



## Digital and Green Initiative for WBC Education in Academia

*(SKILL2SUSTAIN Erasmus+ Project Initiative)*

**Project:** SKILL2SUSTAIN – Boosting digital and green skills for a resilient and sustainable Western Balkan society (101178204)

**Programme:** Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education

**Region:** Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and partner institutions)

### Background

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Western Balkans play a crucial role in preparing future professionals capable of addressing the **twin transition – digital and green transformation** of society and the economy. Recent analyses conducted within the SKILL2SUSTAIN project show strong demand from students, public institutions, and SMEs for competencies related to digital technologies, sustainability, energy efficiency, circular economy, and environmental management.

At the same time, universities in the region are increasingly integrating digital and sustainability topics into curricula, research activities, and institutional strategies, aligning with European priorities such as the **European Green Deal and the Digital Decade**.

In this context, the project partners propose a joint **Digital and Green Initiative for WBC Education in Academia** to strengthen the role of universities as drivers of sustainable and digital transformation.

### Objectives

The initiative aims to support the systematic integration of **digital and green competencies** in higher education systems of the Western Balkans through:

1. **Modernisation of curricula** by embedding digital and sustainability-related learning outcomes across study programmes.
2. **Development of interdisciplinary education** combining digital technologies with sustainability topics such as energy efficiency, circular economy, climate resilience, and smart infrastructure.
3. **Strengthening cooperation with industry and public institutions** in order to align educational outcomes with labour-market needs.
4. **Enhancing research and innovation capacity** in fields supporting the digital and green transition.



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5. **Promoting lifelong learning opportunities** for professionals, public authorities, and SMEs in areas of digital transformation and sustainability.

### Key Actions

Participating HEIs commit to the following actions:

- Integration of **digital and green skills modules** within existing study programmes and development of new interdisciplinary courses.
- Support for **student internships, applied projects, and research activities** addressing sustainability and digitalisation challenges.
- Strengthening **collaboration with industry, public institutions, and civil society** in the development and delivery of training programmes.
- Promotion of **innovation hubs, laboratories, and digital learning platforms** supporting the green and digital transition.
- Encouraging participation in **international research and capacity-building projects** related to digitalisation and sustainability.

### Expected Impact

Through this initiative, HEIs in the Western Balkans will contribute to:

- development of a **future-ready workforce** equipped with digital and sustainability skills;
- strengthening of **regional innovation ecosystems**;
- increased **alignment with EU policies and educational standards**;
- acceleration of the **green and digital transformation of society and the economy**.

### Adoption

This initiative is adopted within the framework of the **SKILL2SUSTAIN Erasmus+ project** and is endorsed by partner Higher Education Institutions in the Western Balkans as a common strategic commitment to advancing **digital and green education in academia**.



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