

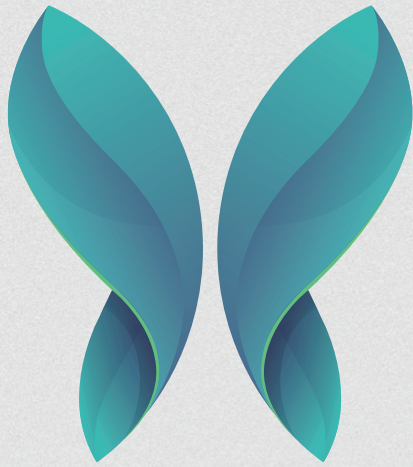
Advocacy Roadmap for the Stakeholders on Green Agenda for Western Balkans (WB6)

Final report

KOSOVO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

5th EDITION

The recommendations and conclusions presented in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the partnering organizations of KSDW, but rather reflect from the discussions during the events.



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Kosovo Sustainable Development Week: Genesis & Purpose

Considering the need to address economic, social and climate challenges in Kosovo, various partners joined forces in 2018 to organize a conference which tackles these issues in a joint platform called Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW). Since then, KSDW has gained a reputation as the biggest sustainable development event in Kosovo and beyond in the Western Balkans. It has been organized continuously by the Government of Kosovo, the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo, Germany through GIZ Kosova, the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) and the Balkan Green Foundation (BGF).

Marking its 5th anniversary, KSDW still holds the same principles and values that promote economic stability, social development and environmental protection. The main purpose of KSDW remains to facilitate the stakeholders' dialogue with the primary intention of supporting a faster advancement of the sustainable development framework. As such, KSDW throughout the years has focused on themes such as:

1st edition - Energy transition, energy efficiency, waste management, water sources and climate change

2nd edition - Air Pollution, Water Resources and Waste Management, Energy Transition and Climate Change

3rd edition - EU Green Deal and COVID-19: The recovery is green

4th edition & 5th edition - Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Throughout these editions, KSDW has been transformed into a “hub” which provides opportunities for interested parties and individuals to meet and directly discuss with Governmental and public officials, private sector representatives, civil society activity and regional community actors. To this point, KSDW for 5 years has managed to organize in total these activities:

Conference days	16
Panel discussions	47
Speakers	300
Participants	More than 1,000
Side events	97
Media appearances	21

The past 2 editions have been focused exclusively on facilitating a dialogue regarding the advancement and support of the Green Agenda for Western Balkans (WB6). This was reached by organizing a 3-day conference where the competent institutions (international, national and regional) were gathered in a single room to discuss precise topics on the 5 pillars of the Green Agenda. These discussions did not only serve as a tool to identify policy gaps and concrete recommendations for establishing sustainable and stable sectors covered in the discussions, but also to identify joint regional actions that contribute to the advancement of Green Agenda in the WB6.

KSDW also designs and hosts activities for the public with the aim of advancing the status of sustainability in the region and increasing the general awareness for environmental protection. During this edition of KSDW, partners and external organizations coordinated more than 20 public events.

All the panel discussions held during the conference as well as the side events are described below.

MAIN EVENTS



Launching of KSDW 2022 & Conference

To facilitate the stakeholder's dialogue, KSDW organized a 3-day conference under the main theme of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. The theme was chosen based on the need to invest more in policy areas for environment, climate change and transport ¹. All of the areas covered by the Green Agenda, including energy, climate, mobility, environment and agriculture, are dependent on regional cooperation, thus, the topics covered during the conference were focused on defining potential regional actions and partnerships that contribute towards advancement of this agenda in WB.

The launching event of the KSDW 2022 was held at the Innovation and Training Park (ITP) where high-level representatives of the Government, diplomatic missions, the international community, and civil society were in attendance.

The launch event was held at ITP as the venue promotes economic growth, innovation for local startup businesses, job creation and has a special focus in the sectors of technology, food processing and other cultural and creative industries whose profiles remain essential to the Green Agenda.

The highlight of the event remained the speeches of the special guests. They emphasized the urgent need to address environmental challenges that come as a result of the intensive coal-based energy sector, improper waste management, and industrial pollution. President Osmani declared that:



“Our Kosovo is in need of more green energy, investments in energy efficiency, sustainable treatment and decrease of the waste generation, protection of environment, livable cities and smart transport –but, above them all, Kosovo needs clean air and healthy citizens.”

On behalf of the partnering organizations, the speakers reconfirmed the commitment to jointly work towards the advancement of the Green Agenda in Kosovo. Along these lines, Prime Minister Kurti claimed that:

“The Covid-19 pandemic, and now the war in Ukraine, have proven how vulnerable the global food system is, therefore it requires urgent preparation and action to prevent another crisis. However, **these crises should not in any way hinder us from advancing the implementation of the Green Agenda** and meeting the objectives of sustainable development.”



The event closed with the showcasing of the movie “Run for Sharr” produced by Utalaya Foundation. This movie exclusively demonstrated the environmental values and amenities that Kosovo holds and its endangered species that make this area unique. Thus, the movie clearly delivers the message that the environment and ecosystems of Kosovo need to urgently be prioritized and taken care of through proper policy and decision making. Right after this, the programme of KSDW 2022 was unveiled which can be found under Annex B.

¹European Commission. (2021). Kosovo* 2021 Report. Page 6. Accessible: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/document/download/ec34a067-8477-4adc-a123-054b7d62abc4_en?filename=Kosovo%202021%20report.PDF

Following the launch event, KSDW 2022 started the first conference day under the main sub-theme of “Green Connectivity for WB”. The opening included speeches from important figures in the guiding of policies and decision making in Kosovo, namely the Rapporteur of Kosovo at European Parliament, Viola von Cramon and Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Besnik Bislimi, who both strongly claimed that Kosovo and the region have begun to work towards achieving the Green Agenda, but still have a lot of action to do regarding the establishment of sustainable economy, social development and environment:



“...without the full integration of the Western Balkans in our energy transition plans, all of it would be in vain. Pollution knows no border and coal plants kill EU citizens too. That is why it is a common interest to see the Balkans green and sustainable.”

“At the national level, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans is reflected in the framework of the European Reform Agenda, but also in the National Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and is continuously discussed within the joint SAA structures with the European Commission and regular sectoral subcommittees.”



