

Roadmap of Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the Western Balkans

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IMPLEMENTED BY:

**balkan
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Green Entrepreneurship Roadmap of Western Balkans has been designed to provide a concrete overview of the existing ecosystems and map the relevant stakeholders in the countries who are fostering the development of green entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans. The development of this roadmap has been initiated as part of the Balkan Green Academy program that consisted of modules that covered three main pillars: policy, economy and society.

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Executive Summary

On the path to EU integration, the six Western Balkans (WB) nations face significant challenges regarding the transition to renewable energy, climate change, and environmental protection. The roadmap found six regions that completely or partially support green entrepreneurship through their plans, initiatives, programs, or funding mechanisms when identifying the existing players in the Western Balkans.

The transition to a green economy in the Western Balkans region is not only an opportunity, but a necessity, as recognized in The Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, as envisioned by the European Green Deal, and the related Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkan. While this stakeholder analysis will demonstrate the numerous institutions, programs, and projects in the WB countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia recognize the green economy, green entrepreneurship is not often reflected in national and regional strategy documents.

The incubators and accelerators found in the roadmap manage national initiatives for entrepreneurial growth, coordinate collaboration and mobilization among participants in the nation and area and provide training sessions and networking events to increase understanding of the advancement of green innovations. It is important to note that the civil sector in the WB area provides the most support for green entrepreneurship. Through policy studies and mostly regional-specific actions, non-governmental organizations are actively devoted to the public's advocacy for regulation reform and creation. Initiatives and programs have been developed on a national and regional level to emphasize the value of a green economy, economic growth, and environmental conservation.

The nations in these areas do not all assist green entrepreneurs to the same extent when it comes to universities and research institutes. Few corporate or public institutions in certain nations create courses or masterclasses on social companies, while academic departments in other nations show little enthusiasm for the subject of green entrepreneurship.

Identical to the last year, the roadmap reveals that there aren't many national or regional networks that can give entrepreneurs working on green, climate, or environmental concerns considerable assistance. Regarding the governmental organizations involved in this field, it is important to note that while most nations lack government departments or local authorities with resources dedicated to the growth of green entrepreneurship, most nations have established laws pertaining to nature and environmental protection plans and strategies.

Findings from the Roadmap of Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the Western Balkans 2022, indicate that these nations place a greater emphasis on social entrepreneurship and innovation.

Albania

In Albania, there is not a common definition and understanding of green entrepreneurship, and the word “green entrepreneurship ecosystem” is rather ambitious. The first program targeting directly green startups, operating since 2012 for ten years in a row, is the “Green Ideas Competition” managed by Partners Albania for Change and Development, as the counterpart of Balkan Green Foundation. Regarding support programs and projects in this field, other donors and programs support green entrepreneurship as part of their social entrepreneurship pillars.

Some programs operating in this regard are:

- *Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs (RISE)*, is a regional program supported by RYCO which has established local structures in the Western Balkan to enhance youth social entrepreneurship;
- *UK-Albania Tech Hub* supported by British Embassy in Tirana, supports tech startups, but also ideas generating social impact;
- *Entrepreneurship Models Building Relations and Creative Economy (EMBRACE)* program, supported by EU Delegation in Albania and managed by Partners Albania, provides grant support and capacity building for social enterprises;
- *EU for Innovation*, funded by European Union and with additional support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The EU for Innovation’s program, “Flexible Start-up Support” is an accelerator programme, provides learning modules for start-ups in the validation and growth phases;
- *EUs for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD II)*, co-funded by the Albanian Government is an important support mechanism for Albanian agricultural cooperatives, aiming to support farmers, economic-agricultural entrepreneurs, including the UFA, natural and legal persons, micro-enterprises, and small private non-agricultural enterprises that make investments in the production and processing of dairy, meat, vegetables, herbs and vineyards. The IPARD III program was recently approved by the European Commission;
- *Green Star Venture* is a program by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which supports innovative early-stage ventures with green technology and solutions by providing dedicated advisory support for eligible startups, in the EBRD countries. The program is part of ‘Star Venture’, where the green component included recently, promotes the green transformation and economy in the region. It started the implementation in Jordan and Tunisia and will continue in all the EBRD countries, where Albania is also included;
- *The Swiss Entrepreneurship Program (Swiss EP)* offers peer knowledge sharing, connections, and community-building for start-ups and Albania is one of the countries that are part of their coverage;
- *Idea*, a program supported by GIZ aiming to scale up entrepreneurial competencies and business skills of youngsters.

Supporting organizations, provide either incubator and accelerators infrastructures, or related programs. Some operate as innovation hubs. These organizations also considered Facilitators, support the entrepreneurship ecosystem, including young innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and individuals with business ideas, operating in different fields (including green) rather than focusing specifically on green and social entrepreneurship. Under this category are included: Partners Albania for Change and Development, Yunus Social Business, ICTS Lab through the Uplift Albania accelerator program, Metropolitan Incubator; MetSInc, Tirana Inc., Student Business Incubator by TBU, Destil Creative Hub, Argjiro Innovation Hub, Barleti Hub, Innohub, Coolab, Oficina, Swisscontact Albania, Talent Garden, Center for Competitiveness Promotion, Protik Innovation Center Albania, Women Founders Albania, Growpreneur Albania, and Triple City. There are companies like Grant Thornton Albania that provide legal and business pro bono for newly established green enterprises. National funding schemes from **government institutions**, addressing specifically green startups are in their nascent phase.

