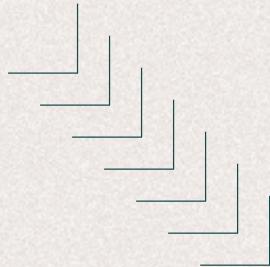




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# MONTHLY UPDATE

July, 2025



# Needs Analysis Finalized: A Key Milestone for GreenBridge

The month of July marked significant progress across several regional initiatives coordinated by The Balkan Forum, with a particular focus on advancing green and digital skills through the GreenBridge project. Strategic planning meetings, project launch in Prishtina, and collaborative exchanges laid the groundwork for impactful programming in the months ahead.

At the heart of this month's achievements lies the successful submission of the Needs Analysis (D2.2), a cornerstone deliverable of the GreenBridge project. Developed by The Balkan Forum's research officer, this comprehensive study provides a critical assessment of the status of green and digital skills within the vocational education and training (VET) systems across the Western Balkans.

The analysis highlights systemic gaps and structural needs in curriculum, infrastructure, and institutional cooperation, while offering actionable recommendations to bridge these divides. The report's regional perspective enables partners and stakeholders to better understand the alignment between current training systems and the green transition objectives of the European Union.

To make the findings more accessible to a broader audience, The Balkan Forum is preparing infographics summarizing the report's key insights.

In parallel with the finalization of the Needs Analysis, The Balkan Forum actively contributed to the monthly coordination meeting of the GreenBridge consortium. The meeting served as a platform for reviewing the outcomes of the June activities held in Prishtina, which were praised for their organization and content quality.

Beyond administrative progress, the month also emphasized the importance of data-driven planning. The Balkan Forum is now working closely with project partners to interpret the Needs Analysis findings and use them to guide the next stages of implementation, including policy engagement, curriculum reform proposals, and training initiatives.



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# Pact for Growth: Regional Coordination Underway

The Balkan Forum has joined a new regional initiative titled “Pact for Growth – Capacity Building for the Implementation of the EU Pact for Growth in the Western Balkans, with a Focus on Social Affairs.” This project aims to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations to contribute meaningfully to the implementation and monitoring of the EU Growth Plan, with particular focus on social inclusion and policy development.

On July 3, an online coordination meeting was held with newly joined partners from across the region, including:

- North Macedonia – Community Development Institute
- Montenegro – Alpha Centre, Nikšić
- Serbia – Initiative for Development and Collaboration, Belgrade
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Žene sa Une, Bihać
- Kosovo – The Balkan Forum, Pristina
- Albania – Nisma ARSIS, Tirana

The meeting provided a platform to align on the project’s scope, introduce partner organizations, and discuss preparations for the in-person kickoff meeting that was held in Belgrade on July 28. During this meeting, participants reviewed the project’s objectives, agreed on the initial workplan, and launched a country gap analysis survey, with all partners expected to submit their national assessments by August 10.

Looking ahead, the next major project milestone is a regional training event scheduled to take place in Ohrid from September 9–12, where three representatives from each partner organization will participate in capacity-building sessions focused on monitoring mechanisms, advocacy strategies, and the integration of social policy priorities into the EU Growth Plan framework.



2025-07-28\_ Pact for Growth Project Kickoff meeting held on July 28-29 in Belgrade.



# Bringing Climate and Biodiversity to the Forefront

On July 25, The Balkan Forum participated in the conference “Climate Change and Biodiversity in Kosovo – An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future,” organized by EC Ma Ndryshe. The event featured the presentation of six research reports covering a range of topics from biodiversity protection to ecosystem restoration and climate resilience. The conference created valuable opportunities to engage with other civil society actors working in the field, gain insights from evidence-based environmental research, and identify potential partners for future collaboration. The event further reinforced the interconnectedness of The Balkan Forum’s work across multiple environmental and social themes.



© Ec Ma Ndryshe, July 25



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# Upcoming Focus & Planning Ahead

As The Balkan Forum moves into the next phase of implementation, the focus will be on several key priorities across its active projects:

- Finalizing and publishing the infographic based on the GreenBridge Needs Analysis, to ensure wide dissemination and stakeholder engagement.
- Advancing preparations for the Eco Festival in Prishtina, one of the central activities under the Eco Champions project. The event will serve as a platform to promote environmental awareness, circular economy practices, and community-driven sustainability efforts.
- Preparing for the upcoming regional training in Ohrid (September 9–12), where team members will take part in capacity-building workshops focused on civil society engagement and policy advocacy within the EU Growth Plan framework.



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