Following the opening remarks, the main topics that were covered during this conference day were:

(1) *The Clean Energy Package: Legislative and implementation opportunities for Kosovo*,
(2) *Decarbonization Path of WB6: From Sofia Declaration to National Strategic Documents* and
(3) *Renewable technologies & Energy efficient buildings for just energy transition*. The speakers from different international, national and regional organizations contributed to the discussion, including here representatives from the Energy Community, regulatory bodies, members of Parliament, central level institutions, private sector, donor community, international organizations and experts, and civil society.

The second conference day, entitled “Climate & Environment”, was dedicated to the circular economy and depollution of air, water and soil in Kosovo. The importance of this day, compared to the first one, which included the participation of mostly the central level institutions, was that the focus was at local level institutions which were put into spotlight regarding their role and importance towards the advancement of the Green Agenda and the creation of smart and green cities. The main topics discussed in this conference day were: (1) “Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Integrated Waste Management at Municipal Level”, (2) “Role of cities in implementing the Green Agenda” and (3) “Ending Plastic Pollution: Is Kosovo doing enough?”.

The last conference day under the sub-theme of “Prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for all” treated the topics of balanced development and ensuring the wellbeing of citizens while protecting the nature and biodiversity. The main discussion topics included: (1) “How has the pandemic and war in Ukraine impacted the food security in Western Balkans (WB6)?”, (2) “Balanced Regional Development in Kosovo” and (3) “Nature & Biodiversity: From sustainable forest management to species protection and tourism development”.

The full recommendations that came out of all these discussions are presented in the next section of this report.

Results & Recommendations

As indicated in the previous sections of this report, the main aim of the past 2 editions of KSDW was to facilitate a dialogue which contributes to identifying gaps of the sectors and findings solutions which assist the WB towards a faster advancement of the Green Agenda for WB.

The main result of this edition was the drafting of the 5th annual report which serves and assists as a monitoring mechanism for the progress marked in some areas of the Green Agenda by the WB. This report has been compiled based on the discussions that happened in the 3 main conference days alongside side events/panel discussions. Another result of this edition was related to raising general awareness of the public which was done through the presence of KSDW team in the traditional and social media.

Below, recommendations for each discussion have been identified:

Day 1: Green Connectivity for WB

1. The new legislative package to focus on consumers and the role of consumers in the energy market. This should be done by strengthening consumer awareness, their capacities as a market player (and potentially producers) etc.
2. Kosovo should adopt a legal package for renewable energy, utilizing the potential, increasing flexibility and offering individuals the role they deserve.
3. Kosovo should seek to join the European emissions trading scheme, facilitating decarbonization and making compliance with EU legislation easier.
4. Kosovo should see the regional integration of renewable resources as an opportunity for increased exchange, trade and investments.
5. Energy policies should be linked with Kosovo's Spatial Plan in which the potential of certain areas, energy investments and opportunities for decarbonization would be included.
6. Kosovo must digitalize and group the data set in the energy sector.
7. The regulator should liberalize the market according to the preliminary guidelines and Kosovo institutions including Competition Authority and should consider the possibility of terminating the bulk supply agreement of 2013 that is hindering the development of a free market.
8. The Albanian energy exchange (ALPEX) should be established without delay and transparently provide energy trading data.
9. The bulk supply agreement between the main supplier and KEK should be revised by institutions that are responsible for maintaining fair competition in the market and the proper functioning of the energy market.
10. Kosovo institutions are encouraged to create proper mechanisms to absorb all the available support from the EU and other donors in order for the transformation to be successful.
11. A reformed supporting scheme for renewable energy is necessary, especially for the prosumers where the transition from net metering to a net billing system is needed.
12. The political will already expressed in the declaration of the Sofia summit should be translated into strategic documents, especially in the Energy Strategy, the Long-Term Strategy for Decarbonization and the National Development Strategy.
13. Investments in the renewable energy sources must be accompanied by investments in the distribution and transmission network so that the network absorbs these capacities and the system benefits from the decentralization of production.

14. The Distribution Company, at the request and with the support of ERO, should build a map of the distribution capacities and the same to be dynamic and transparent to inform the stakeholders about investment opportunities.
15. Strategic documents, especially the Energy Strategy and the National Energy and Climate Plan, should be accompanied by cost analysis and determine the responsibilities of each of the state departments and agencies.
16. The transition must definitely consider elements such as the impact it will have on the workers and the economy. The transition should be defined as a just one in all the strategic documents that are going to be adopted.
17. Energy education should also be integrated into the education system of the country and mechanisms should be order to increase awareness among the new generations and to facilitate a long-term progress towards decarbonization.
18. Political projections and modeling should always be done at a regional level. Only through working together on a regional and even pan-European level, decarbonization will succeed.
19. Kosovo and other countries of the region should insist on a common regional investment planning for the energy and decarbonization sector. Kosovo has a very limited supply and demand but a very favorable interconnection location that can and should be utilized for an accelerated transition.
20. Political stability, independent institutions and the general investment climate must be built in such a way that private sector investments are dominant. The private sector will be pivotal in investments, especially in the sector of renewable resources, and the preparation of the market with European legislation, stability and political consensus and independent institutions is crucial.
21. Kosovo should harmonize energy performance standards with the legal basis and building regulations so that the growing construction sector.
22. During 2022, the government must bring into operation the software with which the energy certification of buildings is recorded. This software will enable the energy certification of buildings and will enable the creation of a database that is necessary for informed policy making.
23. The government should address energy poverty in such a way that no one is left behind in the energy transition process and that the affordability aspect is also considered.
24. The government should immediately address the findings of studies on heating in the Energy Strategy so that as soon as the feasibility studies are completed, the findings will be reflected in the capacities planned in the Strategy.
25. Kosovo should start with the organization of auctions in the field of investments in RES, which will bring more investments, better prices and greater security for the system.
26. The transition should start from KEK as the main producer, which should have a clear transition plan that will also include social aspects, the transformation of employees' skills, the rehabilitation of the environment, etc.
27. The strengthening of construction standards should be accompanied by a financial mechanism to support projects and especially projects in the residential sector.
28. The Government should review the implementation of the regulatory framework for the management of collective buildings with the aim of increasing the energy efficiency and performance of collective buildings.
29. The Government of Kosovo should take affirmative measures so that ESCO companies can function and can provide competitive and attractive projects for the citizens.
30. The Government should create a one-year plan for measuring the consumption of buildings and for the regular collection and maintenance of data.
31. The Government of Kosovo should establish a short-term and medium-term plan for increasing human capacities in the field of energy efficiency. Local human capacities are essential for the success of efficiency sector policies.
32. The Government of Kosovo and especially the Ministry of Economy and Finance should draft a package of policies to encourage efficient electrical equipment.

