

SKILL2SUSTAIN

Newsletter

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PROJECT NUMBER 101178204

REC ESTABLISHMENT EQUIPMENT NEW AND MODERNIZED CURICULLA

Research and Education Centres (RECs) are established at five WBC HEIs, with essential equipment and educational resources procured, installed, and activated to support green and digital education, research, and innovation. CEPS developed two Bachelor study programmes in Disaster Risk Management (180 and 240 ECTS), while UBL modernised six courses in Architecture, Geodesy, and Civil Engineering, integrating sustainability, disaster risk management, energy efficiency, GIS, and BIM tools. These achievements strengthened capacity, modernised curricula, and promoted learning and regional cooperation.

WORKSHOPS TRAINING VISITS SYMPOSIUM

Workshops, training visits, and the Kotor Symposium were successfully completed, strengthening green and digital education across Western Balkan HEIs. Four training visits enhanced teaching staff skills in student-centred, problem-based, and blended learning. Four stakeholder workshops in Tirana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, and Banja Luka promoted new and modernised study programmes, LLL opportunities, RECs, and a virtual collaboration platform. The Kotor Symposium raised project visibility and presented skills for a resilient, sustainable society and the Digital and Green Initiative.

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EXPANDING ACADEMIA–STAKEHOLDER NETWORK

Proud to share the continued development and expansion of the **1FUTURE Platform with the support of the Skill2Sustain project**. Building on the results of the 1FUTURE project, the platform is now entering a new phase as a regional space for collaboration between academia, students, businesses, and other stakeholders across Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, and North Macedonia. The platform is being enriched with **new learning materials, webinars, discussion spaces, and opportunities for cooperation** in the fields of digital and green skills. It will also continue to support the creation of partnerships, joint project ideas, internships, training initiatives, and knowledge exchange between higher education institutions and the business sector. In the coming period, we look forward to further **strengthening this regional community and using the platform** as a practical tool for collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development.

Join our community by registering your profile **at: https://www.1future-platform.com/**.



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CONNECTING GREEN AND DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PROJECT MEETING AND STUDY VISIT IN NOVI SAD





From 15 to 17 April 2026, the **University of Novi Sad** hosted the SKILL2SUSTAIN Study Visit and Project Management Meeting, bringing together partners from the Western Balkans and the European Union. The event combined project coordination, knowledge exchange, and research collaboration. Partners reviewed progress across key work packages covering digital and green education, Research and Education Centers, curriculum development, knowledge transfer, and dissemination. Workshops addressed dissemination and financial reporting to support effective project implementation.

The Study Visit showcased the University's research and innovation ecosystem through visits to the **Faculty of Technical Sciences, Department of Civil Engineering and Geodesy, and the BioSense Institute**. Participants explored research related to sustainable construction, resilience, digital agriculture, and artificial intelligence. An **Inter-Project Coaching Session** introduced the EU-funded CHILD-AI and LivingLAB greenStudio 1.0 projects, highlighting good practices in project management and funding. The event concluded with lectures on risk assessment, climate resilience, cross-border cooperation, and the green transition in construction.



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FIVE RECS, ONE WESTERN BALKAN NETWORK FOR GREEN AND DIGITAL INNOVATION

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTERS (RECS)

Five Western Balkan HEIs have established Research and Education Centers (RECs) under WP3 of the SKILL2SUSTAIN project. Officially approved by institutional governing bodies, the centres form a **transnational network supporting higher education modernization, applied research, lifelong learning, and stakeholder cooperation**. Together, they involve more than 140 academic, research, and administrative staff, contributing to the EU's digital and green transition. The RECs are hosted by **CEPS Kiseljak, the University of Tirana, the University of Banja Luka, the Polytechnic University of Tirana, and the University of Montenegro**.

Each REC reflects its institution's expertise and priorities. The CEPS REC promotes **multidisciplinary cooperation** in sustainable mobility, renewable energy, disaster risk management, and safety. The University of Tirana emphasizes **digital research infrastructure** and sustainable business, while the University of Banja Luka focuses on **laboratory research**, non-destructive testing, BIM, and sustainable construction. The Polytechnic University of Tirana addresses **climate resilience** and low-carbon construction, whereas the University of Montenegro integrates expertise from seven faculties to advance **climate change and sustainability**. Collectively, the centres strengthen research capacity, innovation, and collaboration between academia and external stakeholders.







JOIN OUR NETWORK OF STAKEHOLDERS

https://www.1future-platform.com/.

