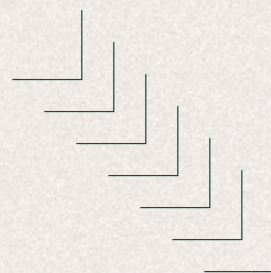


MONTHLY UPDATE

July, 2026



JULY IN FOCUS: The Balkan Forum

Online ECO-CHAMPIONS Closing Ceremony

The **Online ECO-CHAMPIONS Closing Ceremony** was successfully held on **22 July 2026**, officially marking the conclusion of the project. The event brought together **232 unique participants** from **Belgium, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, and Spain**, including project partners, stakeholders, citizens, ECO-Badge recipients, and other contributors.

For Kosovo, the ceremony brought together **25 participants**, including stakeholders, citizens, ECO-Badge recipients, and other contributors engaged in the project. Their participation provided an opportunity to follow the presentation of the project's final results, learn from the best practices shared by all partner countries, and celebrate the achievements and contributions made throughout the project.



Social Media Poster of the Online Ceremony

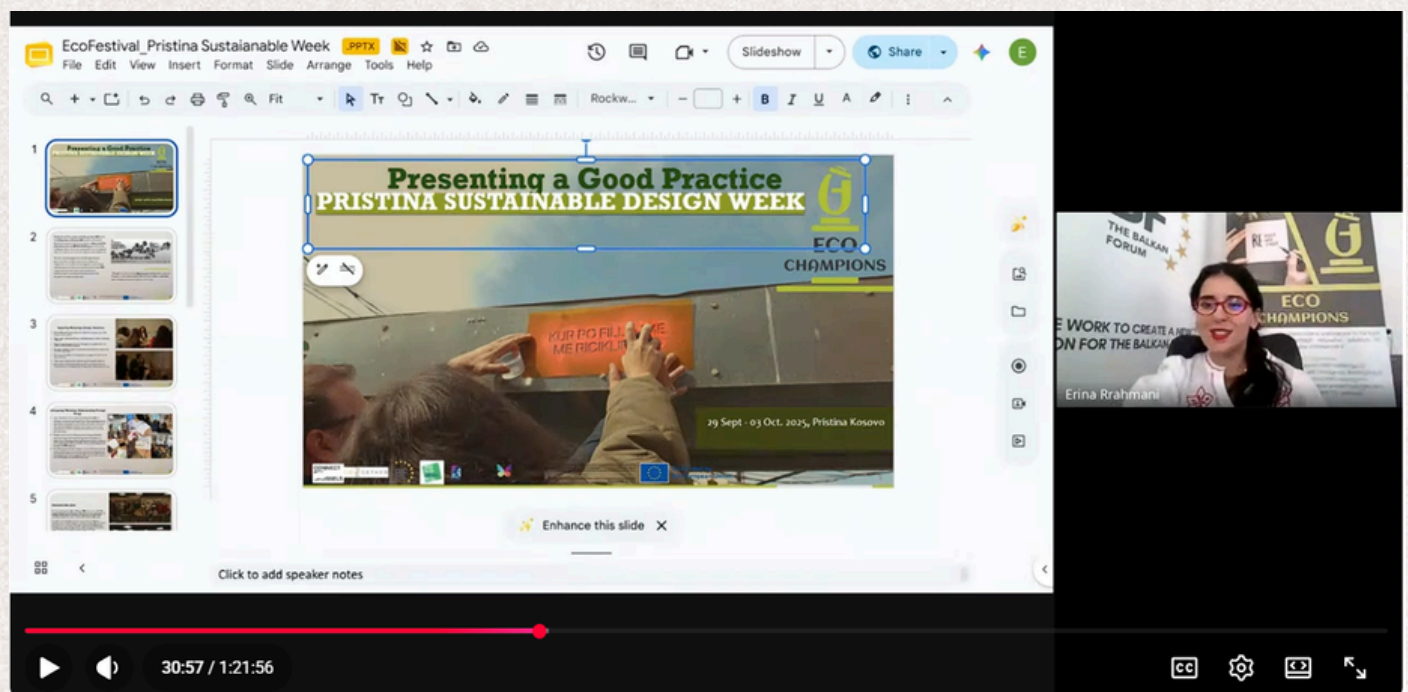


The ceremony opened with a welcome and introduction to WP11 by Connect Brussels, followed by presentations from all project partners. Each partner shared one inspiring best practice, highlighting the activity implemented, the main results achieved, its community impact, and key lessons learned.