Institutions such as AIDA provide grant funding for startups targeting women, youngsters, artisans, etc. The Ministry for Health and Social Protection has issued a small fund provisioned by the law “On Social Enterprises”, but due to procedures, the fund was not allocated yet. The Minister of State for Entrepreneurship Protection, based on the newly approved law “For the support and development of Start-ups”, has issued a grant scheme of 10 million Euro, in support of Startups and Facilitators of the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) provides financial support for agriculture and rural development through the Agricultural National Support Scheme. ARDA also partnered with Help Albania, for the launch of the ‘Small scale grants for Equipment and Machinery for Rural Businesses and Farmers’ call. At the local level, the Municipality of Tirana launched in 2022 the second call for proposals for new green startups, in the framework of the “Financial support for green businesses” program. The program aimed to support a total amount of 36,000,000 ALL (approx. 290,000 Euro) new businesses with a focus on an eco-friendly model, or existing businesses that aimed to transform into green businesses, by introducing go-green elements, for the period 2021 – 2023. At the same time, ReLoAD, a program co-funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP, has awarded grants to CSOs covering also two pillars related to the green ecosystem, ‘Social Development’ and ‘Environment Protection’.

In terms of **networks**, Albania does not have a national network operating specifically in the green ecosystem, promoting and advocating the developmental needs and concerns of its social enterprises or green startups. This hinders their growth and is considered as one of the main challenges to their further development. Nevertheless, Innovation NEST is a Balkan Business Angel Network based in Albania, which aims to support, invest, incubate, and help develop new-technologies industries and enterprises in the Western Balkan countries, with some of the potential sectors focusing on environment, energy, health, creative industries, food and its processing, etc. Global Entrepreneurship Network Albania operates as a network, whose aim is to make it easier for anyone in Albania to start and scale a business.

Regarding **academic and research institutions**, green entrepreneurship is not explored and researched as a topic and no academic institution has a specific course dedicated to this issue. Partners Albania has pioneered research on green entrepreneurship, social economy and social entrepreneurship as part of its Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation programmatic area and the Philanthropy programmatic area. RISE incubator has published a regional study on Social Entrepreneurship for each specific country. Epoka University has built a program on social business and sustainable systems (ECOSSS) following the Yunus model and has conducted several scientific conferences in this regard. The program is dedicated to education, learning, applied research and the development of social businesses. While, for the second year in a row, Metropolitan University and Metro Research, as part of the activities dedicated to the MetSIInc Social Incubator, have designed the “Social Entrepreneurship Courses II”, built on online lessons, training sessions, videos, practical activities, workshops and boot camps for all interested in this regard. Faculty of Economy of the University of Tirana, as well as Tirana Business University, both have dedicated subjects related to entrepreneurship and innovation, but there is not a tailored study program for green or social entrepreneurship. Both institutions organize competitions to identify potential start-ups and promising business ideas.

Regarding **financial institutions**, during 2015-2017, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Intesa San Paolo Bank Albania financed 147 small and medium enterprises led and owned by women. In addition, through the Star Venture Program, EBRD supports start-up businesses with consultancy and financing, as a way of overcoming challenges and targets promising start-ups, accelerators and consultants to unleash their full potential.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- [Balkan Green Ideas](#)
- [Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs \(RISE\)](#)
- [UK-Albania Tech Hub](#)
- [Entrepreneurship Models Building Relations and Creative Economy \(EMBRACE\)](#)
- [EU for Innovation](#)
- [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development \(IPARD II\)](#)
- [Green Star Venture Program](#)
- [The Swiss Entrepreneurship Program \(Swiss EP\)](#)
- [Idea](#)

DONORS

- [European Union](#)
- [Delegation of EU in Albania](#)
- [United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women \(UN Women\)](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [US Embassy in Albania](#)
- [British Embassy Tirana](#)
- [Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation](#)
- [USAID](#)
- [RYCO](#)
- [GIZ](#)
- [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#)
- [One Telecommunication Company](#)
- [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development \(EBRD\)](#)

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- [Yunus Social Business Balkans](#)
- [ICTS Lab: UpLift Albania](#)
- [Partners Albania for Change and Development](#)
- [Metropolitan Incubator](#)
- [Tirana Inc.](#)
- [Destil Creative Hub](#)
- [Argjiro Innovation Hub](#)
- [Barleti Hub](#)
- [Innohub](#)
- [Coolab](#)
- [Oficina](#)
- [Swisscontact Albania](#)
- [Talent Garden](#)
- [Protik Innovation Center Albania](#)
- [Center for Competitiveness Promotion](#)
- [Women Founders Albania](#)
- [Growpreneur Albania](#)
- [Triple City](#)

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- [European Investment Fund and Besa Fund](#)
- [Credins Bank](#)
- [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Intesa San Paolo Bank Albania](#)
- [Balkans Capital](#)
- [Regional Cooperation Council \(RCC\)](#)

NETWORKS

- [Innovation NEST](#)
- [Global Entrepreneurship Network Albania \(GEN Albania\)](#)

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- [Epoka University](#)
- [Metropolitan University and Metro-Research](#)
- [Partners Albania for Change and Development](#)
- [Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs \(RISE\)](#)

GOVERNMENT

- [Albanian Investment Development Agency \(AIDA\)](#)
- [Ministry for Social Protection and Health](#)
- [Minister of State for Protection of Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Municipality of Tirana](#)
- [The National Scheme of Support for Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Despite the fact that Green Entrepreneurship as a segment and the increasingly recognizable need for total entrepreneurship is significantly present in all: economic, political and social discourse, it is still not visible whether or not actions follow the narrative, at least when it comes to BiH.

There are visible shifts, that reflect in the powerful increase of resources as well as results of Green Entrepreneurship. The initial referent point must be considered and there shouldn't be a discussion about big progress in the shifts stated above.

