

## Civil society organizations and individuals from Bosnia and Herzegovina

World Health Organization

### LIVES OF CITIZENS IN BIH ARE IN DANGER DUE TO AIR POLLUTION

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 SO<sub>2</sub> and PM particles (PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub>). 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.

More details on the link: <https://tuzlanski.ba/carsija/klinika-za-plucne-bolesti-ukc-a-tuzla-broj-obiljelih-od-karcinoma-u-porastu-280-novootkivenih-slucajeva-godisnje-video/>

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=IwAR1AA27jV0teOZyNjk3uKLiZUarnmYC6NXYk5FXm4Td3oSEKO3arKCW25cc>

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 SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. 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  
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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  
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