

Annual Report 2025





Layout: Reya Ban



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	3
	TEAM.....	4
1	INTRODUCTION.....	5
2	FOSSIL GAS CAMPAIGN.....	6
3	MINING AND DISTRICT HEATING CAMPAIGN.....	8
4	ENERGY TRANSITION CAMPAIGN.....	10
5	JUST TRANSITION CAMPAIGN.....	12
6	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CIVIC LIBERTIES.....	15
	The Problem of Hydroelectric Power Plants in Protected Areas.....	15
	Environmental Rights.....	17
	Civic Liberties.....	18
7	TOGETHER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE FIGHT FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.....	19
	ANNUAL BUDGET.....	21



TEAM

IOANA CIUȚĂ

President of Bankwatch România & Strategic Area Leader "Fossil Fuels" in CEE Bankwatch Network

VLAD POPESCU

Director of Bankwatch România & Project Manager

ELIZA BARNEA

Just Transition Campaigner

LAURA NAZARE

Energy Transition Campaigner

RALUCA PETCU

Fossil Gas Campaigner

**TEOFIL LATA &
ROBERT PASKUJ**

Mining & District Heating Campaigners

DIANA DRAGOMIR

Communications Coordinator

ANDREEA (REYA) BAN

Communications Officer

GABRIELA STĂTESCU

Administrative/Financial Coordinator



INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 was marked by multiple crises, as well as by the intensification of the discourse against the European Green Deal. Attacks on environmental NGOs have also become more acute. In a turbulent political context, long-term harmful energy investments were deeply politicized and heavily used during the prolonged electoral campaign. Romania's waters - one of the most important and fragile natural and strategic national resources - continued to be attacked by hydropower projects with no future, both in terms of energy and financial efficiency. Many of the legal efforts of Bankwatch Romania and other environmental NGOs were attacked by public figures at the top of the Romanian political system. All these aspects clearly show an aggressive deterioration of democracy in Romania.

These crises have proven to be a fertile environment for the spread of disinformation and for the populist anti-energy transition discourses. In the name of “energy sovereignty”, Romania has come to further deepen its dependence on fossil fuels, ignoring the high price that the most vulnerable people will bear in the future. In 2025, we continued to inform the public about the hidden dangers of investing in gas through the “Gazul Arde” (Gas Burns) campaign, which reached over 300.000 people. We worked with content creators and experts to combat disinformation and talk about the devastating effects of fossil fuels on public health, economy, and the environment.

During one of the most turbulent socio-economic periods in Romania's recent history, Bankwatch Romania wanted to focus its efforts and expertise on working with communities that are facing the full consequences of the authorities' failure to implement environmental policies. Thus, we helped communities across the country, such as Craiova, Peștișani and Petroșani. Working with them showed us once again that although the issues related to the right to the environment and the energy transition are structural problems, when they are not fully or timely addressed by the authorities, the impact is a personal one, felt by each citizen - from fluctuations in electricity bills, to pollution or drought.

One of the most beautiful activities carried out in 2025 was the organization of the #TrecemPeVerde (Going Green) mini-festival, together with the BeTeen Association and six other local and national NGOs. For one day, the event brought together young people, communities and new ideas to build a fairer and cleaner future for the communities of Gorj at Aventura Parc Drăguțești. Among the activities organized within the mini-festival were the Green Bike Race, the screening of the documentary "[Life Beyond Coal](#)", a treasure hunt organized by the Scout Society, the Climate Fresk Quiz organized by Climatosfera, as well as other participatory workshop activities organized by the Scout Society, Între Vecini, Edulifelong or Cercetașii României.

Although it came with many challenges, the year 2025 also brought many satisfactions and opportunities for Bankwatch Romania. Just like in the last 13 years, Bankwatch Romania was in 2025 alongside every community fighting for the right to a clean and healthy environment, and this clearly showed us once again that only together can we protect the most important resource we have - the environment.

FOSSIL GAS CAMPAIGN

Gas is the fossil fuel for which major efforts are being made in Romania to expand infrastructure and consumption, even though this development is against climate goals and energy market stability. Through this campaign, we aim to limit the expansion of new fossil gas infrastructure and support reduce gas consumption by replacing it with clean energy sources.

In 2025, we launched [an online awareness campaign](#) to highlight the true impact of fossil gas, called “Gas Burns”. This initiative focused on three pillars: climate impact, health effects, and price influence. Fossil gas produces significant greenhouse gas emissions, especially when fugitive methane emissions are considered. At the same time, burning gas emits pollutants that can affect health, whether we’re talking about large gas-fired power plants, individual boilers, or stoves. And thirdly, gas isn’t cheap. The price will always be influenced by international markets and geopolitics. Even though Romania already meets 80% of its consumption needs through domestic production, [gas prices are not significantly lower than in other economies in the region](#), which are more dependent on imports. To spread these messages, we created [a series of short reels](#) and worked with several content creators. Our message reached over 300,000 people. But the battle over information is only just beginning. The prevailing narrative remains that gas is saving our economy and that it is irreplaceable.

Through the Bankwatch Romania Association – Cluj Branch, we have decided to initiate legal action regarding the Tuzla-Podişor pipeline, which connects the Neptun Deep gas field to the gas transport system. This pipeline actually allows the use of gas from the Black Sea, [whose greenhouse gas emissions](#) endanger Romania's climate trajectory. Following an analysis carried out in 2024, we found that the gas pipeline had been built without a valid building permit. At the same time, the environmental permit on which the construction documents were based was issued without a comprehensive analysis of the climate and cross-border impacts. For these reasons, we decided [to challenge](#) these documents in court and request their annulment. Unfortunately, [the court of first instance ruled](#) that the lawsuit had been filed too late, so it did not actually get to analyse the allegations of illegality we had raised. We are not giving up. We will continue the process in 2026 with an appeal to the ICCJ.