Currently, the best example of Green Entrepreneurship is visible through the segment of production of electric energy in wind power plants. According to the analysis, the wind potential in BiH is more than 1,000 MW¹ which is significantly above the capacity of installed power in Tuzla thermal power plant (the largest thermal power plant in BiH) at 715 MW. At BiH, there are currently three wind power plants of installed power of 134.6 MW working. This is more than the total installed power of 150 small hydropower plants², that are widely promoted as renewable energy sources. It is very often a situation where mini-hydropower plants' environmental impact is neglected.

Two of the three wind power plants stated above are owned by public companies, while one is privately owned. The total value of the investment for those three wind power plants is over € 200,000,000. German Development Bank KfW, provided these funds. Besides these operable wind power plants, there are planning to build several more wind power plants. The largest one is planned to be constructed near Livno, its total power should be 84 MW, and its investors are China National Technical Import, Export Corporation, and Powerchina Resources³.

BiH has one of the most favorable locations in Europe for producing solar energy, which is why it has been highlighted in this publication. Apart from environmental reasons, solar energy can also create a wide range of green jobs, requiring a diversity of skills.

At the moment, investors in BiH are working on the construction of several solar power plants. The largest one is near Stolac with a total power of 150 MW. In addition to the mentioned solar power plant, the construction of a solar power plant near Bosanski Petrovac with an installed power of 88.5 MW is announced. The largest private solar power plant for the needs of one particular factory started its work on the 15th of October 2021 and its capacity for the total annual production is 1147 MWh.

All of these projects are encouraging when it comes to reducing CO2 emissions. That makes energy greener and opens up perspectives for Green Entrepreneurship.

Recycling has the potential to not only create employment but to keep BiH cleaner for sectors that are dependent on unpolluted areas. It could additionally turn what is now a huge rubbish problem into a profit generation opportunity.

¹ <https://balkans.aljazeera.net teme/2021/3/7/kakav-je-zaboravljeni-vjetropotencijal-bih>

² <https://www.klix.ba/biznis/investicije/u-bih-tri-vjetroelektrane-proizvedu-vise-energije-od-150-malih-hidroelektrana/210122134>

³ <https://www.tportal.hr/biznis/clanak/kinezi-kod-livna-poceli-gradnju-najvece-vjetroelektrane-u-bih-investicija-vrijedna-130-milijuna-eura-20211216>

Lately, the media space, in the field of Green Entrepreneurship has been filled with activities related to the participation of local communities in the separation of electronic waste into separate containers. The setup of the e-container is part of the Ecolution - Environmental Awareness Revolution project, whose program Challenge to Change is co-financed by the Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The company ZEOs is working on financing and implementation of this project. This example of e-waste management indicates the immediate economic potential of environmental care, as well as the necessity of strengthening Green Entrepreneurship in the future. Green entrepreneurship is not at the highest level of interest in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while currently, the focus is mostly on environmental protection policies and strategies.

Support programs/projects - Pro local, Challenge to Change, BGI and partly the GED project are there to provide support and encourage entrepreneurship and green businesses, but also the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Srpska.

Support organizations - GiZ EU, Heinrich Boll, Mozaik, CPCD, IMPAKT investment foundation and Institute for Youth Development KULT, have support programs aimed primarily at encouraging the development of ideas and then businesses in the fields of green entrepreneurship.

Government - put the greatest focus on improving policies, laws, and strategies in the field of environmental protection, and still does not have significant programs to support green entrepreneurship.

Finance institutions - entity environmental funds have special public calls aimed at supporting companies to develop new products and services in the field of environmental protection. Through their Corporate Social Responsibility, banks promote and encourage the development of projects and startups in the field of environmental protection, while other institutions provide greater support for the development of strategies and measures for the development and sustainability of environmental protection.

Donors - the structure of donors is such that they mostly support programs and projects within the environment, institutionally and strategically, while a smaller number support startups, product development, and services in the field of the green economy.

Important support for Green Entrepreneurship in BiH is the civil sector, which through its policy research as well as specific initiatives actively works on public advocacy for regulatory change and creating a strategic framework, educates the general public about the importance of a green economy for economic development and environmental protection⁴. A small number of organizations, provide subgrants for green ideas. The scope of such action is not great, because these are projects with limited budgets and duration, and this approach cannot be a substitute for systemic support

⁴ <https://rijekebih.org/index.php/vijesti/>

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- Misli o prirodi
- Balkan Green Ideas
- UrbanLED projekat
- Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Implementation of Biodiversity Agreements (ORF BDU)
- Regionalna mreža za upravljanje informacijama o biodiverzitetu i izvještavanje (BIMR 1
- Life projekt-IPPCBiH
- Green Deal
- Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
- Eko infotabla
- „Održivo integralno upravljanje međunarodnim riječnim koridorima u državama Jugoistočne Evrope
- izrada Mapa opasnosti i mapa rizika od poplava u BiH
- DRINKADRIA
- „Sistem upravljanja napuštenom ribarskom opremom u Jadranskoj regiji – DeFishGear“
- „Regionalni sistem vodosnabdijevanja Plava Voda“
- “Studija izvodljivosti o vodosnabdijevanju i odvodnji otpadnih voda za Tuzlu, Zenicu i Travnik“
- GED projekat
- Challenge to change
- Koalicija za zaštitu rijeka BiH

NETWORKS

- <http://www.kfbih.com/> FPG Komora - Federalna privredna komora

DONORS

- UNDP; UNESCO; SECO
- GIZ; IPA;
- KfW;
- BMZ;
- UN;
- Delegacija EU u BiH
- GEFF;
- MVTEO;
- UNEP;
- Western Balkans Investment
- WB;
- EC
- CEB;
- EBRD;
- FAO;
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)
- Heinrich Boll

