



Symposium "Addressing Climate Risks and Challenges in Eastern Europe"

University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
23rd – 24th September 2026



BACKGROUND

Eastern Europe is at a crossroads of the global climate crisis. The area is confronted with a unique and growing type of environmental threats: rising rates of floods and droughts, declining biodiversity, heatwaves threatening urban health and agriculture, and energy security issues linked to shifting away from carbon-intensive systems. These physical risks are further exacerbated by socio-economic vulnerabilities, legacy infrastructure, and diverse degrees of institutional readiness in countries. This region needs focused, collaborative strategies that respond to its unique geopolitical, economic, and ecological context, although contributing to international climate dialogues.

AIMS

The aims of the Symposium are to foster a collaborative and action-oriented dialogue among key stakeholders to develop a shared vision and practical pathways for handling climate change in Eastern Europe; Identify and prioritize the climate-related risks faced by Eastern Europe which will be greatest for agriculture, water, public health, and infrastructure; Identify and support new and innovative adaptation and mitigation responses; Highlight scalable best practices, technology breakthroughs, and nature-based solutions from the region as well as beyond the region, particularly in respect of financing mechanisms, resilient urban planning, sustainable agriculture, and clean energy transitions; Enhance collaboration with regional partners and capabilities; Develop sustainable, persistent networks of actors committed to continued cooperation, supporting the preparation of a framework for a joint action plan and institutional infrastructure for climate governance, data sharing, and policy execution.

LOCATION

The Symposium will be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the campus of the University of Banja Luka and at the Academy of Sciences and Arts.

The exact address of the Symposium is:

***(First day) - Academy of Sciences and Arts – Bana dr Todora Lazarevića 1, Banja Luka 78000
and***

***(Second day) - University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics –
Mladena Stojanovića 2, Banja Luka 78000***



SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY	23rd SEPTEMBER 2026 (WEDNESDAY)
09:00 – 09:45	Arrival and Registration
09:45 – 10:15	Opening Session – 1st day
10:15 – 11:10	Plenary Session I
11:10 – 11:40	Coffee Break
11:40 – 12:55	Plenary Session II
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Session I
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:45	Session II
Evening	Free
THURSDAY	24th SEPTEMBER 2026 (THURSDAY)
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Session – 2nd day
09:15 – 10:30	Plenary Session III
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break and Visits to the Posters
11:00 – 12:30	Session III
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Session IV
15:30 – 15:45	Closing Session
15:45 – 16:15	Farewell Coffee Break

FIRST DAY (23.09.2026 - WEDNESDAY)

Room	Activity	Moderator	Time	Presentation
Great Hall	Arrival and Registration	09:00 – 09:45		Arrival & Registrations
	Opening Session	09:45 – 10:15		Opening Session
	Plenary Session I	Walter Leal Filho, Goran Trbić, Dragoljub Mirjanić	10:15 – 10:35	Assessing the Cardiovascular and Public Health Burden of Heatwaves in Mediterranean Urban Centers: Implications for Climate Risk Management in Eastern Europe <i>Ioannis Adamopoulos, Aida Vafae Eslahi, Niki Syrou, Panagiotis Tsirkas and Aikaterini Frantzana</i> (Hellenic Open University, University of West Attica, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, University of Thessaly, General District Hospital G. Hatzikosta, European University Cyprus – Greece)
			10:35 – 10:55	Micro- And Local-Scale Bioclimatic Dynamics in Southeast Europe Cities During the 21st Century <i>Stevan Savić, Dejana Đurđević, Goran Trbić, Dragan Milošević and Jelena Dekić</i> (University of Novi Sad, University of Banja Luka, Wageningen University – Serbia)
			10:55 – 11:10	Discussion
11:10-11:40 – Coffee Break				
Room	Activity	Moderator	Time	Presentation
Great Hall	Plenary Session II	Novo Pržulj, Stevan Savić and Gorica Stanojević	11:40 - 12:00	Natural Disasters in Bulgaria and the Role of Volunteers in Crisis Management <i>Plamena Stoyanova</i> (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Bulgaria)
			12:00 – 12:20	Assessment of Wind Energy Potential in Nikšić and Danilovgrad Using Multiscale Dynamical Downscaling from Ifs (9 Km) to Wrf-Nmm (400 M) with Bias Correction <i>Angel Marčev, Dragan Burić, Jovan Dragojlović, Magdalena Marčeva and Goran Trbić</i> (University of Montenegro, Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro, University of Pristina, University of Belgrade, University of Banja Luka - Montenegro)
			12:20 – 12:40	Urban Heat and School Environments: Monitoring Heat Stress and Improving Climate Literacy Among Children <i>Milica Pecelj, Slavica Malinovic-Milicevic and Uros Durlevic</i> (Serbian Academy of Science and Arts – Serbia)
			12:40 – 12:55	Discussion
			13:00-14:00 – Lunch	
Room	Activity	Moderator	Time	Presentation
Great Hall	Session I	Milica Pecelj, Zoran Govedar	14:00 - 14:15	Expanding Vector-Borne Disease Risks for Outdoor Workers in Eastern Europe Under Climate Change: A Scoping Review <i>Aida Vafae Eslahi and Ioannis Adamopoulos</i> (Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Hellenic Open University – Greece)