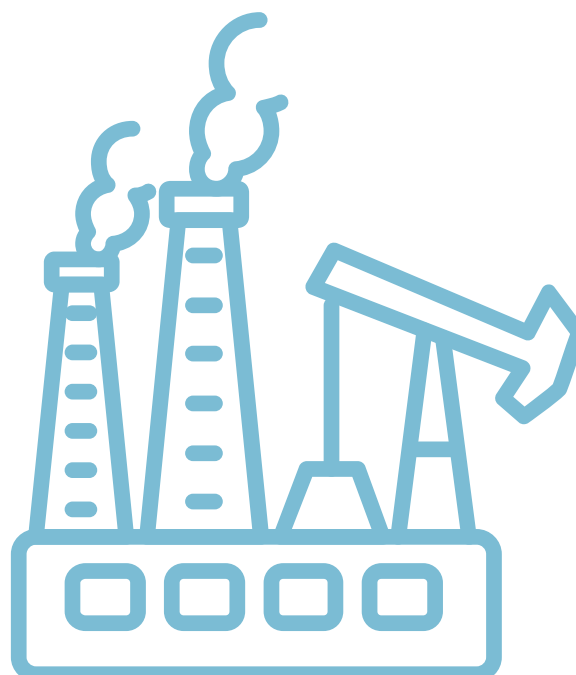
There are other EU member states that are pushing for the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. Hungary is preparing to expand a hydraulic fracturing project 30 km from the Romanian border. The project was approved without informing the Romanian authorities about its environmental impact, as required by the Espoo Convention. Together with our Hungarian colleagues, we notified the ministries responsible for environmental protection in both countries that they must carry out cross-border consultation.

After receiving our request, the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests [asked the Hungarian authorities](#) for information about the project. This [initiated the cross-border procedure](#) through which affected persons can be consulted. The entire process took almost a year.

Together with several environmental organizations, we sent [comments on the project](#) regarding the seismic hazard it poses, the potential impact of contamination of shared groundwater aquifers, and the climate impact. In response to our comments and those of the Romanian Ministry, the Hungarian authorities denied any negative environmental impact on Romanian territories, as well as at the local level, and decided to issue the environmental permit. Our colleagues in Hungary will challenge the project through legal channels.

We continued to monitor the Modernization Fund, a source of funding through which Romania can access over €15 billion for the development of its energy system until 2030. 2025 was the first year in which [Romania did not receive any money for fossil fuels](#), even though it submitted projects for fossil gas transport pipelines. However, Romania is still the largest recipient of fossil fuel funding among all beneficiary member states. According to [an analysis by CEE Bankwatch Network](#), to which we contributed, which looks at the five largest beneficiary countries, Romania has received nearly EUR 900 million for fossil fuel projects until the end of 2024.

To discuss the need to reduce funding for fossil gas, especially from the perspective of the climate impact of these projects, we had meetings with the European Commission and participated in the annual meeting organized by the Fund's Investment Committee with European civil society.



MINING & DISTRICT HEATING CAMPAIGN

Romania has set a deadline of 2030 for the closure of coal-fired power plants, with the rehabilitation of mining sites to be completed by 2032. However, in practice, fears of social upheaval in regions still dependent on this industry—which has failed to accelerate clean energy projects—have led authorities to postpone the closure of certain production facilities and mines, while the population is increasingly affected by pollution.

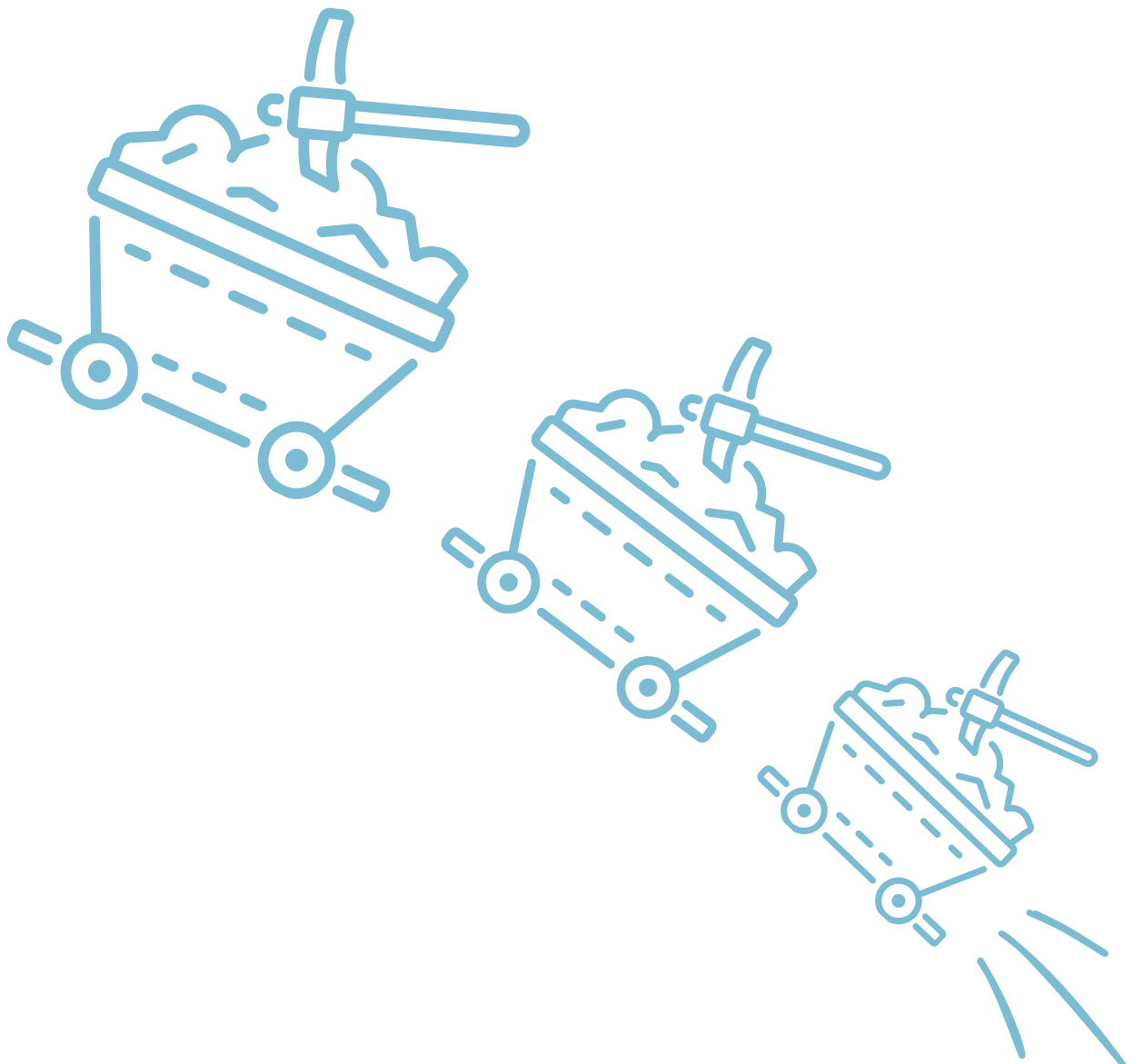
In 2025, we monitored the closure process at coal-fired plants, which experienced significant delays. Romania requested that the European Commission postpone the closure of certain coal-fired plants, which in practice resulted in a [six-month delay](#) in the closure of 710 MW compared to the initial plan in the RRF. At the same time, the Romanian government [has requested the renegotiation of the plan](#) to restructure the Oltenia Energy Complex, an increase in state aid of 200 million euros, and a three-year extension. We participated in the public consultations initiated by the Ministry of Energy to amend the decarbonization law, where we sought to clarify the stages of plant closures.