The Balkan Forum presented Kosovo's best practice and led the session on the overall impact of the ECO-CHAMPIONS project. The presentation highlighted the project's main achievements, citizen engagement, recommendations collected across participating countries, and its wider contribution to environmental awareness and sustainable waste management.

Selected ECO-CHAMPIONS were also recognized through the digital badge initiative, acknowledging their active participation and contribution to the project. The event concluded with closing remarks and a brief questions-and-answers session led by Connect Brussels.

Recording of the Online Closing Ceremony: <https://lnk.in/eFIWS>



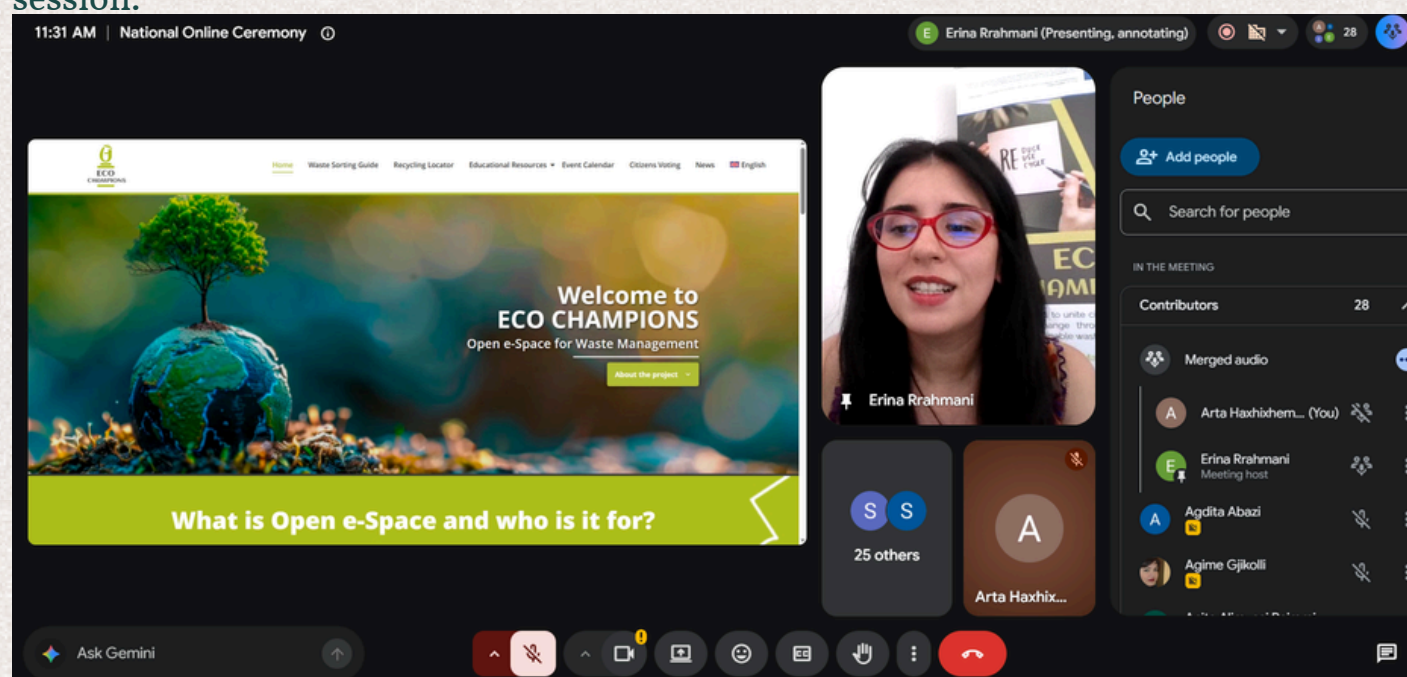
Eco-Champions Online Ceremony - 2026/07/22 [RECORDED SESSION]



Additional National Online Ceremony in Kosovo

On **30 July 2026**, The Balkan Forum successfully organised an additional National Online Ceremony for participants from Kosovo under WP11 of the ECO-CHAMPIONS project. The event was held via Google Meet and brought together **30 unique participants**, bringing total attendance across both sessions to **55 participants**. Attendees included representatives of vocational education and academic institutions, civil society organisations, VET teachers, young people, environmental activists, and other stakeholders interested in sustainable development and waste management.

The ceremony presented the ECO-CHAMPIONS project's main achievements, activities, and overall impact in Kosovo. Key sessions included a live presentation of the Open E-Space, the five main waste-management recommendations for Kosovo, results of the online petition, and the Eco Festival and Prishtina Sustainable Design Week as a successful project practice. The programme also included recognition of ECO-CHAMPIONS, discussion of the project's overall impact, and a closing Q&A session.

