial plants contains heavy metals and carcinogenic organic pollutants. Thus, citizens are denied both the correct information and appropriate safeguards.

Although civil society organizations and citizens constantly warn of the alarming situation, institutions responsible for taking care of the situation do not take appropriate measures in episodes of very high pollution, in order to protect the health of citizens, especially children and vulnerable groups.

Please, use your authority and point out to the relevant institutions the necessity of their actions in order to preserve the health of the citizens, as health experts point to the problems of citizens caused by air pollution. The head of the Clinic for Pulmonary Diseases of the University Clinical Center Tuzla Dr. Suad Dedić warned that there are more and more patients with diseases of the respiratory system and that the number of patients with lung cancer is increasing.


Dr. Edin Husarić from the Clinic for Pediatric Diseases of the University Clinical Center Tuzla warns of an increased number of children with respiratory problems due to air pollution. He points out that 22 children were hospitalized in one day alone.

More in the article: http://tip.ba/2019/12/20/rekordan-broj-djece-hospitaliziran-u-ukc-tuzla-zbog-otezanog-disanja-73-djece-se-lijeci-zbog-problema-s-respiratornim-sistemom/?fbclid=IwAR1AA27jV0teO ZyNjk3uKLIZUarnmYC6NXYk5FXm4Td3oSEKO3arKCW25cc
The situation has reached an alarming point, best seen in the fact that the 13.1.2017. in Tuzla, 50 people died in one day and 3 people die on average per day. There was a temperature inversion in those days which resulted in very high concentrations of SO2 and PM2.5. Failure to take preventative action or a plan of action in situations where temperature inversion and high concentrations of pollutants in the air occur could result in catastrophe.

Unfortunately, these data refer mostly to Tuzla, since for most other cities there are no data on the impact of polluted air on the health of the population, and these health institutions remain silent on this problem. However, according to a recent World Bank report, 3,300 people die from air pollution-related illnesses in Bosnia and Herzegovina annually.

All this is not enough for the authorities to understand the importance of taking short-term and long-term measures and developing a rescue plan to protect the health of citizens in BiH.

01/27/2020.

Signatories:

Organisations:

Center for Ecology and Energy Tuzla
Heinrich Boell Foundation, Sarajevo Office
Eko Akcija, Sarajevo
Green Building Council, Sarajevo
Helsinki Parliament of Banja Luka Citizens
Eco Forum Zenica
Portal interview.ba
INFOHOUSE Foundation
Environmental Forum of Lukavac Municipality
Citizens Association Information Center for Persons with Disabilities "Lotus" Tuzla
Center for Critical Thinking and School of Critical Thinking Mostar
Sarajevo Open Center
Front Tuzla Freedom Association
Portal Tačno.net
Amica Educa Tuzla Association
Institute for Public Health of Tuzla Canton
Tuzla Community Foundation
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