According to a response from the ministry, one unit in Rovinari and one in Turceni (660 MW) will be closed by August 2026, but it is unclear which other units are being considered to meet the 710 MW target. At the same time, the ministry has not provided a concrete timeline for the closure of all coal-fired units. In the same response, it mentions two units in Rovinari (660 MW) and one in Turceni (330 MW) by 2030, while Râmnicu Vâlcea, Iași, and Pârâșeni were also mentioned during the public debate but were not subsequently communicated.

Pollution from CET II Craiova reached alarming levels in 2025. The power plant is so old and poorly maintained that it emits ash almost constantly. We have supported the residents of the Bariera Vâlcii neighborhood in [filing complaints](#) and in finding out how the authorities plan to intervene to remedy the situation and replace the power plant. Unfortunately, the pollution continues to be ignored by both the relevant ministries and local environmental protection authorities, and the Ministry of Energy has not set a closure date, even though it is directly responsible for this plant.

Aside from fines from the Environmental Guard, the situation remains unchanged. We have decided to submit a petition to the European Parliament and to meet with the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment to explain the issue to them. The Commission already has an infringement case open regarding air quality monitoring in Craiova and tells us that the issues we have raised must be resolved by national authorities and courts.

On the other hand, in the Jiu Valley, work is underway to close the coal mines. CEVJ has hired people to support mining operations and has started up the Paroşeni power plant to burn the mined coal. However, it is unclear how these activities were financed and whether they comply with state aid rules for mine closures. We attempted to obtain data on the itemized costs from the Ministry of Energy, but the response was limited. The lack of transparency surrounding this publicly funded activity raises questions regarding compliance with the terms agreed upon with the European Commission as well as the legality of the expenditures.



ENERGY TRANSITION CAMPAIGN

In 2025, we continued to support a just energy transition, firmly grounded in social realities, with a strong focus on dialogue between public authorities, communities, and experts. Our work focused on improving the understanding of energy poverty at the local level and on facilitating participatory processes that contribute to shaping solutions relevant to communities.

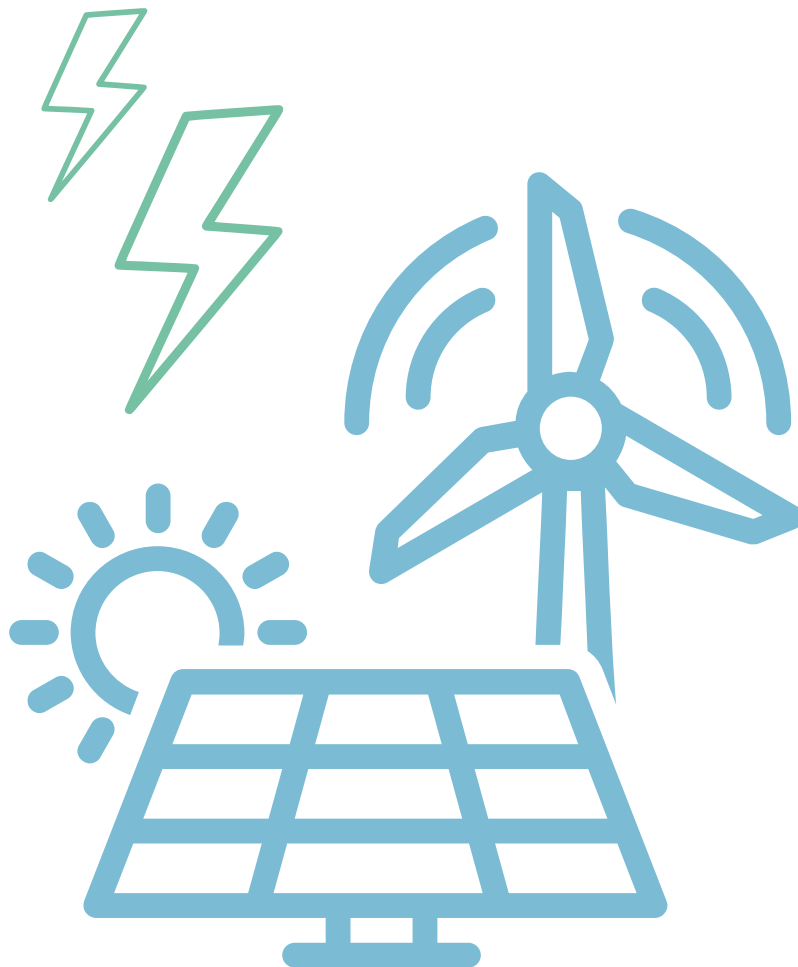
In this context, we developed a whitepaper on energy poverty in Gorj County, which analyses the phenomenon based on concrete data on housing conditions and the heating sources used locally. The document highlights the main vulnerabilities faced by communities and puts forward recommendations for local authorities, focusing on better-aligned public policies, targeted investments, and the efficient use of available EU funds. The analysis was launched during a webinar that brought together representatives of local public authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs, and other interested stakeholders. The discussions focused on real challenges on the ground, as well as on local priorities and possible courses of action.