Day 2: Climate & Environment

1. Kosovo municipalities should increase cooperation especially in establishing intermunicipal integrated waste management plans. The Kosovo Association of Municipalities could facilitate this process in order for the waste management to be more efficient and produce more results.
2. The Association of Kosovo Municipalities should facilitate cooperation between municipalities and enable joint applications for funds and access funds through joint implementing bodies.
3. The Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government is recommended to establish incentive quotas for municipalities to increase the percentage of the level of integrated waste treatment and recycling.
4. The government should strengthen monitoring mechanisms and inspectorates in order to fully implement the "polluter pays" principle in the Law on Nature Protection.
5. In addition to inspection, companies that deal with waste treatment and economizing the removal of pollution, should be encouraged with government measures such as recovery packages or fiscal relief.
6. The Strategy for the Environment must define precise goals and targets for waste reduction, their treatment and economy of this sector.
7. At the same time, the human capacities of the Ministry should be reviewed in order to increase the level of internal expertise.
8. The municipalities, with the help of the Ministry of Local Government Administration, should begin to collect accurate data on the clients of waste collection services and to present the data in a transparent and continuous manner.
9. The government should immediately draw up the new Air Strategy and approve Air quality plans within the first year without delay based on the requirements of the European Commission's Report on Kosovo.
10. Municipalities should draft without delay municipal regulations that accommodate new forms of transport and urban mobility of citizens, such as electric scooters and environmentally friendly forms of transport.
11. The Ministry responsible for transport and infrastructure in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government Administration, should set a deadline for all municipalities to have organized municipal transport with the possibility of inter-municipal cooperation.
12. The government should create a mechanism to encourage the reduction of plastic in such a way that consumers are offered a symbolic payment for the plastic they return or do not receive.
13. The government should make additional efforts to increase public consultation to reach a social consensus on environmental policies

Day 3: Prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for all

1. Inter-institutional cooperation remains the most important challenge in the cycle of food security. The government is recommended to increase cooperation with universities, increase investments in research and development and allocation of funds for innovation.
2. The Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, should put agroecology as a concept in the curriculum and higher education programs in order to promote agriculture with ecological principles.
3. The government should promote women's participation in land ownership and gender aspects should be considered during the drafting of agricultural and food policies.
4. The government should create a unified and comprehensive system for urban waste management. This system will also enable an increase in the efficiency of production processes and will also empower the food safety.
5. The government is recommended to draw up a strategy to reduce land fragmentation for better planning, higher efficiency and control of pesticides and product quality.
6. The government is also recommended to increase support for CSOs working to promote the culture of recycling and reuse more responsible of resources.
7. The government should build a regional approach to building the tourism brand, taking advantage of the adoption of the new Law on Tourism.
8. The government is recommended to review the number of vocational schools and to dynamize the adaptation of training programs with the demands of the labor market.
9. The government should create an investment mechanism in the training of young people in IT and fields with high employability in the distance.
10. The Ministry of Environment is recommended to build a dialogue mechanism on biodiversity where central and local actors as well as different social groups can exchange experiences and engage in the protection of endangered species.
11. The government should work together with the Assembly in harmonizing and clarifying the powers, as it was the conclusion of the discussion that the distribution of powers is one of the main weaknesses of the system.
12. The Kosovo Government should work on the categorization of forest areas and different zones based on a scientific criterion. This is recommended to be accompanied by a detailed spatial plan that determines where tourism areas should be developed so that environmental damage is reduced and eliminated while promoting sustainable local economic development.





SIDE EVENTS

Besides facilitating the inter-institutional and sectorial dialogue for Green Agenda in WB6, KSDW also aims to encourage public action and civic engagement that will contribute to a cleaner and greener environment in Kosovo. Therefore, KSDW welcomed a wide range of organizations, both international and domestic, to host side events.

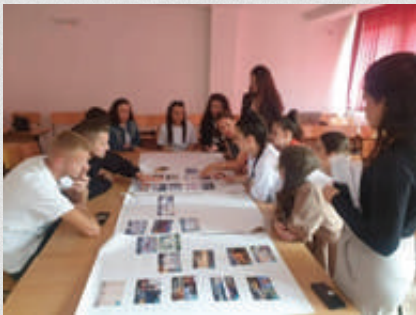
KSDW side events have also focused in promoting and enhancing the regional cooperation on the implementation of the Green Agenda for the WB by the institutions, the private sector and the civil society organizations.

Through these activities, KSDW aimed to further increase the general awareness for sustainable development, the current problems, and individual actions that can contribute towards greater environmental sustainability.

Following the conference, plenty of activities were organized throughout June. The activities ranged from workshops to panel discussions, activities for children to a movie screening. The side events are presented below in a chronological order of their organizing dates.

Climate Change Awareness: Climate Fresk Workshops and Beekeeping Camp

In the framework of the KSDW, 3 Climate Fresk² Workshops have been held under the initiative of the Embassy of France in Kosovo. The Climate Fresk is a scientific, collaborative and creative workshop (based on IPCC data) of 3 hours which is divided into 2 sessions. The first session is dedicated to the Fresk's building in which participants use a set of 42 cards in order to build the Fresk. The group uses the collective intelligence to link the cause and consequence of climate change. The second session is related to the designing of the "roadmap" in which the facilitators organize a brainstorming part over the public policy of the specific municipalities to strike climate issues. Indeed, addressing climate issues together allow us to build collective solutions which meet the challenges



The first workshop took place at Prizren University "Ukshin Hoti" on the 23th of May. The main facilitators of the workshop from the Climate Awareness Association (CAA), Ben Dida and Marie Grovel, encouraged the interaction of the students in this simulation game. The CAA facilitator accompanied participants in their own capacity building, and had provided additional data to supplement the debate. The second workshop was held on 25th of May at Universum College in Pristina which gathered around 27 students of varying fields of study. Lastly, a third workshop took place in Gracanica on the 3rd & 4th of June in the framework of the "Climate Awareness and beekeeping Camp", hosted by CAA and Youth Association-Young-Active Gracanica, which hosted 20 participants from both Albanian and Serbian communities in Kosovo.