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- Mozaik Foundation;
- Centar za promociju civilnog društva
- NVO Arbor Magne;
- Privredna komora RS
- FAO;
- Ekosfera
- IUCN;
- Eko-natura
- HEIS
- WYG International
- URBIS
- Centar za ekologiju I energiju
- Centar za životnu sredinu
- JNU Institut za zaštitu I ekologiju RS
- IMPAKT investment foundation
- Institute for Youth Development KULT
- Privredna komora FBiH

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- Fond za zaštitu okoliša BiH
- Otvoreni regionalni fond za Jugoistočnu Evrpu
- GEF - Globalni okolišni fond
- Fonda za zaštitu životne sredine I energetske efikasnosti RS
- UniCredit Fondacija
- Sparkasse bank
- Privredna komora DB
- China National Technical Import & Export Corporation
- Powerchina Resources

GOVERNMENT

- FMERI;
- Ministarstvo vanjske trgovine I ekonomskih odnosa BiH
- FMSaob;
- Ministarstvo za prostorno uređenje građevinarstvo I ekologiju RS
- FMNO
- FMOIT
- FMPU
- FMPVŠ
- FMZdr

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- Studija izvodljivosti I ekonomske opravdanosti izgradnje Sistema navodnjavanja DB
- Analiza utjecaja na okoliš I društvo I GAP analiza za dva projekta vjetroelektrana u BiH

Kosovo

As it has been reported in the previous year, the situation remains at the same level as it was in 2021. There has been a lack of progress toward creating a legal framework to foster green businesses from other forms of businesses.

According to the EU progress report, Kosovo has made progress in preparation on areas related to the Green Agenda and sustainable connectivity. Despite this, Kosovo remains heavily reliant on coal. Limited progress was made in the areas of transport, environment, and climate change. Kosovo still has made little progress in developing a functioning market economy. Diversification and the dependence on finance from the diaspora are vulnerable to the pandemic-related lockdown and travel restrictions that were present during 2021 and the recent crisis in the region⁵.

Regarding the Green Agenda and encouragement of the private and public sector to invest in the green business sector and public services, the Civic Society and International Organizations remain pivotal actors to voice the concerns that Kosovo has.

At the public level, during the year, it is expected to sign an agreement between the Government of Kosovo and the Millennium Challenge Corporation to receive a grant of over 200 million dollars, which has been recently approved by the MCC. The program envisages investments in the purchase of batteries that will store energy, which may contribute to the reduction use of coal for energy. According to the Minister of Economy, this project saves Kosovo about 15 million euros per year. However, at this point, it is unclear from which resources will be secured the energy to be stored in the battery farm.

The number of green businesses in Kosovo remains almost at the same level as it has been reported in the previous year. According to the research now there are 122 green businesses in Kosovo. Their work is focused on the fields of solar energy, wind, hydro, wood biomass, food, energy efficiency, recycling, and construction.

Recap from the previous analysis:

Like it has been reported in the previous year, Kosovo remains to have no laws that separate (foster) green businesses from other forms of businesses. Businesses in Kosovo are registered in the Business Registration Agency that operates within the Ministry of Industry Entrepreneurship and Trade and they are categorized as an individual, partnerships, LLCs and medium enterprises, etc⁶.

The most approximate legal point of view that envisages some aspects of green businesses is the law on social enterprises Law Nr. 06/L-022 on Social Enterprises in Kosovo voted in 2019. This law defines social enterprises as a legal entity regardless of the manner of its establishment, which in its founding act contains social objectives, carries out economic activities, produces goods and provides services in the general interest of society, and integrates into work persons from vulnerable groups. Overall, the law foresees that social enterprises will operate within the capacities of human resources and the capacities of biodiversity⁷.

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2021-10/Kosovo%202021%20report.PDF>

⁶ <https://arbk.rks-gov.net/Page.aspx?id=1,32>

⁷ Law on social enterprises - <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18187>

According to the Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency report "SME Policy Index Western Balkans and Turkey 2019", there hasn't been any initiative from state institutions about developing or supporting green businesses in Kosovo. The draft of Strategy for Private Sector Development (2018-2022) does not include any objectives or action points related to making green SMEs, although the draft strategy takes into account the increase in efficiency of energy and the use of renewable energy as an "opportunity" for the certain industry in which SMEs operate⁸.

According to the same research, the environmental policy elements relevant to SMEs are included in three relevant strategies and action plans:

- *Strategy for Environmental Protection (2013- 2022), which is a central national environmental policy document;*
- *Strategy for Energy Sector Development by 2030;*
- *Climate Change Strategy (2019-2028) *;*
- *Kosovo National Water Strategy (2017-2036) *.*

The first two strategic documents provide energy efficiency improvements in the Kosovo private sector, but to this date, no significant measures have been implemented. According to the government, the limited realization of these measures is explained by limited budget allocations for them and major delays in the mobilization of donor funds⁹.

During the last years, Kosovo's Government has established the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which was expected to support new businesses especially those with innovative ideas for promising economic development, but the national strategy for innovation 2019-2023 has not included green ideas in their scope of support¹⁰. We must emphasize that with the new government created in 2020 the number of Ministries in Kosovo has been reduced, and as a result, the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship has been abolished.

Nevertheless, there seems to be an increase in businesses that adapted the environmental protection concept to their companies. From our research, we found out that there are 115 green businesses in Kosovo, in the fields of solar energy, wind, hydro, wood biomass, energy efficiency, recycling, and construction.

In the absence of concrete support from government institutions in Kosovo, green businesses have good support from international donors who have made a significant contribution in this regard. Green businesses can find support in financial institutions, but they have had great support from international organizations, where most of which have had at least one project to support green businesses in Kosovo.

