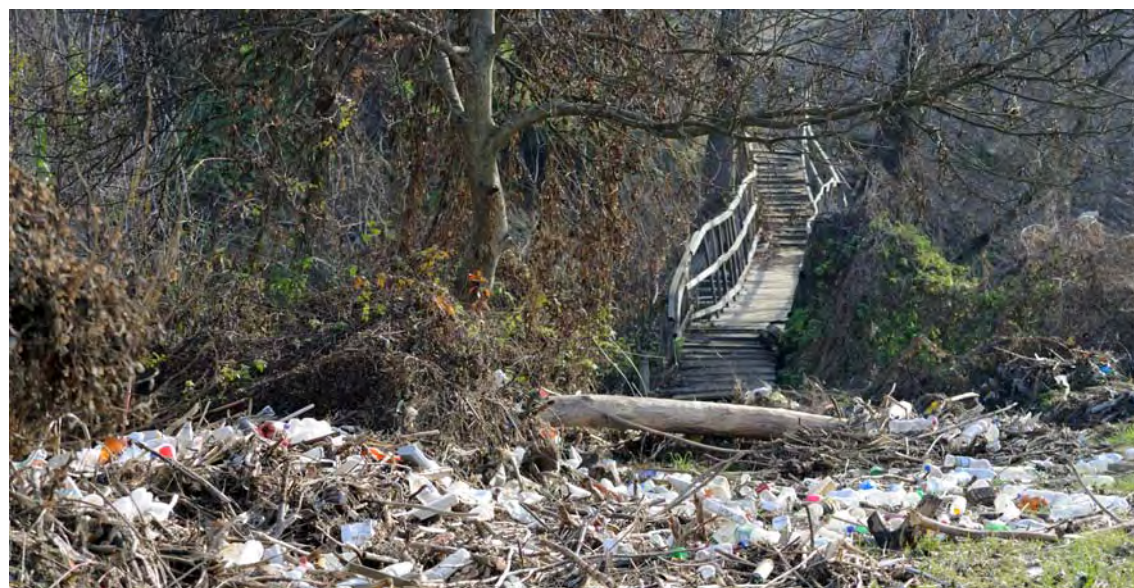


Garbage, the City and the River

When the small river Raška in South-West Serbia (Sandžak) has passed Novi Pazar flowing northwards to the city of Raška, it already carries about a cocktail of various substances from textile and other industries and a mixed collection of objects as listed in the January 2009 reportage by Prvoslav Karanović following here below.



Yet, what happened in the first days of November 2009 sounded the death knell for this creek in the midst of green hills. Heavy rains made it swelling up to 2.5 meters above its normal water level, and, since the close-by hillsides are quite often used as garbage dump, the torrential flow seized all the rubbish from the lower parts of the slopes while again and again the upper parts sliced behind into the water like in a slow but interminable landslide.

For several kilometers north of Novi Pazar trees and hedgerows alongside Raška river are over and over covered with whatever came to rest at the trunks, on the arms and in the rampantly growing coppice. Wherever the water flooded the adjacent fields thousands and thousands of plastic bottles and bags cover the earth and the remaining Maize crops and cabbages.

Cleaning the landscape from the outcomes of the disaster (which cannot be more than getting it back to its status quo ante) needs an investment of estimated 65 Mio Dinar

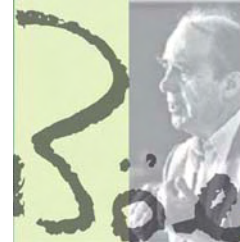
Smeće, grad i reka

Kada mala reka Raška u jugozapadnoj Srbiji (Sandžak) prođe Novi Pazar, ka severu i gradu Raška, ona već nosi mešavinu različitih supstanci, koje potiču od tekstilne i drugih industrija i izmešanu kolekciju predmeta, kao što je nabrojano u reportaži Prvoslava Karanovića iz januara 2009., koju možete pročitati na stranicama koje slede.

Međutim, ono što se desilo u prvim danima novembra 2009., oglasilo je posmrtna zvona za ovaj potok smešten usred zelenih brežuljaka. Obilne kiše izazvale su narastanje do 2,5 metra iznad normalnog nivoa vode i, pošto se obližnje padine često koriste kao otpad, padavine su zahvatile svo smeće sa nižih delova kosine, dok su gornji delovi kontinuirano propadali u vodu, nalik na spor ali nezaustavljiv odron.