The three workshops with 60 participants in total were rich in terms of discussions. Participants with different backgrounds used their collective knowledge to build the Fresk. Then, they shared a common view on climate change and which action can be undertaken both at individual level and at collective level.

² Climate Fresk is a widely used tool which identifies climate urgencies and encourages the participants to address the climate challenges

Expanding green areas: Promoting education on green sustainability with EU Ambassadors and children

As a capital city where the majority of economic activities are concentrated, Pristina remains amongst the most polluted cities in Kosovo. Considering the high need of investing in green public actions that promote environmental protection, the European Union (EU) Office in Kosovo, in partnership with Municipality of Pristina, planted 100 trees



The main purpose of this activity was to educate the young generations on green sustainability and the protection of environment. In order to make the action even more powerful, the EU Special Representative in Kosovo and Mayor of Pristina planted trees with children.

World Environment Day

Each year, KSDW organizes various activities to mark the World Environment Day on 5th of June. This year the day was filled with activities, such as public action to replace plastic bags with reusable bags, debates on the promotion of nature protection and protected areas with youngsters, and a bike-in cinema.

The day started in the main square of Pristina where plenty of children had the chance to paint elements that portray the environment on canvases. This activity gathered more than 40 children whom through painting were educated on the importance and benefits that the environment provides to people. This activity was designed by the Municipality of Pristina and Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure jointly with the working group established under this Ministry especially for this day.

Alongside this, action was taken to raise awareness towards the negative effects of plastic on the environment and its dominance in grocery shopping. The KSDW team encouraged citizens with plastic shopping bags to swap them for reusable tote bags. These actions coincided with the announcement that from January 2023, a tax on plastic bags will be introduced throughout Kosovo.



Besides having activities dedicated to toddlers, an outdoor debate was held for teenagers. This debate was organized by WWF Adria in Kosovo and welcomed 27 youngsters (aged 14-15 years old) in a live debate under the main topic of “Promoting protection of nature and protected areas”. The main goal of the event was to explore and challenge their thoughts about the environment. A special emphasis was given to the damages caused by people and their consequences. In addition, as the younger generation, they were encouraged to propose ideas and solutions that are needed for protection. The debate was led by a biology teacher and was accompanied by activists from WWF Adria Kosovo and other civil society activists. To further empower teenagers with knowledge, during this debate a video was shown which contrasted the beautiful parts of Kosovo’s nature and the environmental damage that has built up over time. The video was shared also to the wider public through social media networks and can be found under ksdw.rks-gov.net and @KSDWeek on Facebook.

As the daytime activities were wrapped up, in the evening, a bike-in cinema was held at the City Park of Prishtina, an activity organized by the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Municipality of Prishtina, Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), Dokufest, Marakli t’Biciklave and sponsors, Korporata Rugove and Comodita. The purpose of this activity was to increase the knowledge of the citizens on urban sprawl and its effects in the public health. The documentary “The Human Scale” presented perfectly the negative consequences of expansion of cities and identified concrete solutions on how to mitigate them and establish an environment which promotes healthy lifestyle and well-being for the citizens. The event gathered more than 60 participants who enjoyed the movie in outdoor green spaces of the City Park



Panel Discussion: Carbon tax – Challenges and opportunities in Kosovo’s policy framework

Decarbonization is among the most important pillars of the Green Agenda for the WB6 and a strong mechanism to establish faster a carbon-free environment is through the implementation of carbon tax. As part of KSDW, Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) organized a panel discussion on carbon tax with the main purpose of addressing the challenges and opportunities that this tax provides to Kosovo. The adoption and implementation of a carbon tax in the policy framework of Kosovo encounters many objections and approvals at the same time. This panel discussion served to the advantage of the stakeholder’s dialogue through introducing this concept in the public discourse and seeking ways on how best Kosovo can integrate carbon tax into its policy framework.



The roundtable gathered more than 25 participants from a vast spectrum of sectors, starting from representatives of the working group for the Kosovo’s Decarbonization Strategy under the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Department of Energy in the Ministry of Economy, Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund, Association of Women in the Energy Sector of Kosovo, environmental and energy experts and representatives from CSOs.

The main recommendations following this discussion involve the responsibilities that the Government has to prepare regarding the legislation and regulations of carbon tax such as creating an Eco Fund, and establishing mechanisms to mitigate the negative effects in order to properly introduce the carbon tax. During the discussion, the new Energy Strategy was mentioned quite frequently, and participants pointed out that the carbon tax mentioned in the Strategy should be imposed in all the energy sectors, including transport, and this should be followed by investments in green energy and sustainable transport.

Panel Discussion: Green Deal Going Local

The role of municipalities in the implementation and advancement of the Green Agenda is of high significance and importance. This discussion's purpose was to identify the challenges and opportunities that arise during the implementation of this agreement at the local level.



The discussion identified the challenges as listed below:

1. The complexity of municipalities - Each one has different specifications and therefore a common plan cannot be implemented uniformly,
2. High unemployment in municipalities - especially in municipalities with a small number of residents,
3. Internal labor force migration (from smaller cities to larger cities that greater employment opportunities),
4. Establishing a sustainable waste management system,
5. Bureaucracy represents delays in the launch of many co-financing projects,
6. Staff retraining.

The discussion identified these as opportunities:

1. The implementation of projects that create new jobs,
2. Digitization of data across municipalities,
3. Providing services in one place (one stop shop),
4. Creation of centers for green development within municipalities,
5. Citizens' awareness of these projects,
6. Cleaner environment for everyone,
7. Sustainable municipalities.

Workshop: Green Skills

The 'Green Skills' event brought together representatives from public institutions and the private sector, with some value-added perspectives from international experts from Germany and GIZ Moldova. The event's objective was to raise awareness for the importance for adapting green skills into vocational education and training. These skills are needed in the labor market and will allow companies adapting business and production models to adopt to new technologies for more energy efficiency, resource-saving business, and help move towards a circular economy.

The first panel composed of the representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Kosovo Employment Agency and EBRD, was focused on the economic dimensions of the Green Agenda and skills development. While the discussion of the second panel composed of the representatives of the private sector was mainly focused on the green skills needs in the labor market, it also shared experiences and good examples from different business sectors.



During the discussion the importance of Green Agenda and the role of the Ministries were emphasized as they claimed to have been taking into consideration all possibilities for the integration of green skills in the vocational education and training (VET) system. In this regard there are documents from EU that give clear guidance about the transition towards green skills, and the ministry is committed to following the requirements arising from these documents which are necessary for educational reform in VET system.

“Urban Gardening, Recycling & Composting” in kindergartens

Together with children of the "Lulevera" public kindergarten, quality time was spent developing new skills, such as planting seedlings, composting food scraps, and re-using old materials to create something new. An exhibition with recycled materials was presented to guests where the main materials were plastic and paper. The goal of this activity was to motivate children into becoming eco-conscious, self-sufficient world citizens who understand the immediacy of environmental responsibility later on in life. Sustainability education will provide today's children with the self-sufficiency they need for tomorrow. It will offer them a deeply engraved understanding of why the environment is important. This activity was organized by GIZ Kosovo. See below photographs from this event.



Panel Discussion: Green Public Procurement

Within this KSDW, Kosovo CSR Network launched the discussion on Green Public Procurement, together with representatives from public authorities, GIZ, private sector and civil society.

The panel emphasized the need for public authorities to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle. In addition to legal changes, support is needed to increase capacities and awareness of contracting authorities. This will also incentivize the private sector to embrace sustainable business practices. The Law on Public Procurement is under the amendment procedures and panelists agreed that incorporating green standards into public procurement procedures is crucial to ensure sustainable and effective management of public funds. The necessity to have a concise legal framework that endorses internationally recognized standards would be a step forward. In addition to incorporating green standards, innovation and digitalization are expected to have a key focus with the new legal changes.

The capacity building of contracting authorities to implement green public procurement, as well as collaboration among key stakeholders, are very important to facilitate this change and ensure sustainable public procurement procedures that consider economic, social and environmental aspects.



This panel discussion was organized as part of the project “Fostering Sustainability through Circular Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility”, financed by the EU and German Government through GIZ.

Panel Discussion: Energy Poverty in Kosovo: Addressing the needs of those affected

The purpose of this event organized during the KSDW was to address multiple dimensions of energy poverty in Kosovo. Approximately 40% of households in Kosovo suffer from energy poverty. Although defined as a condition where citizens cannot adequately heat during the winter season at an affordable cost, energy poverty does not include cooling in the summer season, pollution impact from the energy sources, etc. The event organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Office in Kosovo contributed to the public debate with specific proposals to public policymakers for addressing the challenges arising from energy poverty.



The main conclusion deriving from the discussion is the need for a holistic and structural approach (facilitation of procedures) for measures that can help consumers in need. The definition of energy poverty has evolved and is not always related to income but also to the ability of consumers to make payments (for example people in retirement)

- Three main characteristics identify consumers who suffer from energy poverty:
 - o Low incomes
 - o The need for energy consumption
 - o Low energy efficiency in the house/residence
- Refocus information and debate concerning the protection of families in need, as opposed to the current discussion raised on the political spectrum
- The new Draft Energy Strategy 2022-2031 foresees the objective and the protection of consumers in need: the review of the current support scheme and those for vulnerable consumers within the existing subsidy scheme until 2024
- Women are affected by energy poverty in two ways: as consumers and as a marginalized group in employment. Women take care of the family/budget aspect (heating, food preparation, care for children and the elderly), meanwhile they are significantly less engaged in the labor market
- Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers has established a Working Group which addresses and identifies legal problems, specifically in the identifying categories of vulnerable consumers.



Key recommendations

- The multi-dimensional inclusion of the energy poverty against the confrontation with environmental problems and the energy transition creates opportunities for the long-term solution of the problem: incentives in the private sector, sustainable housing, construction standards and criteria, simplification of obtaining permits for the installation of RES fiscal incentives (import or domestic production)
- Reforms in the existing social schemes are necessary as some families in need are omitted from the support programs due to imprecisely defined criteria. Definition of vulnerable groups in Kosovo should include minorities, people with special needs, etc.
- Development of a systematic approach for energy market liberalization of the in such a way that the consumers themselves make solutions for the operator in the energy market
- Employment opportunities for women must increase so that they are oriented towards new branches such as the green economy. Women can contribute to the transformation by being an essential part of the labor market, especially in fields where men have dominated in the past (STEM)
- The poverty test should apply as a threshold line for determining consumers and households in need, but also other supporting interventions within the program should be provided, such as energy efficiency measures in households
- Develop proper indicators for income threshold who would identify women as heads of households, but also indicators for informal economy and remittance recipients
- Municipalities should further enrich subsidizing programs, from wood to other forms of heating for those who use alternative heating sources, especially outside rural regions.
- Encourage saving and energy efficiency measures across country and reward those who save yearly. These measures decrease the pressure on the energy grid during peak consumption period, but also impact reducing the overall financial costs of using electricity.

Panel Discussion: The role of chambers of commerce, industry and trade associations in accelerating the shift towards circular economy

Kosovo Chamber of Commerce organized a regional roundtable on the role of chambers to support the green agenda and transition towards a circular economy. The roundtable brought together representatives of the Western Balkans Chambers of Commerce, Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Albanian Association of Producers, as well as representatives of private companies, donor community and public institutions. During the discussion, best practices and initiatives implemented by chambers to support businesses in embracing circular economy business models were presented to the group. The panelists emphasized the role of chambers to support this transition by increasing the awareness and capacities of companies, supporting the development of the recycling sector and sustainable waste management. Panelists acknowledged the potential for cross-border cooperation among chambers to facilitate the implementation of the Green Agenda and transition towards circular economy. Role of consumers and their purchasing power to push the private sector in designing and producing sustainable and green products and services was considered to be very important. Additionally, the Government should play a key role to develop policies and laws that facilitate green transition and support businesses in transforming their models.



This panel discussion was organized as part of the project "Inclusion of the circular economy in the private sector of Kosovo", financed by the EU and the German Government through GIZ.

Insights from Sustainable Transport for Western Balkans: Express way towards e-mobility

Headed by Kosovo's Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Mr. Liburn Aliu, this activity aimed to unify the present and past through a train ride on the old tracks from Fushë Kosovë to Prishtina, serving as a metaphor for connecting Kosovo's vibrant and fast changing capital Prishtina with the Western Balkan cities.