⁸ SME Policy Index Western Balkans and Turkey 2019 - <https://kiesa.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/006E7C56-65F4-41CA-86FE-F48265F97E89.pdf?fbclid=IwAR19ZP3GLjhftO-skn4cqvwFaC3NTXUw1-EQf1qKHWVMra53xtq1yOBHu4I>

⁹ <https://kiesa.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/006E7C56-65F4-41CA-86FE-F48265F97E89.pdf?fbclid=IwAR317m2LfHlodhSK1C58ulEpVHaZBWMYX2DXtZ92feiZi5MN1Z0xqm963DI>

¹⁰ https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/Storage/Consultations/15-02-29-24122018/1.%20Strategjia%20Kombetare%20per%20Inovacion%20dhe%20Ndermarresi_Shqip.pdf

*http://kepweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/F_KEP_D0.00.10-Climate_Change_Strategy_and_Action_Plan-2019_2028.pdf

*http://kepweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/F_KEP_D8.01.01_Water_Strategy_final-ENG.pdf

DONORS

&

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- Embassy of Sweden Pristina, Kosovo

<https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofSwedeninPristina/posts/3710364605722017>

<http://www.swedishepa.se/News-andpress/Nyhetsarkiv/Nyheter-ochpressmeddelanden2019/Environmental-cooperation-withKosovo/#>

<http://kepweb.org/>

- GIZ

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/298.html>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/81190.html>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/31746.html>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/72799.html>

- Millennium Foundation Kosovo
- European bank for reconstruction and development
- World Bank Kosovo
- USAID
- UNDP

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- Balkan Green Foundation
- Green Business Kosovo
- Civic Initiatives (FIQ)-
- Innovation center Kosovo
- Unicef Kosovo
- Lens
- UNDP

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- ProCredit Bank

<https://www.procreditbank-kos.com/eng/business-clients/loans/small-and-medium-loans/>

<https://www.procreditbankkos.com/eng/about-us/bank-environmental-policy/>

- Teb Bank
- Raiffeisen Bank
- International Finance Corporation

GOVERNMENT

- Kosovo environmental protection agency
- Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
- Ministry of agriculture, forestry and rural development
- Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund
- Ministry of Economic Development

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- Prishtina's University Hasan Prishtina
- ESLG College
- UBT - Higher Education Institution

NETWORKS

- Metal Industry and Renewable Energy Cluster of Kosovo (MIRECK)
- KOSID - Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development
- Connecting natural values and people
- Kosovo Manufacturing Club

Montenegro

2020 and 2021 were marked by the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide in all human spheres: economy, social life, traveling and health. Therefore, due to internal system changes in the Government of Montenegro after the election in the second half of 2020, the “Green Agenda” is mainly on standby status. Still, planned and previously started initiatives are in ongoing status. Set target of 30% reduction by 2030 compared to the 1990 level in reducing and mitigation of carbon footprint is gradually in the process of achieving as well as all other internationally prescribed and set goals.

Private sector investments related to low-carbon and green business development continue to receive incentives from the Government under the same conditions – 50% of investment to be co-financed by the Fund for Environmental Protection – Eco Fund. Eco Fund remained the carrier for private sector initiatives related to a green economy and polluting mitigation. After its establishment in March 2020, the Environmental Protection Fund (Eco Fund) still needs to organize its own development concept and activities in accordance with the best practices of similar organizations in the EU in order to fulfill its mission.

Following the Strategy on Smart Specialization, the new register of innovation and innovative initiatives was established (www.inovacije.gov.me) and will present the base for incentives, benefits and networking at the national and global levels. Additionally, the Ministry of Economic Development provided a program to improve private sector competitiveness and one of the supporting lines is related to innovative business ideas, while Investment-Development Fund – IDF, remained the key Governmental financing credit institution (bank) that provides the loan program for projects targeting environmental protection, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources.

Regarding donors’ community and local grantees, which are mostly Governmental and NGO institutions in Montenegro, the most significant was UNDP project “Growth of green business in Montenegro” (2018–2021). The Project aimed to promote low-carbon business initiatives, create green jobs and decarbonize the Montenegrin economy (low-carbon development). Some of the project outcomes showed that funds for green investments require a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the green bond market globally both in the EU and in its ongoing development and specific sectors. At the same time, it is one of the possibilities for Montenegro to secure the missing funds through the issuing of green bonds.

Additional proposed type of financing for green business initiatives is related to strong and sustainable credit lines, but under some conditions that should be obtained:

- provide green credit lines, a strong financial instrument for strengthening sustainable, low-carbon development in Montenegro, while achieving both economic and environmental goals and combating the negative effects of climate change (achieving climate and energy goals in three key aspects: reducing CO2 emissions, the share of RES and EE growth;
- provide better insight into the potential of green growth in Montenegro, better records of green projects and disclosure of data on the green business of Montenegrin companies;
- provide continuous education to all involved in the process of the realization of loans and grants;
- to strengthen Montenegrin institutions and the private sector in the sustainable financing of development

Further development of green business and mitigation of climate change effects are considered as one of the priorities and it is defined that some of the business sectors are key for interventions. Priority sectors in this context are agriculture, energy and tourism.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- National program for competitiveness improvement 2021
- UNDP Mission to Montenegro

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- Fund for Active Citizenship
- Montenegro Chamber of commerce
- Eco-Business Centre Cetinje, Green Business Incubator
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis
- Science and Technology Park Montenegro

NETWORKS

- Innovative subjects registry
- Enterprise Europe Network – EEN
- National business associations (Employers' Federation, Montenegro Business Alliance, Union of Young Entrepreneurs, Women Business Association)

DONORS

- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- EU funds
- World Bank (Industrial Waste Management and Clean-up Project)
- EBRD (Support the transition away from coal and towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future in the Western Balkans and Ukraine)

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- Investment Development Fund – IDF (incentive interest rates for green businesses)
- Eco Fund, Fund for Environment

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- University of Montenegro
- University of Donja Gorica
- Science and Technology Park
- Business Incubators
- Research Companies
- Think-Thanks

GOVERNMENT

- Ministry of Economic Development
- Eco Fund, Fund for Environment
- Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism
- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

North Macedonia

The external researchers were engaged by the Organization for social innovations - ARNO, Skopje, N. Macedonia, first, to perform the initial desk research about country's main stakeholders in the field of Green Entrepreneurship and second, to update the initial version of the research. Both of the researches (initial and updated version) were done within the activities of the project "Balkan Green Academy" in the period from 14.12.2020 – 31.03.2022 and, as per the agreement, resulted in the draft version of Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Map for N. Macedonia.