We continued to directly engage citizens by organizing a citizens' forum in Petroșani, designed as an open and structured space for dialogue. Participants discussed what energy poverty means in everyday life, how it manifests and its effects at both individual and community levels. The discussions covered both immediate solutions, such as financial support schemes, and longer-term directions, including green investments, building renovation, and the development of energy communities. At the same time, participants shared their direct experiences with existing policies and mechanisms, as well as ideas on how these could become more accessible and better tailored to real needs. The forum provided a more nuanced understanding of local challenges and potential solutions.

We actively contributed to public debates and thematic events focusing on the relationship between energy policies and the social dimension of the transition. Our interventions highlighted the links between energy security, affordability and the risk of energy poverty, as well as the need to better integrate social considerations into energy policymaking. We also emphasized the importance of aligning support measures with different types of vulnerability and ensuring a more coordinated approach across social, energy, and climate policies.

The programming and development of the National Social Climate Plan were a central focus of our work this year. In this context, we organized a roundtable with representatives of the main ministries involved in the process and other relevant institutions and stakeholders, where we presented a report on data collection and use for a more comprehensive identification of energy and transport poverty in Romania. The discussions aimed to identify common directions for developing an integrated methodology that is both applicable within the Plan and useful for designing long-term public policies.

Through these activities, we continued to promote an approach based on dialogue, data and a strong understanding of on-the-ground realities. Community engagement and institutional collaboration remain essential for designing policies that respond to real needs and for ensuring that the energy transition is both sustainable and socially balanced.



JUST TRANSITION CAMPAIGN

2025 was a year of strategic consolidation for our Just Transition work. Operating in a challenging political environment, marked by electoral crisis, government instability and increasing pressures on civil society, we continued our work at European, national and local levels to advance the just transition in mining regions undergoing decarbonisation.

At European level, we continued our collaboration with the CEE Bankwatch Network to advance the implementation of the just transition through advocacy and highlighting problems as well as good practices in implementation. We also contributed to the early discussions on the just transition in the future European budget.

At the national level, we continued our active participation in the Monitoring Committee of the Just Transition Programme, analyzing the documentation and proposing adjustments so that the funding calls respond to the realities on the ground. To support municipalities in accessing funding for the greening and reconversion of industrial sites, we collaborated with MKBT on a [report presenting good practices in the field of mining site rehabilitation](#), while organizing a workshop for local stakeholders, with the participation of representatives from the Czech Republic and from Reșița, Caraș-Severin County. We also developed a brochure summarizing the most important elements of the renewable energy funding call for UATs and organized a workshop for stakeholders from the six just transition counties to introduce them to energy communities.

At the local level, we shifted our approach from general support and advocacy to targeted collaboration, based on projects with strategic potential, with municipalities with a real commitment to climate action. The centerpiece of this shift was a [landmark partnership with Turceni Municipality](#), which evolved from concept to concrete implementation during the year. In the first half of 2025, we formalized a two-year partnership with the municipality to support the development of two integrated renewable energy and green infrastructure projects.

The initial scope of the projects covered Turceni and the surrounding territory, as well as the extended southern area of Gorj County, with a population of approximately 25,000 inhabitants. From the outset, the projects were conceived as a long-term endeavor, requiring sustained technical and advocacy support, which is why the partnership was structured over a two-year horizon.

The project is multi-component and truly integrated, comprising: agrivoltaics parks combining solar energy production with continuous agricultural use of the land under the panels; energy storage facilities to support grid reliability; green hydrogen production and storage infrastructure; geothermal resources for district heating and agricultural applications; and the rehabilitation of the Jiu River corridor, with the reconversion of industrial sites for tourism, education and community development initiatives.

This scale, combining clean energy production, land restoration, economic diversification and community investment, makes the Turceni project one of the most ambitious local just transition initiatives in Romania to date.

A major milestone in 2025 was supporting the municipality in obtaining TARGET technical assistance from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to finance a feasibility study for the integrated renewable energy project. The technical studies are due to be completed in the second half of 2026, providing the technical and financial foundation needed to move forward with implementation.

In parallel, a request for JASPERS technical assistance, covering the rehabilitation components of the Jiu Riverbank, was in the approval circuit at the end of the year. Together, these instruments demonstrate the capacity of municipalities in the region to access European support when they have the right partners and an appropriate project architecture.

Beyond this flagship initiative, 2025 brought a deepening of learning exchanges between European just transition regions, the [involvement of young people in conversations about the future of former mining communities](#), as well as an active contribution to the work of the Territorial Group for the Coordination of the Transition to Climate Neutrality of Gorj County.

Building on the previous connections established between Romanian municipalities and successful European models of energy transition, 2025 brought a significant intensification of exchange activities. We organized a study visit of the mayors of Turceni and Rovinari to the cities of Ștei and Beiuș, where functional geothermal district heating systems provided a concrete and operational example, directly relevant to the incipient projects in Gorj. The visit helped to anchor the feasibility of geothermal development in local lived experience, not in abstract planning documents.