The train-ride was followed by an outdoor get-together, as part of KSDW, at Prishtina's train station. The discussion included a presentation from the representatives of Transport Community Permanent Secretariat regarding the "Railway Challenges in the Western Balkans and the Way Forward" followed by speeches from Minister Aliu and European Union Special Representative Mr. Tomáš Szunyog. Below, see some pictures from this event.



Role of the private sector in the just energy transition: Diversification of the energy mix and gender diversity in the energy sector

The energy sector in Kosovo continues to be affected by gender imbalance within its leading structures. One of the most evident causes of this may be society's negative mentality regarding women in STEM. As Kosovo begins its transition phase in the energy sector, it is important that women bring a new perspective and set of skills to the sector which contributes to this transition, not only for advancing with gender equality but also to enable the overall just transition.

In order to encourage higher participation of women and girls in the energy sector many initiatives in Kosovo have been undertaken, such as the KEDS Academy and the Kosovo Women in Energy and Mining organization. As part of KSDW, the American Chamber of Commerce organized a discussion targeting exactly this issue, with speakers from the two committees of the American Chamber of Commerce, namely the Committee on Energy and Mining and the Committee of Women in Energy and Mining.



The panel discussion gathered representatives from institutions directly working in this field: Kosovo Energy Distribution System (KEDS), Women in Energy and Mining, EKO SOC, SOWI Kosovo, Transmission, System and Market Operator (KOSTT) and AmCham. The main findings were that in order to increase the participation level of women and girls in the energy sector, capacity building programs that involve gender balance perspective should be developed, especially in the technical aspects, amplifying the experiences and achievements of women in the energy sector. The event was wrapped up by fruitful discussion between speakers and the audience.

Panel Discussion: Challenges and opportunities for the energy transition in the residential/private sector

For Kosovo to meet its EU goals through the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans towards energy transition, its new energy strategy should focus on concrete measures for the integration of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Kosovo will continue to invest in energy efficiency. However, a holistic approach is required to address challenges related to legal norms, social barriers, and financial mechanisms. Kosovo should adopt incentives for energy efficiency in the commercial (private) and residential (households) sectors.



Several barriers hinder the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in the residential and commercial sector. Most of the barriers can be removed if adequate financial instruments are created and supported by changes in legislation and that self-sustainable financial mechanisms could be implemented through the introduction of adequate financial models. For the successful implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders should be defined.

Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund (KEEF) has an important role as one of the key financial mechanisms. KEEF is enabled to operate in various sectors and is not constrained by major legal restrictions but more to its organizational and operational activities. The potential mitigation measures should address the identified limitations to KEEF activities.

The assessment of best ways to combine the different financial mechanisms which includes grants is suggested. The package of soft loans with non-refundable grants is one of the proposed combinations. KEEF is recommended to prioritize the use of preferential loans together with financial mechanisms as grants for the energy efficiency and renewable measures in buildings.

Here, the local financial institutions could play an important role. There are different ways to combine non-refundable grants with financial institutions. The private sector plays a crucial role in implementing the energy efficiency and renewable energy programs thus reaching the national targets. Its feedback must be included in policymaking processes and financing schemes in line with better sector coordination.

Development of the Circular Economy Roadmap for Kosovo – Workshop with the Private Sector

The UNDP, in collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, organized the workshop with the private sector on the development of the Circular Economy Roadmap for Kosovo. The aim of the workshop was to open a dialogue with various private sector companies and hear their opinions on the opportunities for circular economy in Kosovo.



The workshop was divided into two parts, with the first focusing on informing the participants on the Circular Economy Road map drafting process. This was followed by a group discussion which revolved around the circularity potential and on the key challenges and opportunities for transitioning to a circular economy. During this discussion, participants had the chance to explore circular economy business opportunities and to look into potential collaborations.

Regional meetings on Green Agenda, with MPs from WB countries, NGOs, and private sector representatives

As part of this year's KSDW, Prishtina Institute for Political Studies (PIPS), through the support of the European Union Special Representative Office in Kosovo, organized a one-day conference on regional cooperation for the Green Agenda of WB. The main purpose of this regional conference was to initiate the public dialogue and identify effective ways of advocating for green economic growth and future for all. In order to do this, regional MPs, representatives of business community and civil society from the countries of the region (namely Montenegro, North Macedonia and Albania) all gathered together. As the advancement of the Green Agenda requires multi-stakeholder involvement and commitment, the conference discussed the importance of parliament and civil society in implementing the agenda; the challenges to a successful energy transition; and the future of businesses preparing for a green transition.



Delivery of Waste Collection trucks to the awarded municipalities

37 waste collection trucks were delivered to selected municipalities for their successful performance as part of the Clean Environment Race and Municipal Performance Grant – Clean Environment financial schemes, co-financed by the Government of Kosovo, European Union and Germany, with a total value of 10.4 million Euros. The municipalities improved their solid waste management services by enhancing service delivery, increasing financial sustainability and eliminating around 1,000 illegal dumps over 3 years. The newly delivered waste trucks will be at the municipalities' disposal to further improve the quality of the service provision to the citizens, leading towards the main objective of integrated waste management, in accordance to the Green Agenda. Below, find some pictures from the ceremonial handover of the trucks.



Media presence

Advocacy through different channels of media remains a pivotal component within the KSDW's work. During these appearances, not only does the program of the edition get shared to the public, but also critical issues that touch upon sustainability are discussed. This year, KSDW team managed to be present in various national and local TV channels and radio stations. Below are just some of the media appearances that KSDW team made in this edition.



RTK Morning Show



ATV Alarm



On Air Radio Kosova

Besides the traditional media presence, of high importance is also the online media presence which helps to spread the word for the program and causes to a larger scale to the public.

Also of high importance is a large online media presence, which helps promote the program to a large portion of the public. In this edition, special attention has been given on content creation over on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. This year, KSDW managed to reach an engagement level of 147,612 users through Facebook. This number outweighed the engagement from the previous editions and social media networks will remain to be a place where the KSDW partners advocate for sustainability issues in the WB.

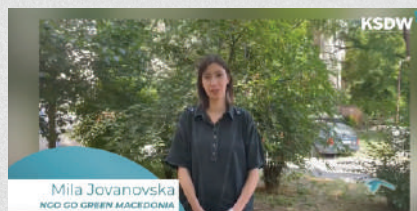
Regional Outreach

KSDW also focuses on promoting the event regionally by engaging institutions and civil society to participate in KSDW activities be that online or in person. This year as in previous years, a public relation campaign was launched across the WB region. The campaign was composed of 2 components: (1) adaptation of the social media content to the WB countries and (2) promotion of activism.