Kilometrima severno od Novog Pazara, drveće i živa ograda duž reke Raške prekriveni su svim što je padalo na stabla, u rukavce i bujno rastuće čestare. Svuda gde je voda poplavila okolna polja, hiljade plastičnih boca i kesa su prekrile zemlju i preostale useve kukuruza i kupusa.

Čišćenje zemljišta od ishoda katastrofe (koje ne može postići više od njegovog vraćanja u prethodno stanje) zahteva investiciju koja se procenjuje na 65 miliona dinara



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(= 685.000 € appr.). No chance to fork out such money from any city or state budget in this completely exhausted country.

Cleaning needs to be done very fast in order to avoid further dispersing of garbage to the Ibar and the environment north of the Raška valley.

This „Communication Nr.1“ of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Belgrade office cannot do more than just providing a documentation of the situation on the ground - to whomever it may concern.

The office of the Foundation in cooperation with local partners in Novi Pazar is always ready and willing to receive useful proposals on how to tackle this environmental disaster, as well as to coordinate and organise appropriate activities.

(Wolfgang Klotz, Heinrich Böll Foundation)

(= oko 685.000 €). Ne postoje izgledi da se takva suma novca dobije iz bilo kog gradskog ili državnog budžeta u ovoj, potpuno iscrpljenoj zemlji.

Neophodno je da se čišćenje obavi veoma brzo, da bi se izbeglo dalje širenje smeća u Ibar i na područje severno od Raške doline.

Ovo „Saopštenje br.1“ beogradske kancelarije Fondacije Hajnrh Bel ne može postići više nego da pruži dokumentovanje situacije na terenu - za sve one kojih se ova tema tiče.

Kancelarija Fondacije u saradnji sa lokalnim partnerima u Novom Pazaru uvek je spremna i zainteresovana da primi korisne predloge o načinu delovanja protiv ove ekološke katastrofe, kao i da koordiniše i organizuje odgovarajuće aktivnosti.

(Wolfgang Klotz, Fondacija Hajnrh Bel)



Wilde Müllkippe in Hanglage am Ufer der Raška (alle Photographien © Wolfgang Klotz)



Cornfield

Zadužbina i katastrofa

Prvoslav Karanović

(Vreme, br. 943, 29. januar 2009.)

A Jewel and a Catastrophe

by Prvoslav Karanović

("Vreme" no. 943, January 29, 2009.)



Krv, lobanje, kosti, životinjske kože, creva, crkotine, olupine automobila, tone krpa i najlonskih kesa na drveću, špricevi, kiša i magla na plavoj, crvenoj, beloj i sivoj reci po čijoj površini plove fekalije – idealna scenografija za snimanje horor filma. Ova, dvadesetak kilometara duga deponija inače je reka Raška.

Zadivljen lepotom kraja, kralj Uroš Prvi odlučio je da tu, na izvoru Raške podigne zadužbinu, manastir Sopoćane. Ime se povezuje s rečju sopote, izvor. Raška je tu bistra, brza i hladna. Nešto dalje podignuto je stotinak bazena jednog od najvećih ribnjaka u Evropi, na površini od oko 2000 kvadratnih metara, kapaciteta mrestilišta od preko pet miliona mladica, odnosno preko 700 tona ribe godišnje.

Nadomak Novog Pazara voda je sve mutnija, srazmerno sve većem broju otpada i „deponija“ pored reke. Ispred Novog Pazara Raška ulazi u „regulisani tok“ ozidan kamenjem. Reklo bi se da više služi bržem protoku smeća nego sprečavanju poplava.

Blood, skulls, bones, animal skin, intestines, cadavers, rusted and decayed car frames, old rags and plastic bags hanging from trees, syringes, rain, fog and feces floating on a blue-red-grey river; you'd be right to think that this is an ideal background for a horror film. However, this 20 kilometer long landfill is actually the Raska River.

Astounded by the beauty of this region, King Uros I decided to build an endowment, the Sopocani monastery dedicated to the Holy Trinity, right there at the source of the Raska River. The word Sopocani derives from the word "sopot" meaning "spring, source". There, the river is clear, fast and cold. Not far from it, spread over 2000 m², there is one of the largest fish farms in the Europe, with close to a hundred farming pools, having an annual capacity of over 700 tons of fish.

As it approaches the town of Novi Pazar, the river gets more turbid and riverbank dumps and landfills bigger and more frequent. Just before entering the city of Novi Pazar, the river flow is regulated by a stone bank which, as it seems, serves more in assisting the flow of refuse than in prevention of floods.

SIROTINJA DVAPUT PLAĆA:

Naselje Selakovac ima oko 20.000 stanovnika. Iz ogromnih cevi koje vire iz zidova regulisanog vodotoka širi se smrad izliva kanalizacije cele varoši. Nema kolektora ni prečistača. „To je tako urađeno 2006. da bi se bivša vlast dodvorila biračima“, kaže Mithat Nokić, predsednik Zelenih iz Novog Pazara. „Kanalizacione cevi sprovedene su direktno u reku. Jeftinije je bilo da su odmah uradili sve kako valja, ali sirotinja uvek plaća dva puta.“ I bez drugih zagađivača, samo direktno izlivanje kanalizacije je više nego dovoljno.

THE POOR PAY MORE:

Selakovac, the suburban settlement of Novi Pazar, has about 20.000 inhabitants. Large pipes jutting out from the stone bank spread sewage stench across town. There are no collectors or purifiers. “That was done in 2006 as an election stunt to attract voters” says Mithat Nokić, the president of the Green Party of Novi Pazar. “Sewer pipes dump the waste directly into the river. It would have been cheaper if they had been laid properly in the first place, but... the poor always pay more”. Having the sewer draining directly into the river is more than enough to spell a disaster, but there are other polluters as well.



Na izlazu iz Novog Pazara stanje reke je takođe alarmantno: Deževska ulica, dugačka skoro kilometar, takođe izliva kanalizaciju direktno u reku.

Na obali reke mogu se naći kompletni skeleti i kože ovaca, krava, pasa i ko zna čega još. Usirena i sasušena krv, takođe: nesnosni tragovi brojnih mesara u Novom Pazaru i okolini, ali i „individualnih koljača“. „Mesari izručuju burad sa krvlju, bacaju kosti, kožu, creva i ostale viškove u reku, a sve prolazi nekažnjeno“, kaže Nokić.

Situation is also alarming in the area exiting Novi Pazar. Sewer in a kilometer-long Dzevska street also drains directly into the river.

Let me paint you another picture – the river bank with complete skeletons and skin of sheep, cows, dogs, and dried up blood, scattered around... Interesting thing is that numerous butcher shops in Novi Pazar, and the surrounding area, leave there traces behind them. “Butchers dump barrels full of blood, bones, skin and intestines into the river... no fines or citations”, Nokić says.



Za Rašku i njen sliv mnogo veći problem od dodatnog zagađivanja kućnom hemijom i deterđentima predstavlja stotinak „kamenjara“ koje služe za preradu teksas platna. Za „kamenovanje“ teksasa koriste se natrijumhipohlorid i njegovi izomeri. Upotrebljeni za izbeljivanje teksasa u skladu s modnim trendovima, ovi otrovi se izlivaju direktno u reku bez ikakvog filtriranja ili prečišćavanja. Izlivaju se u tonama, zavisno od kapaciteta kamenjare. Gotovo dve decenije kamenjare od Raške prave „Teksas river“.

Nijansa bele boje potiče od fabrike „Ukras“ koja ispira kamenu prašinu, a nova violina

An even much more serious problem for the Raska River basin is the pollution caused by jeans manufacturing and processing plants which “stone-wash” and dye denim fabrics and dump waste chemicals and detergents into the river. The “stone-washing” process requires the use of potassium chlorite and its isomeric mixtures, and these poisons are drained directly into the river without any prior filtering or purifying. Over the past two decades tons of these poisons had been spilled into the river.

There is a particular shade of white color visible in the river flow. This comes from the



ekološkog horora je firma „Megalit Šumnik“, koja se nalazi petnaestak kilometara od Novog Pazara prema Raški. Oni se bave istim „sportom“, samo je njihova kamena prašina sive boje. Ribolovci tvrde da zbog ove firme ribe odumiru i u Ibru, u koji se Raška uliva. „Prašina im se lepi za škrge i masovno nestaju. Ribe iz Ibra više ne dolaze ovde da se mreste“, kaže jedan od ribolovaca.