The guidelines for grouping the main stakeholders were taken from the table format provided as a template. In the initial version of the mapping, the main directions and data, apart from the previous experience of the researcher in this field, as a starting point, were obtained from several individuals and organizations that are lobbying and are pioneers for this type of entrepreneurship in the country. The updated version of the mapping is done by desktop research. Andreevska in the initial research pointed out that a cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary approach to this field is missing and it was not unexpected, given the fact that there is no legal framework for this sector yet and the legislation in the Republic of North Macedonia does not recognize and regulates social enterprises and social entrepreneurship, but for the sake of the overall socio-economic environment, the process of legal adoption of these documents will soon take place¹¹.

Unlike the initial version, in the updated version, the first National Strategy for Development of Social Enterprises in the Republic of North Macedonia for the period of 2021-2027 was adopted (in September 2021 with Action Plan 2021-2023). The Strategy has been prepared based on the discussions in two intensive rounds of stakeholder consultation (involving social enterprises, civil society organizations, public institutions and academic institutions), latest studies and assessment of opportunities for social enterprises, support organizations and government programs for the development of the favorable ecosystem and the development of social enterprises. The main goal of the Strategy is to provide evidence-based and strategic guidance policies to encourage social entrepreneurship and the development of social enterprises in order to participate in a pluralistic social market economy. The strategy provides a platform for justifying and implementing a package of measures, grouped around five priorities. The first priority that supports the implementation of all other measures will be the establishment of a favorable legal framework that ensures equal legal status and benefits for all types of social enterprises.

The other four priorities are aimed at mobilizing, securing and strengthening resources for:

- creating a culture of social entrepreneurship and public recognition of social enterprises
- organizing mutual support, learning and capacity building for the social enterprises and key stakeholders in the ecosystem
- entry and development of markets for social enterprises
- gaining access to external finance

¹¹ (Andreevska et al, March 2021, Roadmap of Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the Western Balkans, Balkan Green Foundation, p.20)

Because one of the goals of this Strategy is to reach the member states of the EU in terms of the development of social enterprises and their ecosystem, this strategy uses the EU criteria from the Social Business Initiative and defines the social enterprise as an operator in the social economy whose main goal is to have a social impact by providing a wide range of social, economic, health, educational, cultural, environmental and other products and services of social value. These products and services serve to address socio-economic and environmental challenges and promote social welfare through the provision of goods and services in the market in an innovative and entrepreneurial way, using its profits primarily to achieve social or environmental goals¹².

The lack of a generally accepted definition and the lack of data on their economic and social activity and contribution is a challenge not only for researchers but also for the further development of this new field.

¹² (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of North Macedonia, September 2021, National Strategy for Development of Social Enterprises in the Republic of North Macedonia (2021-2027), Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of North Macedonia)

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- [Ad-Hoc Support Grants](#)
- [Activation of vulnerable groups in the labour market](#)
- [Balkan Green Academy \(BGA\)](#)
- [Balkan Green Ideas \(BGI\)](#)
- [Balkan Energy Prospect \(BEP\)](#)
- [CBC Programs for the WBC under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance \(IPA\)](#)
- [Collaborative Economy without Barriers](#)
- [EPTISA - Support to social enterprises-SEs- EuropeAid/140105/DH/SER/MK](#)
- [ERASMUS for young entrepreneurs](#)
- [GlobalGiving Accelerator](#)
- ["GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region"](#)
- [GREENOVET – European VET Excellence Platform for Green Innovation](#)
- [Increasing Market Employability Program – IME](#)
- [INN@SEE – Innovative Social Entrepreneurship with Youth Engagement](#)
- [Nature Conservation Program](#)
- [Networking and Advocacy for Green Economy](#)
- [Pro-excellence](#)
- [Projects for self-employment through loans](#)
- [SME Competitiveness support program](#)
- [Startup Acceleration Program \(UKIM\)](#)
- [Strong Small Business-Driven Producers](#)
- [Support to Economic Diversification of Rural Areas in Southeast Europe \(SEDRA\)](#)
- [Swiss Entrepreneurship Program, Phase II](#)
- [USAID Annual Program Statement for Democracy Commission SGP 2021](#)
- [Acceleration program CEED HUB Skopje](#)
- [AirCare](#)
- ["All fed \(Site Siti\)"](#)
- [Aspire Program](#)
- [BALKANS YOUTH: LINKING EDUCATION, ABILITIES AND PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL IN REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE – BALKAN YOUTH: LINKING EDUCATION, SKILLS AND PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL IN REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES](#)
- [SEEDS of Inclusiveness – Social Enterprises for Economic Development and Social Inclusion](#)
- [CSOs in Action for Climate](#)
- [EIT Jumpstarter program](#)
- [EU for economic growth](#)
- [The "Filter - Textile Industry" project](#)
- [First Four Monthly Program of the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia for Startup Business Development \(28.02.2022-10.06.2022\)](#)
- [The first 6-month Program for Entrepreneurship and Leadership](#)
- [The Gef Small Grants Programme](#)
- [MLADI.MK](#)
- [MLADIHUB – BUILDING EMPLOYMENT SKILLS, COMPETENCIES AND NETWORKING FOR YOUTH](#)
- [Pre-acceleration program CEED HUB Skopje](#)
- [SE4YOU - Social Entrepreneurship for youth](#)
- [Social Enterprises - a bridge between the social sector and traditional businesses](#)
- [Social Innovation Tournament](#)
- [SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT](#)
- [Swiss Entrepreneurship Program](#)