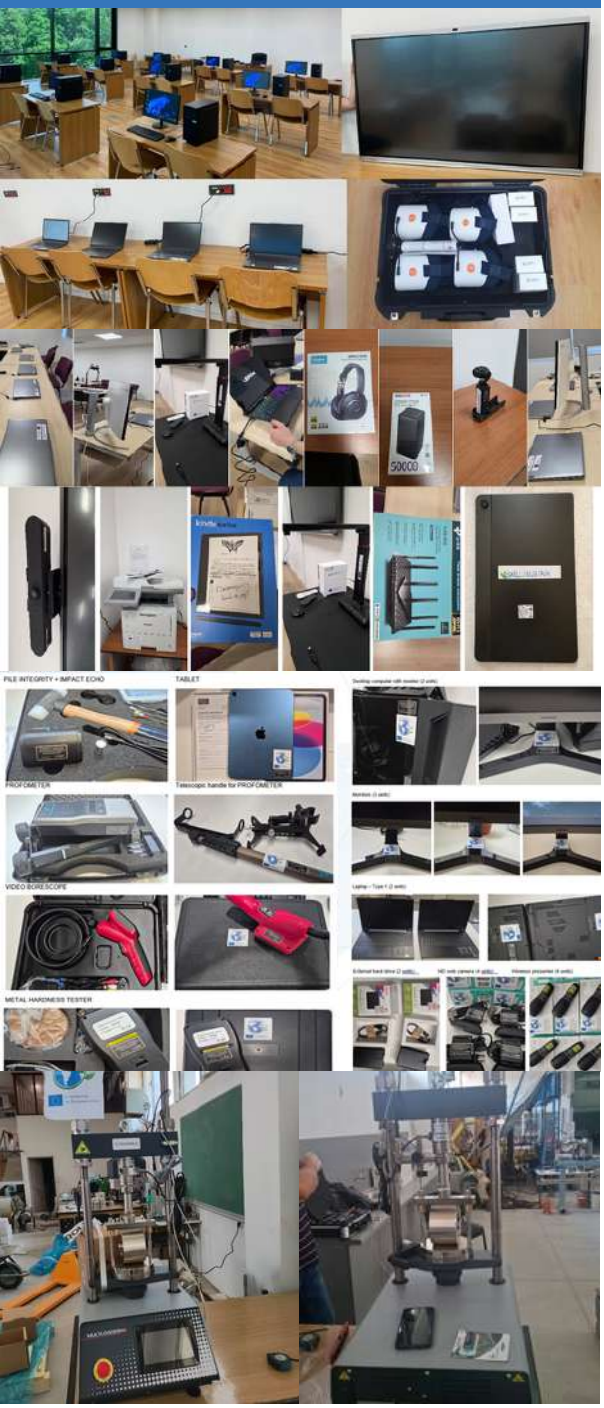




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SMART AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY EMPOWERING GREEN EDUCATION



PROCUREMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT

Across the five RECs, ICT **equipment represents the main investment category, providing essential infrastructure for teaching, research, data management, and administration**. All partners acquired basic digital equipment, while several invested in specialized technologies. The University of Tirana strengthened **AI-supported research**, data storage, and digital content production, while CEPS introduced **ClassVR immersive learning technology** for practical training in occupational safety, disaster risk management, and sustainability. **Interactive displays and video conferencing equipment across the network also support hybrid teaching, international cooperation, and knowledge exchange**.

Specialized investments further reflect each REC's institutional priorities. The University of Banja Luka acquired **non-destructive testing equipment** to assess existing structures and support BIM development, renovation planning, and sustainable material reuse. The Polytechnic University of Tirana invested in climate-resilient and low-carbon construction, while the University of Montenegro strengthened **laboratory testing for soils and asphalt**. CEPS also expanded its specialized academic library, while partners complemented physical resources with **e-books and open educational materials.** Collectively, these investments strengthen applied research, practical learning, lifelong education, and the digital and green transitions across Western Balkan higher education.

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CONNECTING STAKEHOLDERS TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS









STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOPS

Stakeholder Workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro

On 14 May 2026, the workshop was held in Podgorica, gathering 66 participants from academia, industry, and public institutions. Discussions focused on BIM standards, lifelong learning programmes, the newly established REC, and stakeholder cooperation to advance sustainable construction and digital innovation in Montenegro.

Stakeholder Workshop in Tirana, Albania

On 26 June 2026, the workshop in Tirana brought together 40 participants from academia, industry, NGOs, and public institutions. Discussions focused on strengthening green and digital skills, presenting Research and Education Centres and Lifelong Learning programmes, and promoting stakeholder cooperation through the 1Future/SKILL2SUSTAIN platform to support Albania's sustainable and digital transformation.

Stakeholder Workshop in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 29 April 2026, the workshop in Sarajevo gathered 50 stakeholders to present the project, CEPS's Disaster Risk Management study programmes, REC activities, and networking platform, fostering cooperation and promoting green and digital skills development across Bosnia and Herzegovina..

