

THE BALKAN FORUM

MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2024



SUSTAINABLE BRIDGES: UNITE, UPLIFT, UPCYCLE

The third annual Western Balkans Circular Economy Week took place on 27-31 May, 2024. This year's theme was "Sustainable Bridges: Unite, Uplift, Upcycle".

Organizations from the Western Balkan countries, members of the LogEx community, held a series of parallel activities that aim to boost promotion of good practices and knowledge, but also the challenges and prospects of the circular economy in the region.

The regional initiative of the LogEx community – founded by The Balkan Forum – has the aim to revolutionize the Western Balkans' approach to sustainable development, by promoting circular economy practices. By bringing together different actors, including academia, civil society organizations, media, businesses and experts, we aim to foster cooperation and encourage meaningful changes in the region.

Build Green Group - Albania



On May 28th, at 10:00 AM, as part of the Circular Economy Week, Build Green Group organized a webinar on the topic of Waste Management in Valbona, Bajram Curri. With Oljam Dervishi, an experienced Environmental Expert and Young Researcher with a proven track record of successfully managing and coordinating projects.

On May 30th, BGG organized an enlightening session of conversation with Cameron Price, an expert in sustainable development and sustainability.

During that session the participants had the the opportunity to:

- Discover the principles and practices of a circular economy.
- Think of new and innovative outlets of production, consumption, and resource management.

COD - Jajce



As part of the activities of the LogEx community, the Center for Education and Socialization (COD Jajce) organized a workshop for young entrepreneurs on May 28th titled "Promoting awareness of the importance of green entrepreneurship" - circular economy in entrepreneurship.

LOGEX



CIVIL



CIVIL hosted an online regional conference on "Circular Economy Perspectives in Times of War and Insecurities" on Friday, May 31, starting at 12:00 p.m.

Representatives of civil society organizations from across the Western Balkans, mainly members of the LogEx community, spoke at the conference. They shared insights on their activities and explored the perspectives of the circular economy within national, regional, and global contexts.

CENER 21



Cener 21 organized a workshop for media professionals, journalism students and experts for environmental protection advocacy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the workshop was to improve the understanding of the key principles of the circular economy and to strengthen the capacity to effectively communicate these ideas to the general public. Participants had the opportunity to acquire new knowledge, master terminology and explore numerous benefits and opportunities offered by the circular transition. In addition, through creative work, the participants engaged in the preparation of articles on topics from the circular economy.

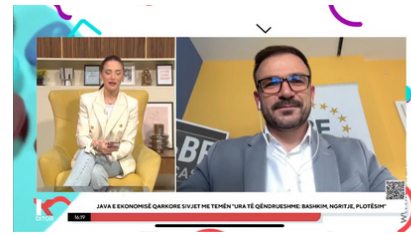
UNIVERSUM



UNI-Universum International College, a partner and a part of the LogEx community where Fashion Design students organized the Festival of Sustainable Fashion.

The designs were modeled by UNI students using recyclable materials. Then a debate was organized with the students about the need for the textile industry in Kosovo to become part of the regional economy. And not only the textile and fashion industry, but also our own culture as citizens should rise to such a level that we understand our role to be part of protecting the environment by becoming part of the circular economy in our daily lives.

MEDIA COVERAGE



In this interview, Gazmend Bërlajolli, the Executive Director of The Balkan Forum, highlighted the importance of circular economy practices in transforming sustainable development across the Western Balkans. He also delves into the impactful initiatives organized by the LogEx Community, a collaborative effort to bridge the gap between higher education and the employment marketplace in our region.



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ToKeQark



Fjona Braha, one of the beneficiaries of the "ToKeQark" project, in the program for innovation, green future, and education for peace, has achieved success by raising her capacities in the field of innovation and digitalization.

During this period, as a beneficiary of the "ToKeQark" project, Fjona participated in the "PanAlbanian-Inter-Balkan-EuroAtlantic" meeting, which was held in Pristina on April 27, where the theme of this meeting was the meeting of students from the Western Balkans, the world digital, innovation, challenges, problems, citizenship and their future of the youth of the Western Balkans.

In this meeting, Fjona received recognition as one of the most outstanding students of the digital world in Public Universities from the six countries of the Western Balkans.



SMART Balkans

Civil Society for Shared Society
in the Western Balkans

The project "ToKeQark" has as its primary goal the promotion of environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation by addressing environmental challenges through community involvement in discussion, as well as to provide updated information regarding the transition towards the circular economy in Kosovo, in particular the four municipalities of Kosovo: Ferizaj, Fushë Kosovë, Graçanicë and Mitrovica. The project is funded by SMART BALKANS, financially supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) and implemented by The Balkan Forum.



CPCD

Centar za promociju civilnog društva

CRPM

Center for
Research and
Policy
Making
... policy impact since 2004

IDM

Institute for Democracy and Mediation
Institut për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim