



# **Financing in the Field of Environmental Protection and Climate Change**

# Overview

Investments in the environment in Serbia remain insufficient for the effective implementation of the acquis related to Chapter 27. Budget allocations for this area are not only limited, but are also not clear enough. For example, the Green Fund budget line was abolished in the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2021 (NARS, 2021) without prior explanation. Up to its abolition, the Fund had remained inoperative, because bylaws needed to operationalize the use of the funds were not adopted.

Through inquiries about the status of the Green Fund, which were sent to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Finance, Coalition 27 learned that the funds previously presented as the Green Fund budget line are intended for a new programme – the Green Agenda – from 2021.

The competent institutions did not share information with citizens about why these changes were made, nor how the Green Agenda programme will work. However, it seems that the point is to create the illusion of investing in the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, while in practice it is evident that the allocation of funds from this budget line is questionable and insufficiently transparent.

# References

- NARS, 2021. The Government of the Republic of Serbia: Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2021. Available at: <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-budzetu-republike-srbije-za-2021-godinu.html>