DONORS

- [British Embassy](#)
- [Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development \(CEED\)](#)
- [Direct Aid Program \(DAP\), Australian Consulate in Skopje](#)
- [EKOenergy](#)
- [EU AID](#)
- [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#)
- [French Embassy in Skopje](#)
- [German Development Agency – GIZ](#)
- [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#)
- [Heinreich Boll Stiftung](#)
- [Rockefellers Brothers Fund](#)
- [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(SIDA\)](#)
- [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#)
- [UNDP & UN](#)
- [USAID](#)
- [Western Balkans Fund – WBF](#)
- [CEED Macedonia BA Club](#)
- [The Central European Initiative \(CEI\)](#)
- [Civica Mobilitas](#)
- [Crimson capital](#)
- [Embassy of Switzerland in North Macedonia](#)
- [The European Endowment for Democracy \(EED\)](#)
- [Fund for Innovation and Technology Development](#)
- [The Gef Small Grants Programme](#)
- [Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in North Macedonia](#)
- [I2BAN](#)
- [OSCE](#)
- [RYCO](#)
- [SEAF Macedonia](#)
- [South Central Ventures](#)
- [U.S. Embassy in N.Macedonia](#)
- [Visegrad Fund](#)

NETWORKS

- [Alliance for Advocacy and Lobbying](#)
- [Genuine Experiences Tourism Platform](#)
- [Go Green Network](#)
- [Green Social Entrepreneurship Network – to be established](#)
- [Macedonian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives \(MAAC\)](#)
- [North Macedonia Organic Producers Federation](#)
- [Startup Macedonian Platform](#)
- [Social Enterprises Network \(SEN mk\)](#)
- [Kolektiv Z – YFoE Macedonia](#)
- [Zelen glas – digital participative platform](#)
- [Rural Development Network of North Macedonia](#)
- [Slow Food Convivium's Network](#)
- [Enterprise Europe Network](#)
- [YES Network](#)
- [Womenpreneurs stories](#)
- [Western Balkans Youth Social Economy Alliance- WB SEA](#)

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- [ARNO – Organization for development of new options NGO & Local Incubator for RISE project](#)
- [UKIM Business-technological accelerator \(BAU\)](#)
- [RISE – Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs](#)
- [Entrepreneurial Youth Service Foundation \(YES\)](#)
- [Business Impact Lab Skopje](#)
- [BitHub Bitola](#)
- [Ceed Hub Skopje](#)
- [INNOFeit \(Skopje\)](#)
- [Kasarna Hub](#)
- [Newman's Business Accelerator](#)
- [The Regional Business Innovation Centre Strumica \(BICSR\)](#)
- [Seavus Accelerator](#)
- [Seavus Incubator](#)
- [SEEU Tech Park \(Tetovo\)](#)
- [X Factor Accelerator Veles](#)

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- [Fund for Innovations and Technology Developments \(FITD\)](#)
- [National Designated Authority \(NDA\)](#)
- [Small Enterprise Assistance Funds \(SEAF\)](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [International Finance Corporation](#)
- [Sparkasse Bank AD Skopje-](#)

GOVERNMENT

- [Assembly of the Republic of N. Macedonia](#)
- [Ministry of Labour and Social Policy](#)
- [Ministry of Economy](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy](#)
- [Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning](#)
- [Ministry of Local Self-government \(Municipalities\)](#)
- [Secretariat for European Affairs](#)
- [Agency for Entrepreneurship Support – APPRSM](#)
- [Agency for Promotion and Support of Tourism](#)
- [Department for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations](#)
- [Agency for Promotion of Entrepreneurship of the Republic of N. Macedonia](#)
- [Fund for Innovations and Technology Developments \(FITD\)](#)
- [Bureau for Regional Development \(8 Planning Regions\)](#)
- [Employment Service Agency of the Republic of N. Macedonia](#)
- [Fund for Innovations and Technology Developments \(FITD\)](#)
- [Agency for financial support of culture and rural development](#)
- [Economic and Social Council –ESC](#)

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- [Accredited Universities and Faculties](#)
- [Centre for Technology Transfer and innovations – INNOFEIT](#)
- [Faculty for IT &CT, Bitola](#)
- [Institute of Communication Studies IKS](#)
- [The Yunus Center for Social Business](#)
- [South-East European University \(SEEU\)](#)

Serbia

The green economy and entrepreneurship in Serbia are framed with a few parallel concepts – social entrepreneurship, circular economy and green economy (bio-economy, as the fourth expected concept, is not common in Serbia and was mentioned only in a few academic papers). These conceptions are developing in two parallel legal, institutional, and program trails with social entrepreneurship addressing primary social (vulnerable groups and poverty) and economic goals, while circular and green economies are perceived as providing a solution for ecological and economic issues. Unfortunately, none of these concepts, individually, offer a complete solution, and collaborative development that will balance all three pillars should be supported: renewable, reproductive, and biodiversity-based processes that fulfill both, the economic and social requirements of all people, now and in the future. It is paramount to work more on conceptual understanding of these narratives, with a holistic, integrative approach, as it informs public policies and actions, thus molding slow and gradual social processes which are hard to renovate.

