

Issue #1 NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



LogEx Inauguration meeting in Budva, Montenegro 15 December 2021

LogEx Inauguration

In December 2021, we convened in Budva, Montenegro with our partners from the Western Balkans to inaugurate the **LogEx Community**. As a diverse community, LogEx work to build human capital, strengthen a circular economy, reduce unemployment and out-migration in the region.

LogEx members include:

- **ADP-Zid**, Montenegro
- **Build Green Group**, Albania
- **CENER 21**, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **CIVIL**, North Macedonia
- **COD Jajce**, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Dr. Ivana Lozanovska**, North Macedonia (in Germany)
- **Professor Sanda Midžić Kurtagić**, University of Sarajevo & Board President at CENER 21, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Universum College**, Kosovo
- **Youth Initiative for Human Rights**, Serbia
- **The Balkan Forum**

LogEx's Action Plan

Priorities:

- Joint research on circular economy, labor market and education;
- Capacity building for young entrepreneurs with an emphasis on laying the foundations of a circular economy;
- Education, awareness raising and advocacy;
- Building relationship & working with regions diaspora, public and private sector;
- Incubating innovative ideas for social entrepreneurship with a focus on waste management, environment protection and renewable technologies.

Western Balkans Circular Economy Week

Western Balkans Circular Economy Week, 23 - 27 May 2022, organised by LogEx Community members is the first regional initiative that brought together different actors throughout the Western Balkans focusing on Circular Economy and Sustainable Development.

Activities

Circular Economy Week activities implemented by the LogEx members in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia with comms support by the LogEx member in Serbia included: conferences & webinars, podcasts, roundtables & workshops, a festival, environmental action, recycling activities and articles.

Western Balkans Circular Economy Week will take place annually.

Planning for 2023 will commence in September 2022 and will aim to expand the portfolio by also ensuring contribution of a larger and more diverse group of actors from the Western Balkan region and wider Europe.

WESTERN BALKANS CIRCULAR ECONOMY

WEEK

23 - 27 MAY 2022

Circular Economy Week STATS



15 activities



500+

participants



>500k reach

“Circular Economy: a way forward”

The conference held at Universum College on 23 May 2022, brought together over 70 distinguished panelists and participants from the six Western Balkan countries and EU to discuss Circular Economy policies in the region; how to bridge the gap between theory and practice; and, how to implement a Circular Economy in practice.



Opening conference “Circular Economy: a way forward”, organised by Universum College, 23 May 2022

"Promoting awareness and importance of the green economy"

Organised in Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina by COD on 23 May 2022, with the LogEx members CENER 21 as a special guest, the round table brought together 20 participants, representing local institutions, private companies from the local community and civil society organizations.



Roundtable on 23 May 2022 organised by COD and moderated by CENER 21



Old shoe cabinet turned into a trash can by the pupils. The trash can placed in the school is being used by pupils who are separating plastic and paper.



Waste collection by pupils under the motto: "Protecting our nature and our natural resources".



Recycling by pupils who turned waste plastic bottles into new products to be used at home and in schools.



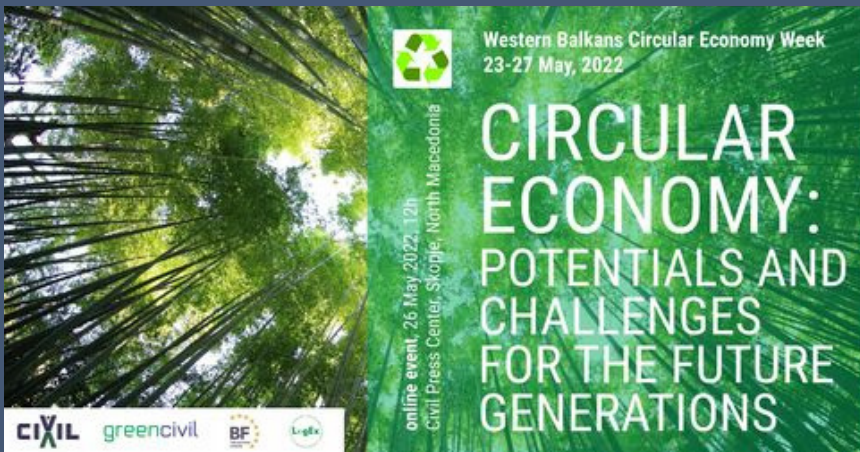
Message by pupils:
"Be cool, recycle in school". Jajce, 24 - 25 May 2022

Contribution of school children to Circular Economy

A two-day activity held on 24 and 25 May 2022 with the support by the administration of two local schools and a utility company brought together around 100 primary school pupils, and involved a creative and educational workshop as well as a waste collection, separation and recycling exercise. Pupils involved in these activities **made items out of waste plastic bottles** and placed the waste collected in a **trash can made of an old shoe cabinet** by one of the participants. An **Action Plan** has also been drafted to be used as a guidance on Circular Economy by the local community.