We successfully supported Turceni Municipality in submitting an application to a region-to-region exchange program facilitated by the European Commission through the JTPeers program. This led to participation in a European learning visit to Asturias, Spain, together with a delegation from the just transition region of Velenje, Slovenia. As a result, the Slovenian delegation visited Turceni at the end of 2025, an important signal for increasing the international visibility and credibility of the municipality as a transition actor within European networks.

Engaging young people in conversations about the future of the region was also a deliberate priority in 2025. In partnership with local organizations, we facilitated dialogue sessions in the Jiu Valley, designed to create space for community voices beyond the technical and administrative dimensions of transition planning. In the same spirit, the [People of Transition](#) campaign continued in 2026, bringing the stories of people from transition regions closer to the public.

These conversations aimed to broaden local ownership of the transition process, generate grassroots support for renewable energy alternatives, and counter narratives that presented environmental action as a threat to prosperity and development in the region. At the invitation of [LCOY](#), we facilitated a [workshop on the importance of equity in energy transition for youth](#) and participated in the review of the National Youth Climate Action Plan.

In September, we co-organized a [mini-festival dedicated to just transition and sustainability](#) in Gorj, together with [BeTeen](#). The event brought together seven local and national NGOs around activities focused on sustainability, as well as the screening of the [documentary “Life Beyond Coal”](#), followed by a discussion between experts and the community. The festival served as a platform to connect community members, local authorities, and civil society actors around a shared vision for the future of the region.

During the year, we also engaged in [discussions and activities related to the future Social Climate Plan](#), as another key instrument for ensuring a just energy transition. Together with [ORSE](#), [EPG](#) and [2Celsius](#), we [published a report at the end of the year focused on collecting and processing data for a comprehensive identification of energy and transport poverty in Romania](#).



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CIVIC LIBERTIES



Like the previous year, 2025 was marked by continuous attacks on civil liberties and environmental rights. Old projects to build hydroelectric power plants in protected areas, declared to be of national interest by Emergency Ordinance 175/2022, continued to move forward. Our opposition and our warnings about the major imbalance between the energy benefits and the environmental damage these projects would cause have drawn new waves of hatred in the public sphere and pressure from certain figures in the political arena.

These are part of the broader phenomenon of the shrinking of the public sphere, which we have sought to combat through advocacy efforts regarding the transposition of the European anti-SLAPP directive and the defense of environmental defenders' rights.

The problem of Hydroelectric Power Plants in Protected Areas

This chapter was updated after the report's initial publication to include information about Bankwatch Romania's participation in Swimathon 2025.

Over the past year, one of the main threats to environmental protection has been the adoption of [Law PL-x 14/2023](#) which aims to facilitate the completion of hydropower projects in protected natural areas. The law allows for the modification of the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites and the removal of certain areas from the protection regime, as well as exempting these projects from essential environmental impact assessments.

We have challenged this legislative initiative because it sets a dangerous precedent by retroactively legalizing controversial projects, reduces the level of environmental protection, and contravenes both the Romanian Constitution and relevant European legislation.

Furthermore, the energy impact of these hydroelectric plants is marginal, while the ecological costs—including habitat destruction and damage to waterways—are irreversible. After Parliament passed the law, we joined forces with other organizations to urge the President of Romania not to sign the law into effect and to refer it to the Constitutional Court for a constitutional review.

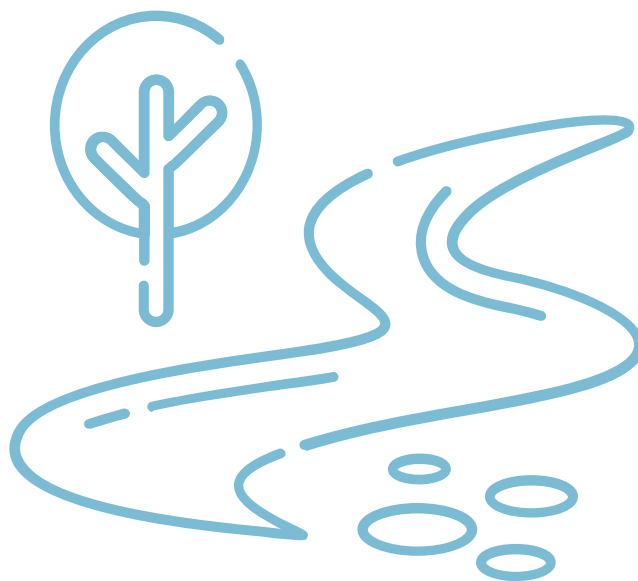
We sent an official letter to this effect, arguing that the law is unconstitutional, violates European law, and lacks any real economic justification. We are currently awaiting the Constitutional Court's decision, which will be crucial for the future of the protection of natural areas and the rule of law in the environmental sector. This initiative is part of a broader context of pressure to weaken environmental standards and revive hydropower projects in protected areas, which we have consistently monitored and challenged throughout the year.

At the end of last year, another bill, Bill No. 3/2026, was introduced in parliament, which would aim to classify procurement as confidential, expedite environmental agreements, encroach on private property, and block access to justice, in order to legalize the aforementioned hydropower plants.

Our Swimathon participation represented one more step towards defending rivers. The campaign aimed to raise funds for river protection and successfully mobilized an engaged community of supporters around this cause.

The 10 swimmer-fundraisers played a key role in promoting the initiative and attracting donations, turning their participation into a meaningful contribution. The funds raised support the organization's efforts to protect rivers, enabling concrete actions to defend them and respond to threats affecting aquatic ecosystems.

Beyond the financial contribution, the campaign fostered a strong sense of involvement and solidarity, bringing together people who care about environmental protection and strengthening a community that actively supports this mission.



