

A park for the people of Constanta

Tabacarie Park, the only large park of Constanta, has many functions and plenty of locals of all ages used to visit it regularly – every day or at least once a week. From the smallest children to the oldest people one can find them all.

In the year 2000 Constanta municipality announced an intention to build a large store (mall) in the most beautiful and most frequently visited part of the park.

This project would have destroyed all the harmony of the nature in this part. At the time Mare Nostrum along with the citizens protested against the project. Because the land allocated to the project was public property, the municipality was forced to drop the project and obey to the will of the public.

Unfortunately in the next 5 years, using some questionable legislation procedures, piece by piece parts of the park were transferred to private property.

In 2005 the Large Store project was again proposed for environmental permit to the local environmental agency.

Mare Nostrum in collaboration with 2 others NGO's (Eco Dobrogea and AGIA) started a public campaign in order to stop this project. We organized a public debate, taking into consideration all the aspects needed for the locals to participate. Also we raised more than 11 000 signatures against this project; we put pressure to the local authorities mailing them continuously and asking them to take action and to protect the park.

In the same time Constanta citizens were invited to a public manifestation in the park to protest against the cutting down of trees to make space for the proposed project construction site.

In the end of a 6-month persistent campaign the local Environmental Agency approved the project in a simple version (only one building instead of three).

We consider this to be a partial success, but the most important outcome is that Constanta was provided an example of public involvement in the decision making process.