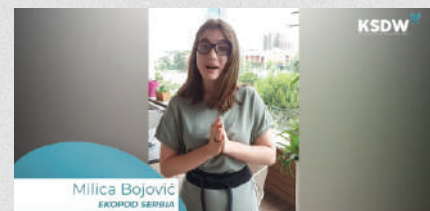
The intense 5-weeks campaign successfully promoted the stories and initiatives of 7 regional social media influencers that are quite vocal regarding environmental sustainability issues in their respective countries. The influencers were from North Macedonia (2), Montenegro (2), Serbia (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1) and Albania (1). Their stories can be found over at Facebook page @KSDWeek.



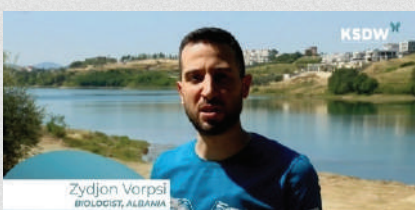
Gorjan Jovanoski
CEO MIRCARE MACEDONIA



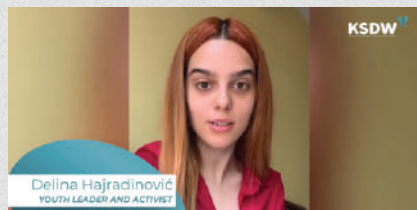
Mila Jovanovska
NGO GO GREEN MACEDONIA



Milica Bojovic
EKOPROD SERBIA



Zydjon Vorpsi
BIOLOGIST, ALBANIA



Delina Hajradinovic
YOUTH LEADER AND ACTIVIST



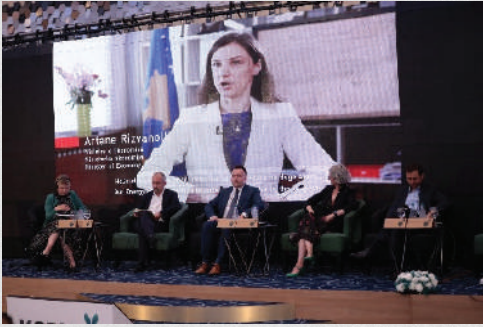
Anida Sokol
MEDIA RESEARCHER



Biljana Gilgoric
PROGRAM DIRECTOR NGO EKSPEDICIO

Annex A: Gallery





Annex B: Full Program of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW) 2022

31 MAY

Green Connectivity for Western Balkans

Venue: Strauss Hall, Hotel Emerald, Pristina (Kosovo)

Time: 08:30 – 15:45

08:30 – 09:00

Registration of the participants & Welcoming coffee

09:00 – 09:10

Opening session & Introduction to the conference day

Moderated by Dora Musa, Coordinator of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW) 2022

09:10 – 09:20

Keynote speech by:

Viola von Cramon, European Parliament Rapporteur for Kosovo

09:20 – 09:30

Keynote speech by:

Besnik Bislimi, Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Kosovo

09:30 – 11:00

Panel discussion

“The Clean Energy Package: Legislative and implementation opportunities for Kosovo”

Speakers:

Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director at Energy Community Secretariat

Mentor Arifaj, Deputy Minister of Economy

Ymer Fejzullahu, Board Director of Energy Regulatory Office (TBC)

Eliza Hoxha, Member of the Parliament at Assembly of Republic of Kosovo

Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General of Regional Cooperation Council (TBC)

Moderated by Dardan Abazi, Director of Sustainable Development Programme at INDEP

11:15 – 12:45

Panel discussion

“Decarbonization Path of WB6: From Sofia Declaration to National Strategic Documents”

Speakers:

Sabit Gashi, Co-chair of National Energy and Climate Plan at Ministry of Economy

Trim Tërnavaj, Expert of Renewable Energy Sources

Rinora Gojani, Operations and Projects Manager at Balkan Green Foundation (BGF)

Andreas Pointvogel, Managing Partner at OMNIA

Avni Sfishta, Team Leader of Energy Project at GIZ Kosova

Moderated by Anja Rosenberg, Technical Advisor at Energy Community Secretariat

14:00 – 15:30

Panel discussion

“Renewable technologies & Energy efficient buildings for just energy transition”

Speakers:

Servet Spahiu, Director of Department of Spatial Planning, Construction and Housing at Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

Rhedon Begolli, Energy specialist at World Bank

Sarah Olmstead, MCC Country Director of Kosovo

Bekim Muaremi, Principal Banker at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Besiana Qorraj Berisha, Department of Renewables, Ministry of Economy

Stefan Pallantzas, Building Certifier at Hellenic Passive House Institute

Moderated by Dr. Annette Fath-Lihic, Chief Political Adviser/Executive Coordinator at

15:30 – 15:45

Wrap up of the first conference day

Climate and Environment

Venue: Strauss Hall, Hotel Emerald, Pristina (Kosovo)

Time: 08:30 – 15:45

09:15 – 09:30

Opening session & Introduction to the conference day

Moderated by Rreze Abdylj, Junior Advisor at GIZ Kosovo

09:30 – 11:00

Panel discussion

“Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Integrated Waste Management at Municipal Level”

Speakers:

Lendita Sopa, Deputy Director of Division for Waste and Chemicals, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

Teodora Andreeva, Programme Manager, European Union Office in Kosovo (EUOK)

Zoran Janković, Mayor of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Gazmend Muhaxheri, Mayor of Peja (Kosovo)

Dragiša Milović, Mayor of Zvečan (Kosovo)

Merlina Beu Mucaj, Executive Director at PAMKOS

Moderated by Egzona Shala, Environmental Activist

1
JUNE

11:15 – 12:45

Panel discussion

“Role of cities in implementing the Green Agenda”

Speakers:

Venera Çerkini, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Local Government Administration

Përparim Rama, Mayor of Prishtina

Alban Hyseni, Mayor of Gjilan

Ardian Gjini, Mayor of Gjakova

Adrijana Hodzic, Deputy Mayor of North Mitrovica

Ferat Idrizi, Mayor of Vushtrri

Moderated by Flaka Xërxa, Teaching Assistant in Department of Architecture at University of Prishtina

14:00 – 15:30

Panel discussion

“Ending Plastic Pollution: Is Kosovo doing enough?”