Environmental Rights

As part of last year's project through GMF Proteus, we set out to support two communities in their fight for a healthy environment and access to water resources. We supported the communities through visits and joint events to get to know the people and build connections, from painting together to attending debates together. In the area of strategic litigation, we strengthened our efforts to challenge hydropower projects with significant environmental impacts, achieving important results in court.

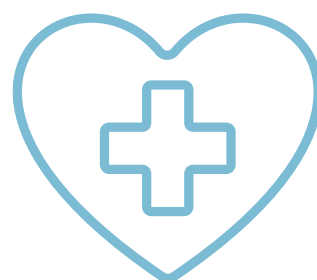
In the [Răstolița](#) case, we won several key actions that led to the suspension of the environmental permit, the blocking of the government decision allowing the removal of forest areas from Călimani National Park, and ultimately the halt of construction works until a final court ruling is issued. These decisions represent important steps in protecting a valuable natural area and in upholding the rule of law.

At the same time, we initiated a new legal case concerning the [hydropower project in the Jiu Gorge](#), an emblematic case for the protection of national parks, continuing to use legal tools to prevent the resumption of works with irreversible impacts on ecosystems.

To better support the affected communities, we organized a public webinar dedicated to environmental rights and participation in the decision-making process. The event, held online and available on our [YouTube](#) channel, brought together participants from several communities, particularly from the Jiu Valley.

During the session, we explained key concepts of environmental law, permitting procedures, the obligations of authorities, and the legal tools citizens can use to defend their rights. The discussions were practical in nature, drawing on concrete situations encountered in the field.

As an extension of this effort, we developed and distributed an informational brochure that summarizes this information in an accessible format. The [brochure](#) offers step-by-step guidance on participating in environmental procedures, submitting comments, and utilizing legal avenues for appeal, thereby helping to increase communities' capacity to respond in an informed and effective manner.



Civil Liberties

Attacks by Energy Minister Sebastian Burduja against environmental NGOs continued in the first half of 2025 with the same intensity as in the previous year. Following his public call to the heads of state-owned energy companies to seek maximum damages in lawsuits against NGOs—which constituted an incitement to SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation), Bankwatch Romania publicly called on the Prime Minister, alongside over 100 other organizations, to [dismiss Minister Burduja](#). Unfortunately, inspired by the Trump administration’s new extractivist policies, his response was one of public support and encouragement for the minister, using the phrase “drill, Sebi, drill!”

At the same time, we continued our communication with the European Commission, which began in December 2024, through a new letter and a meeting with representatives of DG Justice and DG Environment, during which we presented the new challenges facing civil society in Romania. We also informed the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention about these developments. He met with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, which serves as the focal point for the Convention, and they assured him of their best intentions regarding support for environmental defenders. Unfortunately, these intentions have not yet materialized. Furthermore, a request for a meeting sent in August to the Minister of the Environment, Diana Buzoianu, to discuss ways to address the pressures faced by environmental defenders has gone unanswered.

The year 2025 was also marked by preparations for the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1069, also known as the anti-SLAPP directive. The Ministry of Justice, responsible for the transposition process, received support from a working group composed of representatives from civil society and the media, who contributed legal expertise as well as practical experience in such cases. As members of this group, we participated in meetings hosted by the Ministry and the Ombudsman. As a result of this collaboration, the draft law submitted to Parliament in early 2026 included some of the working group’s proposals, the most important of which concerned extending the directive’s scope to cover domestic cases. At the same time, other proposals of particular importance to environmental NGOs (such as the inclusion of cases involving disproportionate legal costs in administrative litigation) were rejected. At this time, the bill is still awaiting debate in Parliament.



TOGETHER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE FIGHT FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

2025 was a year in which Bankwatch Romania intensified its efforts to assist local communities fighting for their right to a healthy environment. Unfortunately, last year was one of the years in which we received the most reports related to pollution or environmental problems from citizens and communities.

We have used our resources and expertise to help several communities severely affected by harmful energy projects or initiatives. Among these communities is the one in the Bariera Vâlcii neighborhood in Craiova, Dolj County. The residents of the Bariera Vâlcii neighborhood live drowning in ash and pollution due to the Craiova II Power Plant. The serious problems have persisted for years. Over time, people have addressed the City Hall, the Environmental Guard, the National Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment, and the Government. This community contacted Bankwatch Romania in the hope that we could help solve the acute pollution.

As a result, with the support of the people living in this neighborhood, Bankwatch Romania submitted a [petition to the European Parliament](#) to stop the pollution at the Craiova power plant. The petition calls for firm measures such as adequate air quality measurement near the power plant, limiting the number of operating hours of the power plant to reduce pollution, implementing a short-term action plan with clear measures communicated to citizens, carrying out the necessary repairs as soon as possible, and ensuring compliance with the air quality directive. Bankwatch Romania remains with the community in Craiova and follows the results of the legal actions taken in 2025.

Through the environmental protection campaign, we also assisted the community of Peștișani, Gorj County, which has been facing a [severe water crisis](#) for over four years. The Bistrița River is almost completely dry, because of insufficient ecological flow from the Clocotîș Dam, a mechanism that has a major impact on local water resources.

The consequences for the community are dramatic: especially during the summer, wells dry up, and people are forced to travel up to 10 km to obtain water from other sources. The ecosystem is, in turn, seriously affected; fish die due to lack of water, being found on dried-up riverbeds.

