THE FOREST – OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The choice is ours!

Flooding, a natural disaster against which we humans are powerless, occurred in our villages almost two years ago. The only thing that can help us against this disaster are the forests, but that won’t happen if we, humans, destroy them. That’s the problem we want to address.

Our team from “Vasil Levski” High School in Karlovo decided to find a solution to this problem here and beyond. We aim to expand ideas that can be part of the new EU forest strategy by 2030.

The creation of youth organizations which will be periodically monitoring irregularities in the forests is the first step in our effort to protect them. These organizations should collaborate with local authorities, educate the population about the issue, and make us reflect on the fact that we all are the change and it starts with us.

A change in the EU budget should allocate funds to support these organizations. Coordination among EU member states should enable them to exchange experiences and knowledge.

As we know, the European Commission proposes a forest monitoring act using the “Copernicus” satellite to track forest fires, drought, and biodiversity loss. Our proposal is to expand monitoring to include illegal logging. This way, analyzing images over time can detect changes in the forests, prompting relevant authorities to take action through specified institutions.

We are in the village of Bogdan, one of the villages affected during the floods. The water that inundated a large part of the village came from here.

If the monitoring we propose had been in place back then, the flooding could have been prevented.

Unfortunately, in Bulgaria and other European countries, nearly half of the total timber harvest comes from illegal logging.

These are our ideas on how we can preserve the EU’s forests and, along with them, the biodiversity of flora and fauna. Let’s not forget that forests can survive without us, but we cannot survive without them.