Stakeholder Workshop in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 1 April 2026, the workshop in Banja Luka gathered 66 participants to explore green and digital transformation in construction, highlighting the REC, 1FUTURE networking platform, geospatial data, energy efficiency, and green building certification while strengthening academia–industry cooperation.

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STRENGTHENING SKILLS THROUGH TRAINING, INNOVATION, AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

ALL TRAINING VISIT IMPLEMENTED

Following the training visit in Skopje, the remaining training visits under the Erasmus+ SKILL2SUSTAIN project took place in **Zagreb, Novi Sad, and Ljubljana** in 2026, further strengthening the digital and green competencies of academic staff across the Western Balkans. The programmes combined **expert lectures, practical sessions, laboratory visits, and knowledge exchange** focused on sustainable construction, resilience, digital technologies, and innovative teaching methods.

Training activities covered **life cycle assessment, construction materials, GeoBIM, BIM lifecycle management, GIS, GeoAI, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, fire safety, water resources management, and emergency response**. Participants from West Balkan Institutions explored research facilities, visited relevant organisations, and exchanged good practices with experts. These activities supported capacity building and strengthened regional academic networks.

The visits also created opportunities for future cooperation through joint research, scientific publications, curriculum development, guest lectures, academic mobility, and international projects. By transferring expertise and promoting innovative learning approaches, the activities contributed to **Milestone MS2 – Raised Capacities for Digital and Green Education Goals**, supporting higher education modernisation and sustainable development across the Western Balkans.







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CONNECTING GREEN AND DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



SKILL2SUSTAIN SYMPOSIUM IN KOTOR

From 1 to 3 September 2026, the **University of Montenegro** hosted the **SKILL2SUSTAIN International Symposium and Project Management Meeting at the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Kotor**. The symposium featured keynote lectures by Professor Dr. Ilija Lalošević on cultural heritage sustainability and Dr. Jovana Topalić on risk-informed decision-making in wastewater infrastructure. Across five sessions, participants delivered **41 presentations** covering digital skills, BIM and GIS, artificial intelligence, climate resilience, disaster risk management, circular economy, and green and digital transformation. Researchers and practitioners from seven Western Balkan and European countries exchanged knowledge and presented **innovative approaches to sustainable development**.

On 3 September, project partners reviewed progress, completed deliverables, and key milestones, including the establishment of Research and Education Centers, expanded stakeholder networks, and stakeholder workshops. Discussions addressed new and modernised study programmes, certified lifelong learning courses, blended learning materials, peer reviews, and the project's Special Issue and e-library.



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BUILDING RESILIENCE, MODERNISING EDUCATION, EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS

NEW AND MODERNIZED CURRICULA

University College "CEPS – Center for Business Studies" in Kiseljak invites prospective students to enrol in its new **Disaster Risk Management (DRM) study programmes** for the 2026/2027 academic year. Developed through the Erasmus+ SKILL2SUSTAIN project, with contributions from European partners and experts, the programmes address Bosnia and Herzegovina's growing need for qualified professionals in disaster risk reduction and management. **Students can choose between 180 ECTS (three years) and 240 ECTS (four years),** gaining competencies in risk assessment, prevention, preparedness, crisis management, emergency response, recovery, and digital technologies. Applications for the second enrolment round are open until 14 November 2026. Details on admission requirements and documentation are available in the **official CEPS enrolment announcement**.

Meanwhile, the University of Banja Luka's Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy **modernised six courses across three study programmes at Bachelor's and Master's levels, integrating green and digital competencies into higher education**. The updated curricula cover circular economy, energy efficiency, sustainable construction materials, decarbonisation, BIM, GIS, digital cartography, 3D visualisation, and spatial data interoperability. Students also develop practical skills through project-based learning and digital tools, applying their knowledge to real-world challenges such as noise pollution, renewable energy assessment, and carbon sequestration.



NEW PROGRAMMES, MODERNISED CURRICULA, RESILIENT FUTURES





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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In the next newsletter, you will read about:

- Implementation of new and modernised study programmes
- New LLL programmes
- Teaching mobilities
- Inter-project coaching activities

LIST OF PROJECT PARTNERS:

1. University of Novi Sad
2. University of Montenegro
3. University of Tirana
4. Polytechnic University of Tirana
5. University of Banja Luka
6. University College "CEPS-Center for Business Studies" Kiseljak
7. University of Ljubljana
8. University of Zagreb
9. Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje
10. NGO Civil Engineering - Science and Practice
11. Chamber of Engineers of Montenegro
12. Environmental and Territorial Management Institute
13. Chamber of Economy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
14. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Banja Luka Region

PROJECT PARTNERS

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

Stay connected with us through our website https://skill2sustain.uns.ac.rs/ and social media for regular updates on the SKILL2SUSTAIN project, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved.

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