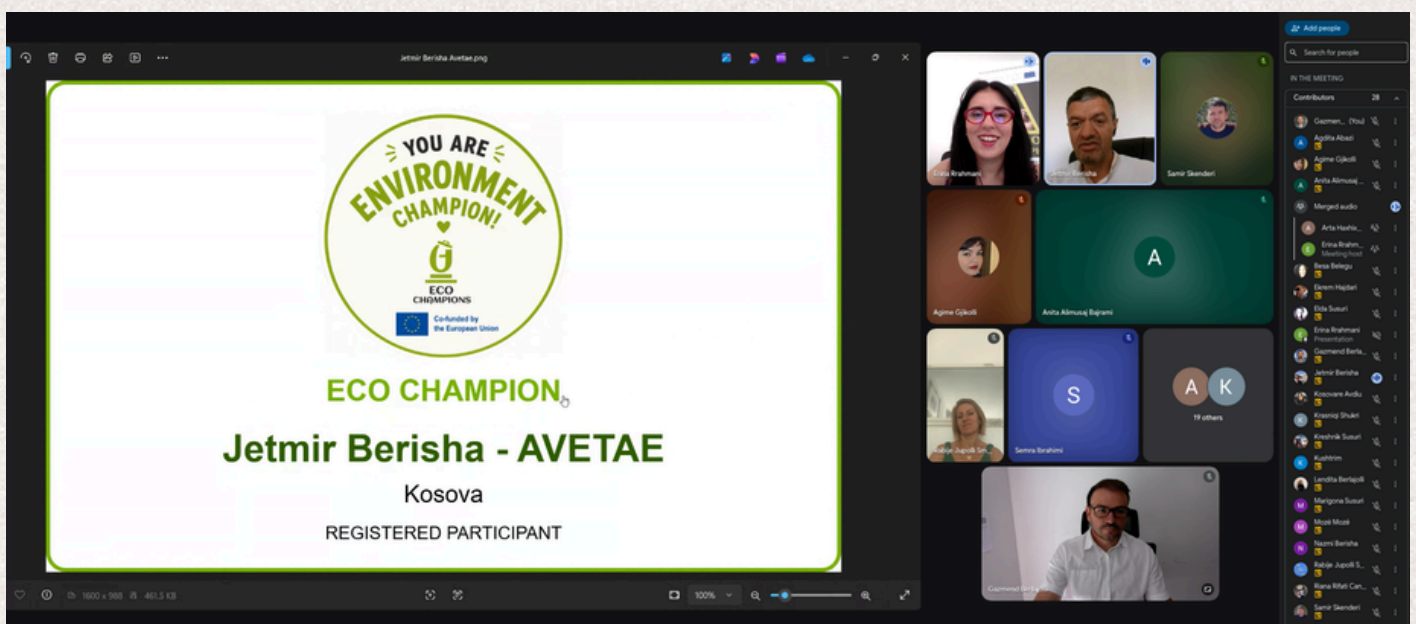


Additional National Ceremony / 30 July 2026



Particular recognition was given to institutions and stakeholders that supported the project, especially the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education (AVETAE). The digital badge initiative was presented, and representative awardees were acknowledged for their contribution and environmental engagement. Participants actively followed the presentations, shared reflections, and asked questions about the project's results and future environmental action.

An important outcome was the interest expressed by participating teachers in sharing the Open E-Space and its educational resources with their students. This is expected to broaden the platform's reach, support further student engagement, and encourage continued participation in environmental and community-based initiatives beyond the formal end of the project



Presentation of key ECO-CHAMPIONS results



ECO-CHAMPIONS Project Recap Video

A project recap video was produced by Co2Gether, the ECO-CHAMPIONS partner in Greece, presenting the key activities, achievements, and impact delivered across the participating countries. The video brings together the project's main milestones and provides a clear overview of the collective work carried out by all partners throughout the project.

Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FK-Rz_78tDM&t=1s



EcoChampion-From Waste to Life

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Coming up in August:

GREENBRIDGE Final Partners' Meeting

In August, The Balkan Forum will continue preparations for the upcoming GREENBRIDGE final partners' meeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The organisation will coordinate the necessary travel and administrative arrangements, while FAB LAB Bosnia and Herzegovina will provide support with the visa process and required documentation. The meeting will allow project partners to review progress, address the remaining activities and deliverables, and coordinate the final steps toward the successful completion of the project.



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the-balkan-forum



info@thebalkanforum.org