The modern social entrepreneurship explanation came first in Serbia, was introduced in 2007, and was promoted mostly by international and national CSOs. Earlier, it was mostly recognized in the form of work integration social enterprises for people with disabilities. The new, wider concept was formally introduced in the Cooperative Societies Act of 2015¹³, with the social cooperative definition, intended more to promote the idea than to enable proper legal frame and institutional support. After fifteen years of promoting the idea, and a decade of work on the legal solutions, the Law on Social Entrepreneurship was adopted in February 2022¹⁴. It is an enabling act, introducing the Council for Social Entrepreneurship, which will consist of an equal number of representatives of the public, private and civic sectors. The law is enabling wide interpretation of the concept, at the same time implying additional normativization in regard to the social policy laws, cooperative law, public procurement laws, tax and fiscal laws, etc. As for the practice, although recognized on the national level, the concept is still unclear in most of the local communities, with stakeholders still trying to find relevant info and resource points, with frequent misinterpretations. The Civic sector is estimating that between 500 and 700 entities in Serbia could fit into the social entrepreneur definition (the register of social entrepreneurs is still not operational and the cadaster for registration of cooperative ownership is not separately registering social cooperatives).

Green transition in Serbia started slowly in 2019, influenced by the EU Green Deal. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly accelerated the development of the policy framework. Fast and strong international focus forced national policy changes¹⁵. The first significant impetus to the green transition was the adoption of the Serbian Circular Economy Roadmap in September 2020, which focuses on four priority sectors, including the manufacturing industry, agriculture and food, plastics and packaging, and construction¹⁶. In March 2021, the Government of Serbia adopted a law on climate change, which sets the legal framework for future action on greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation. Based on this law, the Government plans to adopt a 10-year national low-carbon development strategy with an action plan within the next two years¹⁷. Major investment in the field of wastewater treatment and water supply started, driven by the Multiannual Investment and Financing Plan, an annex to the Chapter 27 negotiation position document and incorporated within the broader “Serbia 2025” infrastructure framework¹⁸.

¹³ <http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/zakoni/2015/3504-15%20lat.pdf>

¹⁴ http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/predlozi_zakona/2021/2505-21%20-%20Lat..pdf

¹⁵ “People and planet are entering an entirely new geological epoch, the Anthropocene or the Age of Humans”, UNDP Human Development Report 2020

¹⁶ Republic of Serbia – Ministry of Environmental Protection, circular economy, UNDP (2020), Roadmap for circular economy in Serbia, available at <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/roadmap-for-circular-economy-in-serbia.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/serbiaadopts-bill-on-climate-change/>

¹⁸ <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/148956/serbia-2025-project-worth-14b.php>

Although social entrepreneurs and CSOs were the first to embrace and promote the concept, MSMEs in Serbia can and should be the backbone of the Serbian green economy. They are willing to invest in more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly processes, but they continue to face numerous specific barriers to green investments, including lack of capital, insufficient skills and information about green technologies, and inadequate support from the (regulatory) environment. Almost three-quarters of MSMEs are interested in taking loans to finance green projects¹⁹. The vast majority would prefer loans to be connected with grants or subsidies.

There are sufficient ideas for green projects and business models and can already show some successes, but they have to be encouraged and supported along the way. Most entrepreneurs, CSOs and MSMEs are unaware of their options and still resort to expensive financial instruments such as short-term loans or even overdrafts. Technical assistance is considered a key facilitator for green investments. Carriers of the green economy would accept technical support for the implementation of green projects, in particular regarding legal requirements, feasibility studies, environmental and social compliance, as well as training in emerging technologies or technological processes relevant to the green economy. Civic entrepreneurship and green innovations need to feel nurtured in order to thrive.

¹⁹ UNDP (2021), Scaling-Up Green Finance for the Private Sector in Serbia in the Post-Pandemic World, available at https://www.rs.undp.org/content/serbia/en/home/library/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/scaling-up-green-finance.html

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Europe Office
- UN Women
- UNDP Serbia
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- OECD

DONORS

European Union/European Commission

- Horizon2020 Serbia
- EU for better environment
- Green Climate Fund
- EBRD
- The EBRD's Green Economy Financing Facility in Serbia
- Global Environmental Facility(GEF)

USAID:

- <https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/news-information/fact-sheets/usaids-serbia-energy-efficiency-activity>
- <https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/fact-sheets/usaids-competitive-economy-project>
- <https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/news-information/fact-sheets/women-entrepreneurs-and-startup-founders-initiative>
- The Green for Growth Fund (GGF)
- Heinrich Böll Foundation

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- Serbian Chamber of Commerce - Centre for Circular Economy
- Trag foundation - Green Ideas Forum
- Smart kolektiv
- The Belgrade Open School
- EIT Climate - KIC Hub Serbia
- ACCELERATE 20230 - UNDP and Impact HUB - Circular Challenge
- Climate Innovation Hub - Young Innovators program
- HUB Circular Economy of Serbia
- Impact Hub Belgrade
- Sekopak company
- The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)
- Oxford Academy Serbia

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- Innovation Fund of Republic of Serbia
- Erste Bank AD Novi Sad
- Banca Intesa (Intesa Sanpaolo)
- Otp bank Generator

GOVERNMENT

- Ministry of Economy – Sector for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship
- Ministry of Environmental Protection, Sector for Strategic Planning, Projects, International Cooperation and European Integration, Group for Green and Circular economy
- Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities

NETWORKS

- CE Beacons – CIREKON Serbia
- GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region – SMART collective
- WISE SEE - Women in Sustainable Energy South-East Europe
- Serbia Organica - National Association for Development of Organic Production
- Association Coalition for Solidarity Economy Development
- Network for rural development of Serbia

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- The Faculty of Economics in Belgrade
- Faculty Futura University of Metropolitan - BA Studies - Environmental Economics
- Belgrade Polytechnic - Recycling technologies
- The University "Union - Nikola Tesla"

