

# CLEANER RIVERS- CLEANER SEAS



## Cleaner Rivers - Cleaner Seas, CRoCuS

CRoCuS is a synergistic action of 4 NGOs and 1 townhall from Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine who came together to produce innovative tools for rapid assessment of river litter and waste recycling potential, promote sustainable waste management practices, share good practices and mistakes and spread the word across the borders for reduction of bio-degradable waste and plastics recycling and minimization.

CRoCuS is an international project with a budget of 486 881,75 EUR provided by the EU Black Sea Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. The Leading Partner is Earth Forever Foundation, Bulgaria.

## Project Partners:

### Earth Forever Foundation - EFF, Bulgaria

Lead Partner - Earth Forever Foundation (EFF) is a non-governmental, non-for-profit organisation registered in 1998 in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. The mission of the organization is to promote community sustainable development through proper environmental management, efficient economic practice, and social justice. EF designs and implements initiatives, by involving citizens and youth, in order to improve the community environment, raises civil awareness to insist on sustainable environmental decisions, and works closely with decision-makers to guaranty sustainable management.  
[www.earthforever.org](http://www.earthforever.org), E-mail: [office@earthforever.org](mailto:office@earthforever.org)

### Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova - WISDOM, Moldova

Project partner 2 - WISDOM is a non-profit organization headquartered in Chisinau, which promotes a WISE ATTITUDE toward present and future. WISDOM association has the mission to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of rural communities and women for sustainable development. WISDOM achieves its objectives by educating and informing the public on sustainable development and environmental issues, encouraging, supporting and coordinating the work of women in sustainable development, etc.  
E-mail: [wisdom2004@gmail.com](mailto:wisdom2004@gmail.com)

### Association of Ecotoxicologists of Moldova - Ecotox, Moldova

Project partner 3 - The Association of Ecotoxicologists of Moldova ECOTOX (Moldova) - NGO is a non-governmental association, headquartered in Chisinau. The organization has a valuable experience in the application of scientific results in such fields as ecological education, water and health, insurance of human health, environmental protection, and aquaculture. Since its foundation, ECOTOX has successfully finished a series of project.  
E-mail: [ecotox@yahoo.com](mailto:ecotox@yahoo.com)

### Novokakhovska Miska Hromadska Ekolozhichna Organizatsiia "Mama-86-Nova Kakhovka" - Mama-86-NK, Ukraine

Project partner 4 - MAMA-86-Nova Kakhovka (Kherson oblasti, Ukraine) became a member of Ukrainian National Environmental Network (UNENGO) MAMA-86 in 2008, having an individual membership and cooperation with MAMA-86's network since 2002. Since then MAMA-86 Nova Kakhovka is a partner of all MAMA-86's network projects, as well as own projects implemented at local and regional levels (Kherson oblast and the Lower Dnieper region).  
E-mail: [mama86nk@gmail.com](mailto:mama86nk@gmail.com)

### Oancea Townhall, Romania

Project partner 5 - The primary purpose of the Oancea townhall is to meet the needs of the people and achieve their social welfare. As a public institution, its activity is directed towards achievement of community financial, public-household, and social objectives. The main financial resources of Oancea townhall come from taxes and fees established by law, taxes and special fees established by the decision of the Local Council, as well as from sums disbursed by the Galati County Council. Waste reduction and recycling are among the major objectives of the commune Oancea.  
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**Common borders. Common solutions.**

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## Main Project Outputs

- An interactive waste assessment tool is developed and disseminated in the Black Sea region. Trash Alert Mobile Application (TAMA) is an Interactive/Participatory tool meant to establish an interactive communication between citizens and waste management authorities by uploading pictures and identification of location coordinates to assess the magnitude of the trash dumped near rivers and its impact on human and aquatic life.
- 30 local and national authorities, 30 NGOs and 20 business representatives, 80 teachers and 200 pupils have upgraded their knowledge and skills on sustainable waste/wastewater/excreta management practices.
- 8 schools from 8 communities (80 teachers, 800 pupils) are aware of the threat and magnitude of river littering and undertake clean up actions and awareness raise campaigns using TAMA on Prut, Dniepr and Tundzha rivers.
- Sustainable best practices of organic waste, plastic recycling and excreta/wastewater reuse are promoted at local level in the project Municipalities as a best practice to be implemented at national level in Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine.
- The potential of recycling/reuse of plastics/bio-degradable waste is evaluated in the project area.

## Activities

- Develop and test of Trash Alert mobile application (TAMA) and the user manual;
- Develop a Training Pack on the main sources of pollution of rivers and the best available solutions for reducing river littering targeted at teachers, NGOs, local public authorities, and business associations.
- Install small scale demonstration facilities/demonstration equipment for sustainable waste management - decentralized and nature-based solutions for wastewater treatment, composting of biodegradable waste, minimization of plastic waste, waste sanitization and reuse.
- Organize Demonstration Activities: demonstration days, and master classes where equipment for grinding organic waste for production of mulch or compost, blowers for collection of dry leaves are presented; participants are taught to make construction elements of plastic bags and plastic bottles.
- Organize Teacher trainings and awareness raise events to train and consult teachers who train pupils and support the clean-up expeditions along the rivers in their location.
- Network and organize Experience Sharing Workshops focused on mobilizing youth in river cleanup activities and awareness raising campaigns; site visit to demonstration excreta reuse and composting facilities, small scale equipment for plastics minimization; demonstrate the use of Trash Alert mobile application (TAMA); photo exhibitions; etc.
- Evaluate waste recycling/reuse opportunities (plastics/organic waste) in the region;
- Clean Up Days and Outdoor Eco-Parties involving pupils, teachers and local authorities from the involved communities, media representatives, volunteers from other communities to use pyrocook for cooking food outdoor, while producing biochar from organic debris (dry vegetation, bones) for maintaining stable soils, etc.
- Publications - leaflets and the brochures will inform the public on project results.
- Digital activities: project website and Facebook website.
- Public Events - back-to-back with Crop Days, Golden Autumn, Day of the City, local music or food festivals for spreading of the information about the event.

## Impact on the Communities

Raised awareness and applied innovative tools, best practices and partnerships in Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine for the prevention, reduction and recycling of river litter.

- Develop and applied innovative tools, built capacity of local public authorities, business and environmental monitoring authorities, as well as mobilized local volunteers for assessing hotspots and reducing of river litter;
- Promoted sustainable management practices of recycling plastic and biodegradable waste;
- Assessed potential of waste recycling in the basins of Prut, Dniepr and Tundzha rivers

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