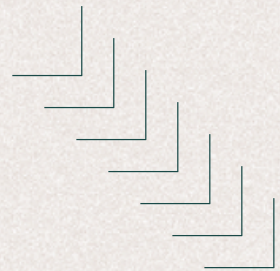


# MONTHLY UPDATE

June, 2026



## JUNE IN FOCUS: The Balkan Forum

### **Eco-Champions TPM and Final Event in Patras, Greece**

**On June 26–27**, The Balkan Forum participated in the **Eco-Champions Transnational Project Meeting and Final in-situ Event in Patras, Greece**. The two-day programme brought together project partners, local authorities, European experts, cooperatives, unions, and community stakeholders to review progress, coordinate final project activities, and promote hands-on environmental engagement.

**The first day** focused on the Transnational Project Meeting, where partners reviewed progress since the previous TPM, discussed the Eco-Festival results, the petition campaign, KPIs, badge award design, the large-scale online event, project video, final event planning, and transnational recommendations on waste management. The Balkan Forum contributed to the session on internal and external evaluation, supporting the project's final implementation and reporting process.



ECO-CHAMPIONS partners during the TPM in Patras, Greece.



A notable part of the programme was the **Eco-Challenge DIY activity**, where participants had the opportunity to engage in a practical station focused on creating **beeswax napkins**. This activity was designed to demonstrate how simple, reusable, and environmentally friendly alternatives can be introduced into everyday life as a replacement for single-use plastic products, such as plastic wrap or disposable packaging.

The activity was important because it transformed the environmental message of the project into a hands-on and accessible experience. Instead of only discussing sustainability in theory, participants were able to directly take part in a practical process and see how small individual actions can contribute to reducing waste and promoting more responsible consumption habits. Through this interactive approach, the activity helped raise awareness about the importance of reusing materials, reducing dependence on disposable products, and adopting more sustainable practices at household level.

In addition, **the Eco-Challenge DIY station** encouraged creativity, participation, and learning through practice. It showed that sustainable choices do not always require complex solutions or major financial investments, but can often begin with small, simple changes in daily routines. By involving citizens in the creation of beeswax napkins, the activity made the concept of circular and eco-conscious living more concrete, memorable, and easier to apply beyond the event itself.

Overall, this activity supported the Eco-Champions project by promoting practical environmental education, citizen engagement, and everyday actions that contribute to waste reduction and a more sustainable lifestyle.



DIY Activity - Patras/Greece



## WP10 – Voting Activity and Petition Campaign Report

During this reporting period, the WP10 Voting Activity and Petition Campaign Report was successfully submitted to the SYGMA Portal marking an important reporting milestone for the ECO-CHAMPIONS project. The report documents the online voting process, petition campaign, citizen participation, and the recommendations collected through the project methodology.