			14:15 - 14:30	From Nursery to Field – Morphological and Physiological Attributes for Drought-Resilient Forest Seedlings <i>Martina Đodan, Sanja Perić, Karmen Vugdelija, Lucija Žgela and Dora Baksa</i> (Croatian Forest Research Institute – Croatia)
			14:30 - 14:45	Legislative Framework for Forest Restoration in Croatia <i>Martina Đodan, Andrija Barišić, Sanja Perić, Karmen Vugdelija and Lucija Žgela</i> (Croatian Forest Research Institute – Croatia)
			14:45 - 15:00	Prospects Of Forest Composition Management in North-Eastern Poland in the Light of Global Warming <i>Aleh Marozau</i> (Bialystok University of Technology – Poland)
			15:00 - 15:15	Public Health and Climate Risk Impacts in Eastern Europe: A Meta-Analysis <i>Ioannis Adamopoulos, Aida Vafae Eslahi and Niki Syrou</i> (Hellenic Open University, University of West Attica, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, University of Thessaly - Greece)
			15:15 - 15:30	Climate Change as a Driver of Landscape Change in Slovenia <i>Tim Gregorčič and Matej Ogrin</i> (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)
15:30-16:00 – Coffee Break				
Great Hall	Session II	Marijana Kapović Solomun, Dejan Filipović	16:00 - 16:15	Analysis of Storm-Induced Damage Patterns in the Building Envelope of Residential and Other Buildings in Slovenia <i>Tomaž Pazlar</i> (Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute – Slovenia)
			16:15 - 16:30	Potential for Copper Nanoparticles Production in Pcb's Recycling Process <i>Milica Kosić, Željko Todorović, Tijana Kremenović and Andrzej Baziak</i> (University of Banja Luka, Institute for Protection and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska, University of Novi Sad, AGH University of Krakow - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
			16:30 - 16:45	Turning Bosnia and Herzegovina's Mining Legacy Into Nanotechnology-Based Low-Carbon Materials <i>Suzana Gotovac Atlagić, Olivera Kerezović, Ljiljana Tankosić, Andrzej Baziak and Andrzej Biessikirski</i> (University of Banja Luka, AGH University of Krakow - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
			16:45 - 17:00	Attitude, Subjective Norms, or Perceived Control? Drivers of Household Solar Adoption Intention in Two Post-Communist Coal Regions <i>Mohammad M. Jaber, Tekla Szép and László Molnár</i> (John Von Neumann University, University of Miskolc - Hungary)
			17:00 - 17:15	Climate Drivers of Regional Avalanche Activity in The Southern Carpathians: Evidence from the FăGăRaș Mountains <i>Cristian Anghelina, Mircea Voiculescu, Florina Ardelean and Patrick Chiroiu</i> (West University of Timisoara - Romania)

