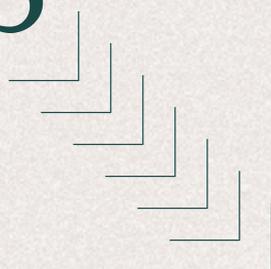


MONTHLY UPDATE

September, 2025



Eco Festival within Prishtina Sustainable Design Week

The highlight of September was the Eco Festival, organized under the Eco Champions Project as a collaboration between The Balkan Forum and DYVO Lab, held within the Prishtina Sustainable Design Week (PSDW) from September 29 to October 3. The week was a celebration of sustainability, creativity, and innovation, filled with activities, conferences, workshops, challenges, and interactive events that brought together people passionate about shaping a greener future.

Throughout the entire week, the Eco Festival was attended by more than 400 diverse participants, including professionals, members of different communities, NGOs, students, and individuals of various generations, all united by a shared commitment to sustainability and creative collaboration.

In the week leading up to the festival and throughout its duration, national and local media showed great interest in the event and its vision. The organizers were invited to present the program and speak about the Eco Festival in interviews across several major outlets, including KTV – Kohavision, RTK (radio and TV), Koha Ditore, Klan Kosova, and RTV Dukagjini (radio and TV), highlighting the growing public enthusiasm for environmental topics and creative initiatives.



Opening Night – “Spaces of Possibility”

The PSDW opened on September 29 at Kino Armata with the Eco Festival, setting the tone for a week of inspiration and collaboration. The opening ceremony welcomed distinguished guests, including the Mayor of Prishtina, Mr. Përparim Rama, and representatives from the French, Luxembourg, and Italian Embassies in Kosovo, along with many interested participants and partners.

Following the opening remarks, the festival began with a thought-provoking panel discussion on the theme “Spaces of Possibility: How Creative Commons Transform Cities and Regenerate Futures.” Panelists from Kosovo and across the Western Balkans explored how creativity, community, and collaboration can shape sustainable urban transformation and foster regional cooperation.



Creativity as an Act of Repair

The second evening featured powerful presentations and in-depth discussions around Creativity as an Act of Repair, where panelists shared innovative sustainable methods and practices that link design with environmental responsibility.



Art as an Act of Transformation

On the third night, conversations focused on Art as an Act of Transformation, emphasizing how art is not merely about aesthetics but a vital form of resistance, expression, and understanding. It was an evening that reminded everyone of art's transformative role in shaping the way we see and interpret the world around us.



Fashion as an Act of Suture

The fourth day concluded with a discussion and the final conference of the edition under the theme “Fashion as an Act of Suture.” This session highlighted fashion’s often-overlooked connection to sustainability and celebrated the role of women leading environmental and social change through responsible practices and the empowerment of marginalized groups.



Waste Management Challenge – A Call to Action

On October 1, attention turned to one of the most pressing local challenges, waste management. The day began with an open discussion with the Directorate of Public Services, followed by a symbolic city action marking where bins are missing and highlighting existing ones with the public call: “When will we start recycling?” The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including young people, seniors, and even a grandmother, reflecting a wide range of community voices united in addressing Prishtina’s waste management challenge. This initiative aimed to spark dialogue, raise awareness, and encourage collective action toward a cleaner and more sustainable Prishtina.



Interactive Eco Quiz

The festival continued with an Interactive Eco Quiz on October 3, engaging participants in learning through fun and collaboration. The quiz featured questions specially prepared for this activity, testing participants' knowledge about sustainability, design, and environmental awareness. It also gathered people of all ages, from students to older citizens, showcasing the community's shared curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about environmental issues. The excitement grew as three monetary prizes were awarded to the top three winners, making the event both educational and rewarding.



Upcycling Workshops

Throughout the week, the Upcycling Workshops at the Prishtina Sustainable Design Week turned waste into creativity and new possibilities. For four days, participants transformed discarded materials into innovative and sustainable designs, proving that with imagination and purpose, even waste can find new life.

The festival concluded with an inspiring exhibition showcasing the creations produced during the workshop, symbolizing the power of collaboration and creative sustainability.



The Eco Festival within the Prishtina Sustainable Design Week stood as an example of how creativity and collaboration can inspire environmental change. Through open discussions, artistic expression, and hands-on activities, the event strengthened dialogue on sustainability and encouraged citizens to take collective responsibility for the future of their cities. The partnership between The Balkan Forum and DYVO Lab once again demonstrated the power of joint action in promoting eco-conscious thinking and empowering communities to become true **Eco Champions**.



Pact for Growth – Regional Training in Ohrid

From September 9–12, 2025, a regional training within the Pact for Growth project was held in Ohrid/Oher, bringing together 14 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia.

The training strengthened partner organizations' capacities through discussions on labor rights, EU opportunities, youth employment, and brain drain. Participants identified three regional priorities: strengthening labor inspectorates, addressing brain drain, and improving labor union representation.

The event fostered regional cooperation and new ideas for joint initiatives, with evaluation results showing full participant satisfaction. The final event will take place in November 2025 in Tetovo, followed by a closing declaration in Skopje, and CDI will prepare a concept note to explore further donor opportunities.



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