„Ukras“ plant, which dumps pumice dust into the river. And they are not alone. „Megalit Sumnik“ company does the same thing, but their dust is more gray than white. Fishermen claim that they are responsible for the massive fish kills in the Ibar and Raska rivers. „This dust sticks to their gills and they die. Fish from the Ibar River don't use the Raska River as spawning habitat any more“, one fisherman says.



Zato Raškom plivaju gume, frižideri, daske za peglanje, olupine automobila i tone zastarelih veš-mašina, plastične flaše i kese. U malom vodopadu ispod hotela „Tadž“ u centru Novog Pazara stalno se kovitla stotinak plastičnih flaša. Na potezu Novi Pazar – Raška ima stotinu malih i velikih deponija na obalama reke. Posle jakih kiša ili topljenja snega Raška s obale kupi i nosi otpad od lakih materijala, plastike ili najlona. Ostatak visi s grana drveća i u šipražju kraj reke. Ljudske ruke u Selakovcu i Novom Pazaru uglavnom istresaju kante s đubretom direktno u vodu, a ekološki svesniji građani to rade – pod okriljem mraka. „Nedostaju kontejneri, a kamioni retko dolaze“, žali se stanovnik kom se bacanje đubreta u reku ne sviđa. Stanje nije bolje ni u selima između Novog Pazara i Raške, u kojima živi desetak hiljada ljudi. Pored svakog od njih bar po jedna divlja deponija. Po njihovom broju i stanju reklo bi se da đubretari tu nikad ne zalaze. O kaznama nema govora.

So, these are all the reasons why old car tires, refrigerators, ironing boards, rusted car frames and most of all old, rusted washing machines and plastic bottles are visible in the Raska River flow. A hundred plastic bottles are constantly gamboling in a small water-fall in front of the "Tadz" hotel downtown Novi Pazar. Between Novi Pazar and Raska there are hundreds of small landfills along the Raska River bank. After heavy rains and snowmelt the river just sweeps all the light waste, and the rest remains stuck in the bushes along the river. Most inhabitants of Novi Pazar dump their house garbage into the river, and those who are more "ecologically aware" do that at night. "We don't have garbage containers, and garbage trucks seldom come" a man complains, showing his strong opposition against dumping garbage into the river. The situation is no better in the villages situated between Novi Pazar and Raska, where each of these villages has its own landfill. Altogether there are around ten thousand inhabitants in these villages, and by the amount of garbage in

Nekoliko ribolovaca iz Raške je u akciji na samo jednoj livadi skupilo 220 džakova plastičnih flaša.

these landfills, one can conclude that garbage trucks never go there.

Several fishermen from Raška took upon themselves to clean one small meadow, and managed to fill 220 big garbage sacks with plastic bottles.

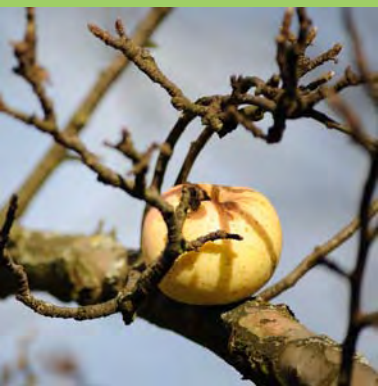


Nevladina organizacija „Zeleni putokazi“ iz Raške sprovela je anketu među građanima koji su na prva tri mesta liste akutnih problema stavili ekološke. Na prvom su divlje deponije, zatim zagađenje reka. Mladi iz Novog Pazara su takođe osetljivi na ovaj problem, ako je suditi po onima s kojima smo razgovarali. „Ne predajemo se i verujemo da je sve više ekološki svesnih ljudi. Obratićemo se na sve adrese za koje mislimo da nam mogu biti od pomoći. Svi žmure, a mi ćemo i dalje nastaviti drugima da otvaramo oči“, kažu Zeleni iz Novog Pazara.

Non-governmental organization “Novi Putokazi” from Raška conducted a poll among the local citizens, asking them to state three most acute problems. One of them was ecology. Other two were unauthorized landfills and river pollution. Judging by the answers we got from some young people, the youth of Novi Pazar is becoming more and more sensitive to these problems. “We will not give up, and we believe that people are becoming more and more ecologically aware. We will not hesitate to ask for help from anyone who can help. Whoever turns away from the problem, we’ll make them turn around” says the Green party of Novi Pazar.







Heinrich Böll Foundation
Regional Office South-East Europe

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