			17:15 – 17:30	Wetlands as Natural Climate Regulators in Agricultural Landscapes - Evidence from the Tišina Wetland Complex (Bosnia And Herzegovina) <i>Maja Čolović Daul, Nic Pacini, Azra Muhović Popleta, Michal Šereš and Marek Baxa</i> University of Calabria, University of Leicester, Czech University of Life Sciences, and Charles University
			17:30 – 17:45	Climate Risks and Challenges: Urban Heat Islands and Public Health as Inspiration For Community Climate Action <i>Marija Jevtic</i> University of Novi Sad, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, Academy of Medical Sciences Serbian Medical Society, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

SECOND DAY (24.09.2026 - THURSDAY)

Room	Activity	Moderator	Time	Presentation
Amphitheatre	Opening Session	09:00 - 09:15		Opening Session
	Plenary Session III	Dragan Burić, Matej Ogrin, Igor Zekanović	09:15 – 09:35	Urban Heat Islands and Occupational Health Risks in Eastern European Cities: A Scoping Review <i>Aida Vafae Eslahi and Ioannis Adamopoulos</i> (Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Hellenic Open University – Greece)
			09:35 – 09:55	Air Quality in the Urban Heat Trap: Challenges and Perspectives in Western Balkans Cities <i>Gorica Stanojević, Dejan Doljak, Dragana Miljanović and Slavica Malinović-Milićević</i> (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts – Serbia)
			09:55 – 10:15	Advantages and Disadvantages of Using Recycled Water in the Wine Grapes <i>Emre Akanak Ran Erel and Alon Sela</i> (Agriculture Research Organization Volcani Institute - Israel)
			10:15 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30-11:00 – Coffee Break and Visits to the Posters				
Room	Activity	Moderator	Time	Presentation
Amphitheatre	Session III	Tatjana Popov, Slobodan Gnjato	11:00 - 11:15	Carbon Storage in the Bieszczadzki National Park, Poland <i>Sviataslau Valasiuk, Maxim Yermokhin and Stanisław Kucharzyk</i> (University of Warsaw, OTOP - BirdLife Poland, University of Bern, Bieszczadzki National Park – Poland)
			11:15 - 11:30	Degraded Peatlands Restoration in Belarus – Experience and Perspectives <i>Sviataslau Valasiuk, Alexander Kozulin and Olga Beliatskaya</i> (University of Warsaw, National Academic Centre for Bioresources of Belarus – Poland)
			11:30 - 11:45	Statistical Analysis of the Impact of Geomagnetic Storms on the Troposphere Over the Balkan Region <i>Magdalena Marčeva, Vesna Cvetkov, Miroslav Doderović, Ivana Penjišević and Tatjana Popov</i> (University of Belgrade, University of Montenegro, University of Priština, University of Banja Luka - Montenegro)
			11:45 - 12:00	Multiorgan Preventive Screening in Young Adults (18–45 Years) Under War- and Climate-Driven Environmental Stress: The Lumina Model — Kharkiv, Ukraine (N = 3,564) <i>Yaroslav Bondarenko, Lidiia Cherkashyna, Olena Pionova, Olga Gerasymenko, Maryna Mokriakova, Oksana Kauk, Alla Bilovol, Nataliia Pustova, Tetiana Mozghova and Miriya Cherkashyna</i> (Kharkiv National Medical University, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) – Ukraine)
			12:00 - 12:15	Land Degradation Neutrality Indicators as a Tool For Climate Resilience and Sustainable Land Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina

				<i>Marijana Kapović Solomun, Ilija Čigoja, Olga Andreeva, German Kust and Carla Sofia Ferreira</i> (University of Banja Luka, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Russian Academy of Sciences (IGRAS), Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
12:30 - 13:30 – Lunch				
Room	Activity	Moderator	Time	
Amphitheatre	Session IV	Suzana Gotovac Atlagić, Angel Marčev		Climate-Driven Wildfire Vulnerability and Land Degradation in The Karst Landscapes. Case Study Herzegovina Region
			13:30 - 13:45	<i>Marijana Kapović Solomun, Ilija Čigoja, Olga Andreeva, German Kust and Saša Ljubojević</i> (University of Banja Luka, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Russian Academy of Sciences (IGRAS), JPŠ “Šume Republike Srpske” a.d. Sokolac - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
			13:45 - 14:00	Degraded Peatlands Restoration for Climate and Biodiversity in Belarus – Experience and Perspectives <i>Sviataslau Valasiuk, Aliaksandr Kazulin and Volha Bialiackaya</i> (University of Warsaw, National Academic Centre for Bioresources of Belarus – Poland)
			14:00 - 14:15	Hyperspectral Early Detection of Water Stress in Seedlings: Capabilities and Limitations <i>Karmen Vugdelija, Dora Baksa, Andrija Barišić, Lucija Žgela and Martina Đodan</i> (Croatian Forest Research Institute – Croatia)
			14:15 - 14:30	One Health Governance Frameworks for Occupational Heat Stress Adaptation in Eastern Europe's Transitioning Economies: A Scoping Review <i>Aida Vafae Eslahi and Ioannis Adamopoulos</i> (Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Hellenic Open University – Greece)
			14:30 - 14:45	Urban Climate Risks and Cycling Uptake: Comparing Micromobility Acceptance in Belgrade and Novi Sad <i>Sanja Vojvodić and Bojan Vranić</i> (University of Belgrade – Serbia)
			14:45 - 15:00	Land Degradation Neutrality Indicators as a Tool for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Land Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina <i>Marijana Kapović Solomun, Ilija Čigoja, Olga Andreeva, German Kust, Carla Sofia Ferreira</i> (University of Banja Luka, UNCCD, IGRAS, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)
			15:00 - 15:15	Coupling Land & Water in The Mediterranean: Are We Losing the Small Water Cycle? <i>Nic Pacini</i> University of Calabria and University of Leicester
			15:15 - 15:30	Discussion

Amphitheatre	Closing Session	15:30 - 15:45	Closing Session
15:45-16:15 – Farewell Coffee Break			

List of Posters
Integrating Climatic Indices with Biochemical and Agronomic Quality Traits of Seedless Grapes in Eastern Herzegovina <i>Dino Hasanagić, Goran Trbić, Tatjana Popov, Rada Grbić and Tatjana Jovanović-Cvetković</i> (University of Banja Luka - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Role of Crop Residues in Maintaining Soil Quality Under Changing Climate Conditions <i>Novo Pržulj, Zoran Govedar, Goran Trbić, Vojislav Trkulja and Tatjana Popov</i> (Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republika Srpska, University of Banja Luka, PI Agricultural Institute of Republic of Srpska - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Transformative Adaptation and Energy Transition in the Republic of Serbia in the Context of Climate Change <i>Dejan Filipović</i> (University of Banja Luka - Republic of Serbia)
Machine Learning Approaches for Extreme Streamflow Forecasting in the Bosna River Basin <i>Igor Leščešen, Marko Đukanović, Slobodan Gnjato and Marko Ivanišević</i> (Institute of Hydrology SAS, University of Nova Gorica, Institute of Information Sciences (IZUM), University of Banja Luka - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Analysis of Hail Trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Context of Contemporary Climate Change <i>Tihomir Dejanovic, Goran Trbic, Dragan Burić and Tatjana Popov</i> (University of Banja Luka, Anti-hail prevention of Republika Srpska a.d. Gradiška, University of Montenegro - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Aridity in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1961–2024) <i>Tatjana Popov, Slobodan Gnjato and Goran Trbić</i> (University of Banja Luka - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Renewable Energy Sources in the Republic of Srpska (Entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina) as a Geopolitical Category: Implications for Regional Energy Security <i>Igor Zekanović and Vanja Mirjana Vujić</i> (University of Banja Luka – Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Where You Live Matters: Settlement-Based Differences in Perceived Environmental Impacts of Surface Coal Mining in Bosnia and Herzegovina <i>Dragica Delić, Dragica Gatarić, Mira Mandić and Luka Sabljic</i> (University of Banja Luka, University of Belgrade - Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Adaptive Forest Management in Conditions of Risk Caused by Pest Growth and Fires <i>Zoran Govedar, Novo Pržulj, Vojislav Trkulja, Tatjana Popov and Goran Trbić</i> (Academy of Science and Arts of the Republic of Srpska, University of Banja Luka - Republic of Srpska/Bosnia and Herzegovina)