Speakers:

Linda Çavdarbasha, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

Valerie Tucker, Economic and Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy in Kosovo

Maria Suokko, UNDP Kosovo Resident Representative

Frosina Islami, Public Regulatory Manager at Coca Cola

Albion Ujkashi, Project Manager at Kosovo Retail Network

Moderated by Atdhetare Kelmendi, Advisor at GIZ Kosovo

15:30 – 15:45

Wrap up of the second conference day

Prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for all

Venue: Strauss Hall, Hotel Emerald, Pristina (Kosovo)

Time: 08:30 – 15:45

09:15 – 09:30

Opening session & Introduction to the conference day

Moderated by Fatbardha Restelica, Project Coordinator at Institute for Development Policy (INDEP)

09:30 – 11:00

Panel discussion

“How has the pandemic and war in Ukraine impacted the food security in Western Balkans (WB6)?”

Speakers:

Isuf Cikaqi, Director of Department for Agricultural Policies and Markets at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

Xhevdet Gegollaj, Team Leader at Fondacioni Jeshil

Lamir Thaçi, Spokesperson at Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA)

Lavdiqe Sopa, Member of Network of Organizations for Rural Development for Kosovo

Moderated by Flutur Mustafa, Political Advisor at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

11:15 – 12:45

Panel discussion

“Balanced Regional Development in Kosovo”

Speakers:

Leonora Kusari, Advisor at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Bali Muharremi, Mayor of Suhareka

Sokol Luta, Senior Project Manager at Regional Development Agency (RDA-WEST)

Besim Kamberaj, Deputy General Secretary at Ministry of Regional Development

Moderated by Arta Maloku, Head of Public Communication Division at Ministry of Regional Development

14:00 – 15:30

Panel discussion

“Nature & Biodiversity: From sustainable forest management to species protection and tourism development”

Speakers:

Bekim Hoxha, Deputy Chief of the Kosovo Forestry Agency

Naser Krasniqi, Team Leader at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Bajram Kafexholli, Head of the Directorate for National Park of Sharr at Kosovo

Environmental Protection Agency

Fatos Lajqi, Executive Director of ERA Group

Lumturije Geci, Deputy Director of Tourism Department at Ministry of Industry,

Entrepreneurship and Trade

Krenare Salihu, Project Officer at World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) Adria, Kosovo

Moderated by Avni Hajdari, Professor in Department of Biology at University of Pristina

15:30 – 15:45

Wrap up of the third conference day

<p>23 May 2022 10:00 – 13:00 “Ukshin Hoti” University (Prizren)</p>	<p>Pre-event: Climate fresk workshop</p>	<p>Implementing partner: Embassy of France in Kosovo, Climate Awareness Association & Prizren University</p>
<p>25 May 2022 10:00 – 13:00 Universum College (Pristina)</p>	<p>Pre-event: Climate fresk workshop</p>	<p>Implementing partner: Embassy of France in Kosovo, Climate Awareness Association & Universum College</p>
<p>29 May 2022 14:00 Prizren</p>	<p>Pre-event: River tubing at Bunarfest</p>	<p>Implementing partner: EUSR in partnership with Bunarfest</p>
<p>30 May 2022 Prizren</p>	<p>Pre-launch field activity: Illegal dumpsite clean-up</p>	<p>Implementing partner: MESPI</p>
<p>03 June 2022 13:00 Arbëria Stairs (Pristina)</p>	<p>Expanding green areas: Promoting education on green sustainability with EU Ambassadors and children</p>	<p>Implementing partner: EUSR</p>
<p>03 & 04 June 2022 14:00 – 17:00 Bee Park (Gračanica, Preoce)</p>	<p>Climate change awareness and beekeeping camp</p>	<p>Implementing partner: Embassy of France in Kosovo, Youth Association-Young Active Gračanica & Climate Awareness Association</p>
<p>05 June 2022 11:00 – 13:00 Zahir Pajaziti Square (Pristina)</p>	<p>World Environment Day: Replacement of plastic with reusable bags</p>	<p>Implementing partner: MESPI</p>
<p>05 June 2022 13:00 – 15:00 Zahir Pajaziti Square (Pristina)</p>	<p>Outdoor youth debate: Promoting protection of nature and protected areas</p>	<p>Implementing partner: WWF Adria</p>
<p>05 June 2022 19:00 – 21:00 City Park (Pristina)</p>	<p>Bike-in Cinema</p>	<p>Implementing partner: INDEP & Municipality of Pristina & Dokufest & Marakli t’Biciklave</p>
<p>06 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00 Hotel Sirius (Pristina)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Carbon tax – Challenges and opportunities in Kosovo’s policy framework</p>	<p>Implementing partner: INDEP</p>
<p>06 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00 Hotel Emerald (Pristina)</p>	<p>Delivery of Waste Collection trucks to the awarded municipalities</p>	<p>Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo</p>

06 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00 Hotel Emerald (Pristina)	Panel discussion with Association of Kosovo Municipalities	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
06 June 2022 14:00 – 16:00 Pristina	Workshop: Green Skills	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
07 June 2022 09:30 – 11:00 IP Lulevera (Pristina)	“Urban Gardening, Recycling & Composting” in kindergartens	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
07 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00	Panel Discussion: Green Public Procurement	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
08 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00	Panel Discussion: Energy Poverty in Kosovo: addressing the needs of those affected	Implementing partner: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Kosovo Office (FES)
09 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00	Panel Discussion: The role of chambers of commerce, industry and trade associations in accelerating the shift towards circular economy	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
10 June 2022 10:00 – 14:00 Pristina to Peja	Insights from train ride from Prishtina to Peja with Minister Aliu and Minister Balluku to discuss further planning of the railway connections	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
10 June 2022	Regional meetings on Green Agenda, with MPs from WB countries, NGOs, and private sector representatives	Implementing partner: EUSR
10 June 2022 10:00 – 12:00 Hotel Emerald (Pristina)	Panel Discussion: Challenges and opportunities for the energy transition in the residential/private sector	Implementing partner: GIZ Kosovo
10 June 2022 13:30 – 16:30	Closed Workshop with the Private Sector: Development of Circular Economy Roadmap:	Implementing partner: UNDP

Special thank you to our additional partners:



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