Dear Friends of the Balkan Rivers,

Lots of things have happened since our last newsletter, the campaign is picking up and reputable media such as The Guardian, BBC or Aljazeera have delivered our stories to the public. Here are the highlights:

* **Study confirms: The Heart of the Huchen beats on the Balkans**
  On March 19, we presented a study about the distribution and threats of Huchen on the Balkans in Ljubljana (photos). 18 experts from 7 countries were involved. 93 hydropower plants are projected directly in stretches with healthy Huchen populations. Experts predict a population decline of up to 70%, if these dams become reality. [More]
  **Media coverage:** BBC, Aljazeera Balkan, RTV4, DELO, DW, Der Standard

* **Vjosa at a Crossroad – Dam Tsunami or National Park?**
  In mid-Mach, we presented a paper in Tirana which for the first time revealed the full extent of the threat to the Vjosa catchment. According to this paper, the last big wild river of Europe is at risk of complete destruction. [More]
  **Media coverage:** Aljazeera Balkan, Top Channel, TravelMagazine, Der Standard, VOA

* **Vjosa Tour continued: Friends of Vjosa**
  We continued our Vjosa Tour of public discussions in southern Albania. Over 200 residents attended our meetings in Tepelena and Selenica, enthusiastically supporting our vision of a Vjosa National Park (see the [video](#)). A “Friends of Vjosa” initiative was established. The Tour will end with a Vjosa Day in Tirana on May 30th. [More]
* **Vjosa: Tirana Times Interview**
In February, the Tirana Times published an interview with Ulrich Eichelmann about the Vjosa River, its threats, the alternative idea of a Vjosa National Park and the Blue Heart of Europe campaign. [More](#)

* **Mavrovo: Is EBRD pulling out?**
In February, the newspaper *The Guardian* published a detailed report about the situation of the Balkan Rivers. In it, the newspaper reports that the EBRD is likely to pull out of hydro project in the Mavrovo National Park in Macedonia, one of our key areas in the campaign. [More](#)

* **Save The Date: Balkan Rivers Conference**
We are happy to inform you about the Balkan Rivers Conference in September 2015 – the first event of this kind in Europe! Please mark the dates in your calendar and spread the word! It will be a first get-together of river NGOs, initiatives, anti-dam movements, fishermen and other river lovers from all over the Balkans and elsewhere. [More](#)

All the best,

Your Blue Heart Team