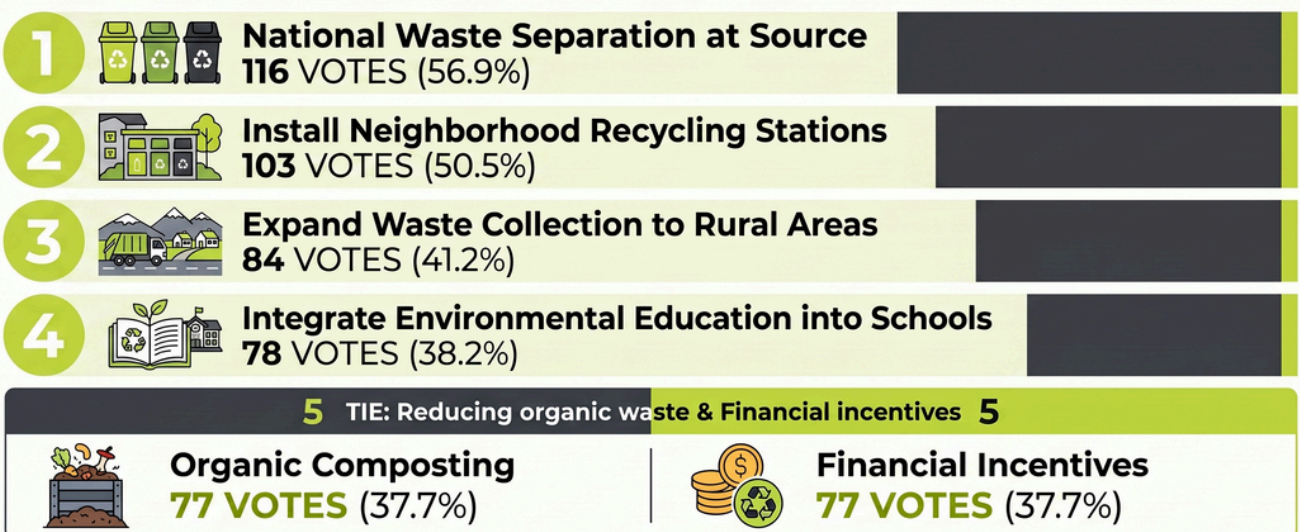
**For Kosovo, 204 people** completed the online form, contributing to the identification and prioritization of key waste-management and environmental recommendations. **The top recommendations included waste separation at source, environmental education in schools, recycling stations in neighborhoods, financial incentives for sustainable practices, and the expansion of waste collection services, alongside efforts to reduce single-use plastics.**

These results reflect citizens' priorities for improving waste management, strengthening recycling infrastructure, increasing environmental awareness, and encouraging more sustainable practices at both community and institutional level. In addition, a dissemination version of the report was shared with all project partners for use on their websites and social media channels, supporting wider visibility of WP10 outcomes beyond the consortium.



### Eco Champions: Kosovo's Top Waste Priorities

Displaying the top citizen-voted recommendations for improving waste management in Kosovo. **204** citizens voted on urgent solutions.



*Kosovo Priorities*



## Eco-Badge Initiative and Stakeholder Outreach

As part of the ECO-CHAMPIONS project, **63 individuals, NGOs, companies, and representatives of academia in Kosovo** were identified for their contribution, engagement, and support in promoting environmental responsibility, sustainability, and citizen participation.

Following the identification process, the selected stakeholders were contacted to request their consent and inform them about their inclusion in the Eco-Badge recognition list. After confirmations were received, the Eco-Badges were generated and sent to the respective recipients.

The initiative received very positive feedback from stakeholders, many of whom appreciated the recognition and welcomed the approach. Some recipients also shared the Eco-Badge on their own social media channels, helping to increase the visibility of the ECO-CHAMPIONS project and further promote environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and community engagement.



*Examples of Eco-Badges of some of the generated for selected stakeholders*



## Participation in KDI Roundtable on Legislative Lobbying in Kosovo

During this reporting period, The Balkan Forum participated in a roundtable organized by the Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI), focused on legislative lobbying and the role of civil society in influencing policy and decision-making processes.

The event brought together civil society representatives, Members of Parliament, and political party representatives, creating a constructive space to discuss evidence-based advocacy and engagement with institutions in legislative processes.

The discussion highlighted the importance of clear communication with decision-makers, coordinated advocacy efforts, and continued cooperation between civil society and institutions.

Participation in this event contributed to The Balkan Forum's broader advocacy work by strengthening understanding of practical approaches to legislative lobbying and the role of civil society in shaping more responsive and inclusive public policies.



*Source: KDI official Facebook page*

# COMING UP IN JULY

The Online ECO-CHAMPIONS Closing Ceremony is scheduled for **22 July 2026**, marking the official closing of the project and bringing together partners, stakeholders, citizens, and selected contributors from participating countries.

For Kosovo, the target is to ensure the participation of at least 60 people. Invitations have already been shared with Eco-Badge recipients and will be further distributed to relevant stakeholders to support wider participation and visibility.

The ceremony will present the final project results, highlight citizens' recommendations, recognize active contributors, and strengthen the visibility of ECO-CHAMPIONS at its closing stage.

All interested participants will be able to register through the official registration link below:

**Registration link: <https://forms.gle/Ko2EuvGf6bEeLgiw8>**



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