The message sent by the locals is one of despair, given that the authorities do not adequately respond to the needs of the community:

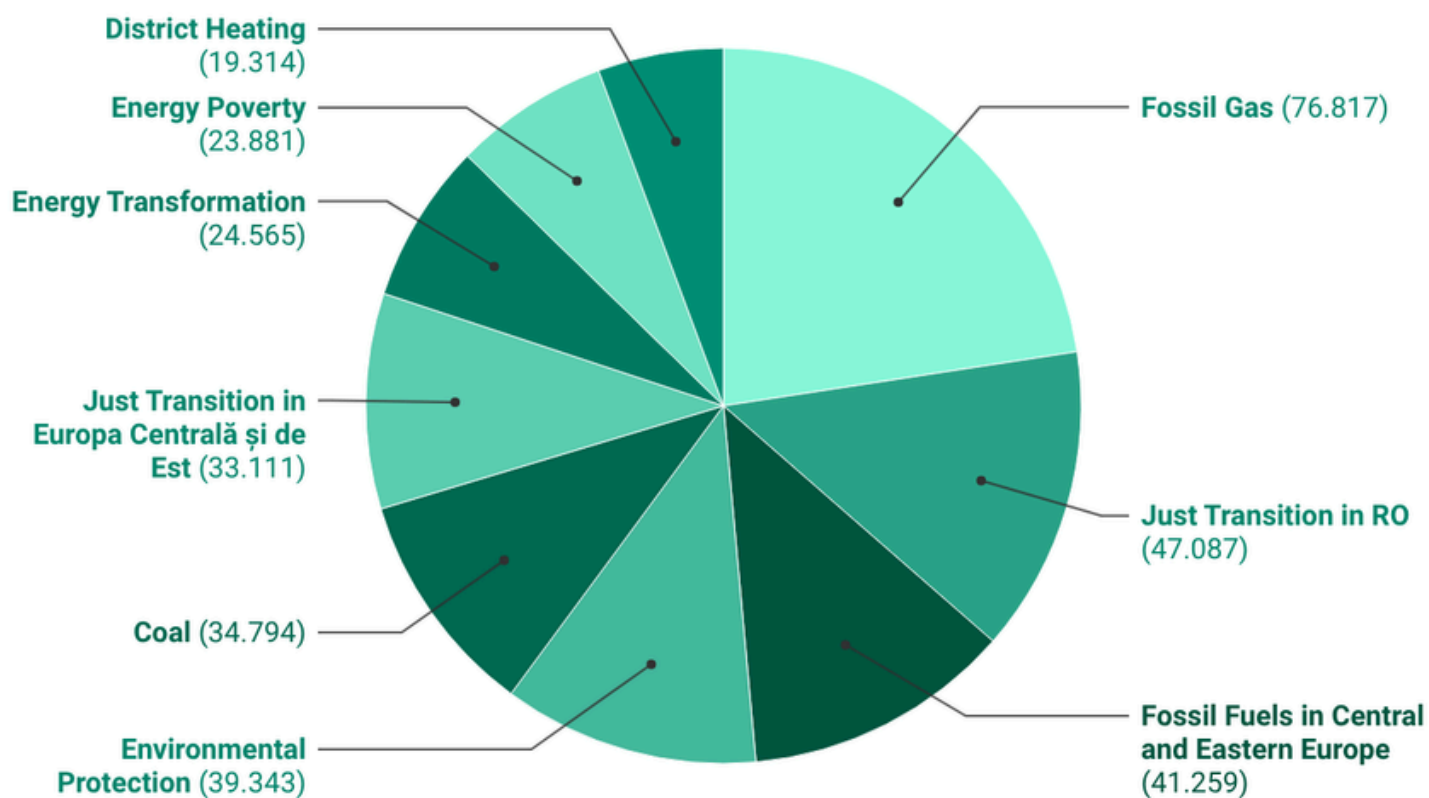
„We don't know what to do anymore.”

In this context, we supported the community in formulating and submitting a [preliminary application for the water management authorization](#) for the Clocotiș dam, requesting the revision of the ecological flow, signed and supported by 184 residents of Peștișani, Frâncești and Gureni. However, the authorization maintains a level of only 10m³/s, considered insufficient to restore the hydrological balance and ensure the community's water needs. The efforts continue, and we remain in close contact with the residents of Peștișani, who are determined to defend their right to water and a healthy environment.



