

THE BALKAN FORUM



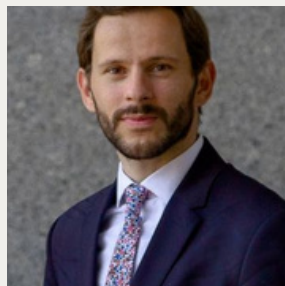
*A new vision for the
Balkan region*

Western Balkans Give A Message of Circular Economy

The successful transition from a linear economic model to a circular economy with zero waste is the ultimate goal that all Western Balkans should strive for. This message was reinforced in May 2023 by the now traditional event Circular Economy Week.

This year's theme was "Partnership4Circularity". The week's proceedings kicked off with the conference organized in Kosovo, followed by another conference in North Macedonia with the theme "Visions for a green future: Partnership for Circularity", accompanied by a publication of the same title. Recycling workshops took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, involving students from ethnically segregated schools to learn about reusing textiles and preserving nature through recycling. A dynamic circular economy training session in Albania enabled participants to delve into the principles of circularity and explore innovative business ideas across various sectors.

Yours,
Samir Beharić
Research Officer
The Balkan Forum



The Balkan Forum's and LogEx work in the Western Balkan region, including the Western Balkans Circular Economy Week are financially supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

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The Circular Economy Week officially kicked off with the conference held on 22 May 2023 in Prishtina, organized by UNI-Universum International College, attended by civil society, academia, and industry representatives exploring potential avenues for a successful transition from a linear economic model to a circular economy model with zero waste in the Western Balkans. Mr. Jonas Westerlund, HE Ambassador of Sweden to the Republic of Kosovo and Mr. Avni Zogiani, Deputy Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure of the Republic of Kosovo were keynote speakers.

In North Macedonia, Green CIVIL, an organizational unit of CIVIL – Center for Freedom, conducted a series of activities, including the conference “Visions for a green future: Partnership for Circularity” and launching a publication with the same title, along with intensive media production. Senior representatives from the government of North Macedonia, as well as business sector, media and civil society from the region, spoke at the conference, emphasizing the importance and benefits of circular economy transition.

Build Green Group, in Albania, organized a training on circular economy principles to explore innovative business ideas across different sectors. It included a visit to Bonum, an exemplary agricultural farm embracing circular practices. Build Green Group presented the Small Solution Repository leaflet for Businesses with a comprehensive range of practical and innovative solutions to assist companies in adopting sustainable practices and drive the circular economy forward.

LogEx Members

The Balkan Forum (WB), Build Green Group (Albania), CENER 21, COD Jajce (Bosnia and Herzegovina), CIVIL / Green CIVIL (North Macedonia), Universum International College (Kosovo), YIHR (Serbia), ADP-Zid (Montenegro), Dr. Ivana Lozanovska (North Macedonia and Germany), and Professor Sanda Midžić Kurtagić, (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

LogEx partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, COD Jajce and CENER 21 implemented a series of activities involving young people. In Jajce, COD used recycling workshops to bring together students from ethnically segregated schools. The students learned about the importance of reusing textile and preserving the nature by recycling raw materials. Within the Circular Economy Week Activities, COD Jajce partnered with the public waste management company and introduced first-ever waste separation containers in Jajce, encouraging citizens to adopt new habits and separate waste in the most frequent spots in this tourist gem of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CENER 21 organized a two-day interactive workshop on green entrepreneurship for young environmental activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main goal of the workshop was directed at capacity building of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina in circular economy entrepreneurship through education on business development and promotion of circular economy-based businesses. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to showcase their innovation during the best green business plan competition.

New Partner

This year, LogEx teamed up with the Heinrich Boell Foundation, which recognized the value of building regional partnerships promoting circular economy and supported the Circular Economy Week activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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