



Press release

We are all responsible for our future

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There is no doubt that the problem of water pollution is very serious for our country nowadays. Illegal dumping of organic and plastic waste, discharge of untreated wastewater, pesticides and livestock waste into rivers, pollution as a result of recreational activities are urgent problems for both the state of Ukraine and the Black Sea basin in general.

In 2019 at the initiative of the Nova Kakhovka City Nongovernmental Environmental Organization "Mama-86-Nova Kakhovka" a campaign to study the pollution of the banks of surface waters of the Kherson region was conducted. As a result, the identified waste included: plastic waste - 56%, paper and cardboard - 19.46%, building materials, ceramics, glass - 11.12%, metal - 7.47%, rubber - 2.57%, treated wood - 2.03%, textiles - 1.38% and other waste - 0.04%. All this litter enters the Black Sea via the Dnieper and is one of the biggest threats to its ecosystem, also to human health and economic welfare.

The project "Cleaner rivers - cleaner seas" (CROCuS), where "Mama-86-Nova Kakhovka" is one of the partners, aims to reduce river littering and, consequently, the Black Sea littering.

The CROCuS project is a synergistic action of 4 NGOs, Project Partners WiSDOM та Ecotox (Moldova), "Mama-86-Nova Kakhovka", (Ukraine), Oancea City Hall (Rumania) under the leadership of the Leading Partner - the Earth Forever Foundation (Bulgaria), 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. The project is funded by the European Union, fits into the EU-wide "quantitative reduction headline target for marine litter and promote a healthy and safe environment in the Black Sea region and, consequently improving the sanitary condition of the recreational zone of the Kakhovka Reservoir and the Dnieper.

As part of the Project on the territory of Nova Kakhovka City Council a wide awareness raise campaign on river litter reduction and its prevention will be conducted. The community will be involved in clean-up activities on the Dnieper. It is planned to purchase equipment for pressing plastic, crushing branches, a vacuum cleaner for collecting leaves, construction of compost devices for organic waste.

A trash alert mobile application will be promoted. It provides opportunity to speed up the quick assessment of the waste hotspots close to the river banks or floating litter, illegal dumping and report it to the authorities. There will be an exchange of best practices with partners from Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova.

As the crocus flower, which is spread everywhere and is the symbol of cleanliness and purity, so thus the CROCuS project will contribute to reduction of river littering and therefore to marine litter.

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