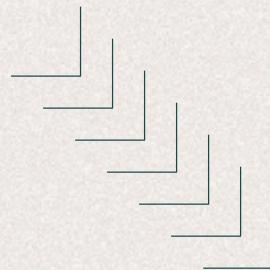




THE
BALKAN
FORUM

MONTHLY UPDATE

August, 2025



Preparation for the Eco Festival in Prishtina

In August, The Balkan Forum continued preparations for the upcoming Eco Festival in Prishtina, which will be organized within the framework of the Eco Champions project. The festival is being developed in close collaboration with DYVÓLAB, a creative eco-innovation platform that combines design, technology, and sustainability to address environmental and social challenges in Kosovo. The Eco Festival will also form part of the inaugural Prishtina Sustainable Design Week, implemented by DYVÓLAB in partnership with the French Institute in Kosovo.

On July 31, the BF team visited DYVÓLAB's space to gain first-hand insights into their innovative work, meet the team, and initiate discussions on possible synergies. A follow-up meeting soon after helped further shape the collaboration. Over the past two weeks, BF and DYVÓLAB finalized the eco-festivity arrangements planned for Sep 29 - October 3rd in Prishtina, Kosovo. Further coordination will continue in the coming period to finalize a detailed timeline for the Eco Festival.

Prishtina Sustainable Design Week is envisioned as a pioneering platform where creativity meets responsibility. Framed as both a week-long Eco-festival and a movement, it aims to reshape the way design, innovation, and sustainability intersect in the region. By convening regional and international voices in design, architecture, fashion, anthropology, and social entrepreneurship, the festival will create a space where dialogue sparks action, and action inspires change. It extends an open invitation to visionaries, creatives, businesses, institutions, and communities to collaborate in imagining an inclusive, just, and innovative future for Prishtina and beyond.



European Youth Card Partnership

In August, The Balkan Forum became the official partner of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) in Kosovo. Through this partnership, young people in Kosovo aged 15 to 29 can now access the European Youth Card, a tool that promotes inclusion, mobility, and opportunities for youth across Europe. The card provides access to a wide range of benefits in more than 30 countries, including discounts on public transport, cultural events, bookstores, museums, accommodation, and leisure activities. By joining the EYCA network of over seven million young people, Kosovo's youth are better positioned to save on everyday activities, travel more affordably, and connect to a broader European community. This collaboration helps open doors for greater youth participation and mobility across borders.

Towards 2030 Blog – Building Leaders for Tomorrow

As part of the Towards 2030 initiative, The Balkan Forum published the blog “Building Leaders for Tomorrow,” authored by Amra Agić from Centar za obrazovanje i druženje (COD) Jajce. In her reflections, Amra raises critical questions about the kind of leadership our societies are nurturing today, and whether the next generations will embody the courage, empathy, and responsibility needed to build a just and inclusive future. The blog underscores the importance of creating environments where young people are encouraged to take initiative, learn through challenges, and grow into leaders of their own lives—values that are essential for shaping communities that thrive on equality, respect, and cooperation. By connecting personal experiences with broader societal challenges, this contribution highlights the shared responsibility of families, educators, and communities in inspiring the leaders that tomorrow’s world urgently needs.



REGION REGIONAL COOPERATION TOWARDS 2030

Building leaders for Tomorrow



THE BALKAN FORUM

Open Call – Youth Exchange on Counteracting Hate Speech

In August, The Balkan Forum launched the open call for participants from Kosovo to take part in the Erasmus+ Youth Exchange “The World – a Place for Everyone (?) : hatespeechfree”, which will be held from 15–23 October 2025 in Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The exchange will bring together young people from across Europe to reflect on and confront the challenges of hate speech, both online and offline. Through a combination of workshops, discussions, creative activities, and intercultural exchanges, participants will strengthen their critical thinking, digital literacy, and dialogue skills, while exploring strategies to promote inclusion and respect in their communities.

Highlights of the program include in-depth sessions on understanding the roots and impacts of hate speech, a visit to the Srebrenica Memorial for learning and reflection, and the development of local action plans to create “Hate-Free Spaces” in participants’ home communities. Six young people from Kosovo, aged 18–30, will be selected to join peers from across the continent in this experience, which combines capacity-building with meaningful intercultural dialogue. Following the exchange, participants will be supported to implement community-based activities that put their learning into practice and contribute to building more inclusive societies.

Call for the 2025 Volunteerism of the Year Awards

The Balkan Forum, in its role as a Volunteerism Ambassador, joined the promotion of the 2025 Volunteerism of the Year Awards, an initiative led by TOKA to strengthen and expand the culture of volunteerism across Kosovo. The awards provide recognition to individuals and groups who have made meaningful contributions to community development and social well-being through voluntary engagement.

The call is open to youth, businesses, municipalities, diaspora representatives, public figures, and lifelong volunteers, highlighting the inclusive spirit of the initiative and the diverse ways in which volunteering can positively shape society. Through this partnership, The Balkan Forum actively encourages wider participation and visibility of volunteerism as a key driver of social change.





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Volunteerism of the Year Awards



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