Activities with pupils of the primary schools "**Berta Kučera**" and "**13 rujan**" in Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina known as two schools under one roof attended by Bosniak and Croat children.

24 - 25 May 2022

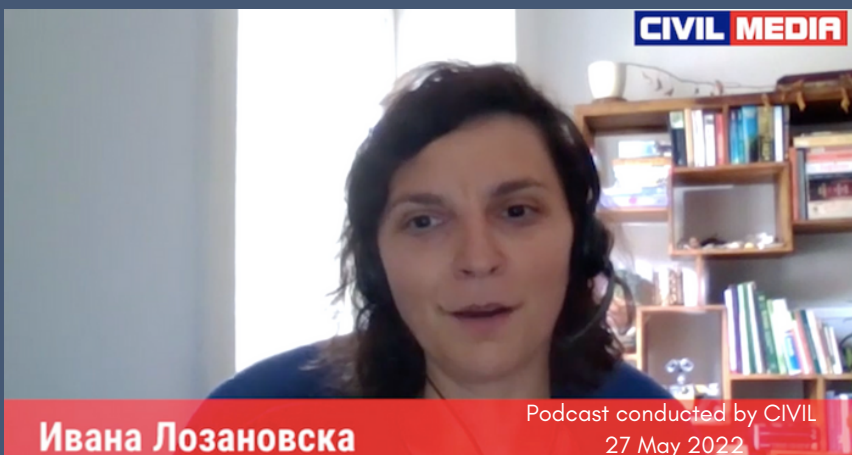


During the Circular Economy Week, LogEx member CIVIL from Skopje, North Macedonia organised an online event on 26 May 2022, and conducted a podcast on 27 May 2022, both of which were also broadcasted in CIVIL MEDIA.

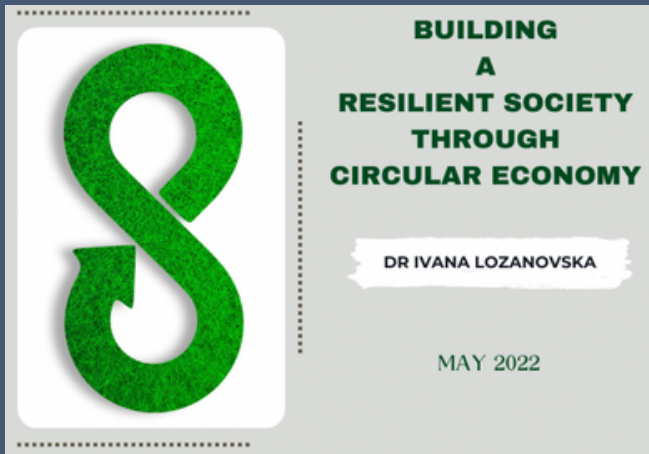
At the online event Dr. Ivana Lozanovska, Ms. Maja Morachanin, leader of the green party in North Macedonia, and Mr. Xabir Derala, president of CIVIL, shared their views on the relevance of Circular Economy to national and local economies and to underdeveloped countries, and the impacts of economic, political, military and other conditions, including of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.



Online event "Circular Economy: potentials and challenges for the future generations", organised by CIVIL on 26 May 2022

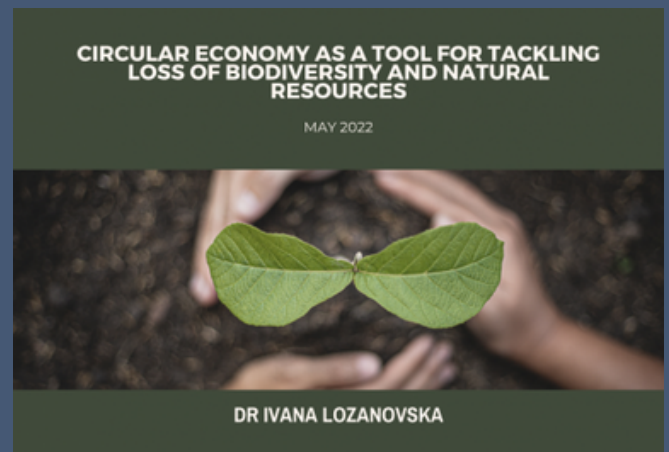


In this podcast, Dr. Ivana Lozanovska, member of LogEx, explained what a circular economy is, what nature means for us, and how Circular Economy can contribute to nature conservation.



Dr. Ivana Lozanovska: "Our actions 'today' have a great economic, societal and environmental impact 'tomorrow'. It is our duty to be responsible for ourselves and future generations and to live more sustainably. We should be adaptable to transformations from linear to circular approaches as the already established way of life and daily routine is posing severe consequences around us. It is an unavoidable fact that transformation is needed!"