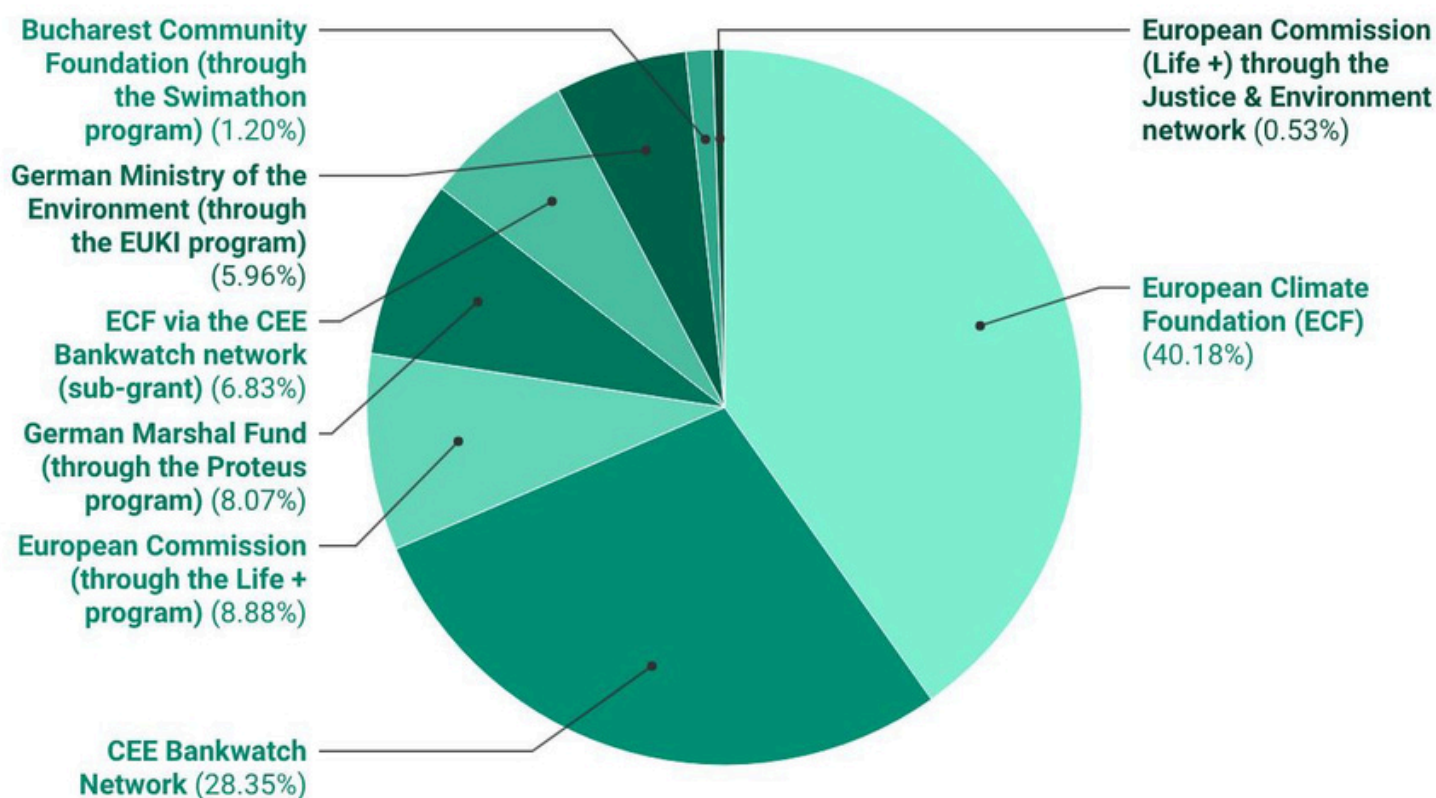


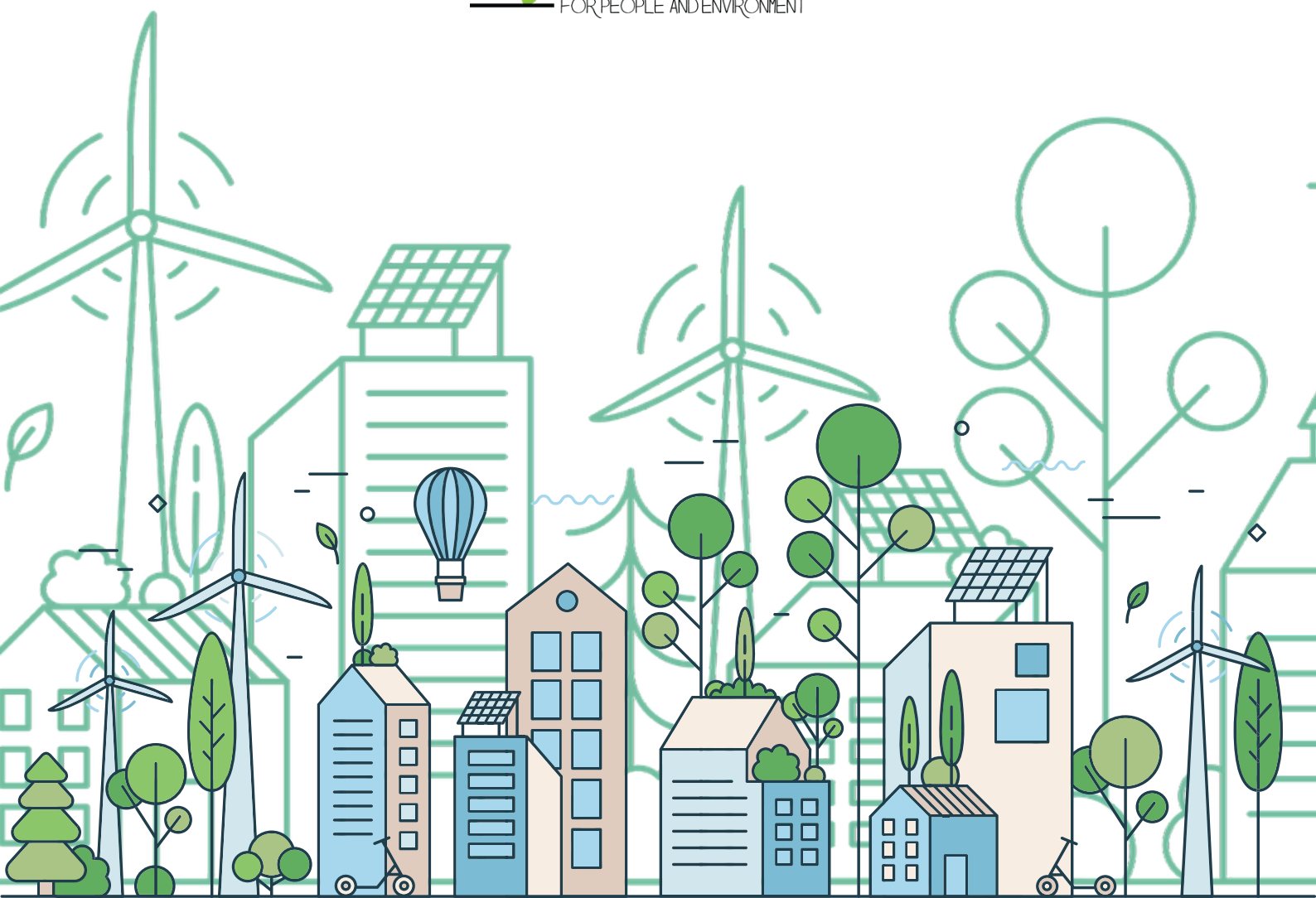
CAMPAIGN BUDGETS IN EURO





DONORS





Strada Vasile Lascăr 69
București



bucharest@bankwatch.org



bankwatch.ro