Dr. Ivana Lozanovska: "If we manage to transform the way we produce, use, and consume products that will help to eliminate waste and pollution, will enable products and materials to circulate, and will regenerate nature, then biodiversity can "survive". The circular economy can provide a framework for such a transformation."



Circular Economy focused on Sustainable Development Goals

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Filip Ruxho

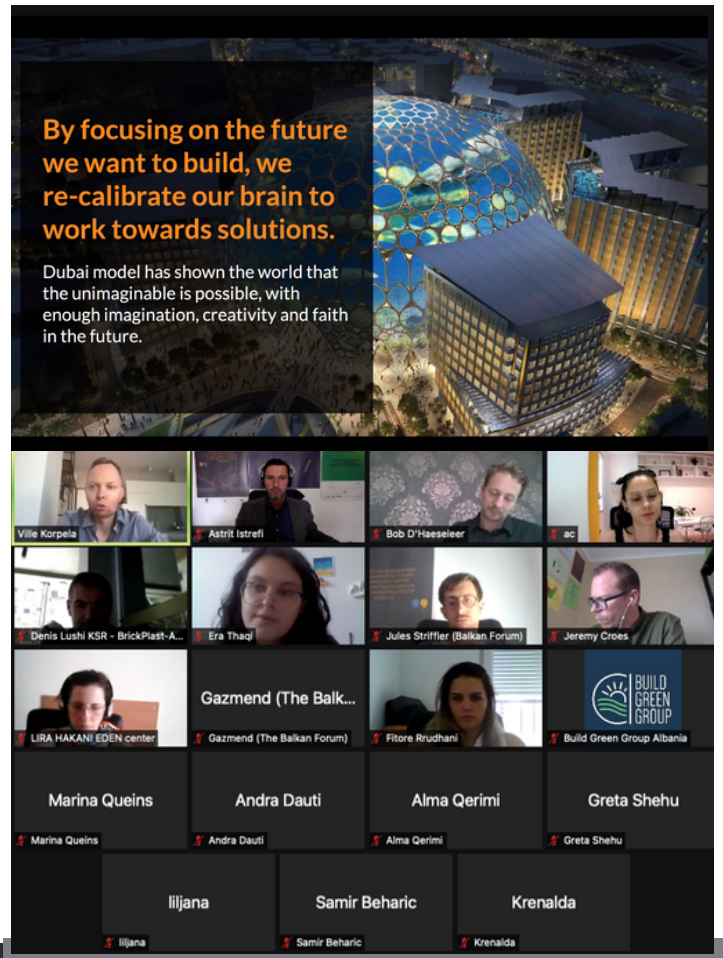
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Circular Economy in Practice: challenges and opportunities

At this online event organised on 25 May 2022 by Build Green Group in Albania, distinguished speakers shared their views and experiences on Circular Economy and good practices in their respective fields and countries.

Bob D'Haeseleer talked about renewable energy/resources, including in the context of meeting the SDGs, such as poverty reduction, showcasing a success story from Eeklo, Belgium. Ville Korpella shared his experience from Dubai and how lessons from circular innovations there can be used in the Western Balkans. Lira Hakani shared a success story of EDEN Center in Albania such as smart investment in sustainable fashion. Jeremy Croes shared some innovative marketing ideas and examples from his business (SPINUP) in Aruba, America.



Green business inspiration for young students/entrepreneurs

Build Green Group together with a group of young students visited a company which is certified for quality and for complying with the environmental standards, and conducts its business based on Circular Economy principles.

The students learned from the owner of the company about the benefits of such a business model as well as the social and environmental impact. They were also interested to learn about the owner's experience with establishing and running the business, and related opportunities and challenges.

Environmental Activism

At this online event organised on 26 May 2022 by the Balkan Forum, findings and recommendations of the research were shared with the audience. The research **Environmental Activism in the Western Balkans** analyses what has worked and what has proven challenging, and explores the role played by exchange of knowledge and experience at the regional level. It then outlines lessons that could help future environmental protection and coalition building initiatives to maximize their impacts from local up to national, regional, and international levels.



Sustainable Fashion Festival

The Festival is a joint project between the department of graphics design and fashion design at Universum College.

Organised on 26 May 2022 by Universum College, the festival promoted recycling of unused clothes and creation of eco-friendly clothing. The event brought together hundreds of students and participants representing universities, public administration, private sector, civil society organisations, donor community and other institutions.



Research on Circular Economy in the Western Balkans

LogEx members Ms. Franĝeska Koranĝe, Professor Sanda Midĝiĉ-Kurtagiĉ, and Ms. Ŝejla Mahmutoviĉ conducted research on Circular Economy in the Western Balkan region.

The research report: "Underpinning Circular Economy progress in the Western Balkan countries through a comprehensive policy implementation analysis", will be published soon.



LogEx members:



Donor:

