



Roadmap of Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the Western Balkans

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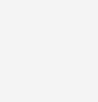


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Green Entrepreneurship Roadmap of Western Balkans has been designed to provide a concrete overview of the existing ecosystems and mapping the relevant stakeholders in the countries who are fostering the development of green entrepreneurship in the 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

The six Western Balkans (WB) countries are facing severe problems in the energy transition, climate change, and environmental protection on the road to EU integration. Green economy and green entrepreneurship in the WB area are not new concepts, but they are still at a very low level of development. In the process of determining the current stakeholders in the Western Balkans, the method identified seven parts that fully or partially support green entrepreneurship through its plans, projects, programs, or financial mechanisms.

In the region of Western Balkan the transition to a green economy is not just an opportunity but is a necessity, which means living and health for all citizens as recognized as part of the new strategy [The Green Agenda for the Western Balkans](#), envisaged by the European Green Deal, and the connected [Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans](#) adopted last October. Green entrepreneurship is not reflected in many national and regional strategy documents, even though this stakeholder analysis will show that the many institutions, programs, and projects recognize the green economy in the countries of WB: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.**

During the research conducted in the region, more than 70 national and regional-level plans and projects have been identified. Also, more than 40 **international donor organizations** support the development of social or green entrepreneurship in their national and regional priority areas. The mapping process identified more than 50 **national incubators and accelerators**. These incubators and accelerators are running national programs for the development of entrepreneurship, organizing cooperation and mobilization among participants in the country and region, and organizing training and exchange meetings to promote knowledge of the development of green concepts. It is worth mentioning that the highest support for green entrepreneurship in the WB region comes from the civil sector.

Non-governmental organizations are actively committed to the public's advocacy for regulatory change and creation through policy research and mainly regional-specific measures. National and regional initiatives and projects have been created to stress the importance of a green economy, economic development, and environmental protection.

On the contrary, the financial sector in the Western Balkans region is less concerned about establishing a separate financial mechanism for green enterprise support, and in the mapping, there are only a few active **financial institutions** in each country that provide support in the green field.

In terms of **academic and research institutions** supporting green entrepreneurs, the countries in this region are not on the same level. In some countries, few private or state institutions design courses or masterclasses on social enterprises, but in other countries, the academic departments have little interest in the green entrepreneurship topic. However, the mapping process shows that there are not too many national or regional **networks** that can provide strong support for entrepreneurs engaged in green entrepreneurship, climate, or environmental issues.

Regarding **governmental agencies** working in this field, it is worth noting that in most countries, government departments and local authorities do not have departments or resources responsible for the

development of green entrepreneurship, but most countries have established regulations related to nature and environmental protection plans and strategies.

The overall conclusions of the Map of the Ecosystem of Green Entrepreneurs in the Western Balkans show that these countries focus more on social entrepreneurship, digital innovation, and so-called creative industries. Unfortunately, the potential of the WB regional green economy, circular economy, and green entrepreneurship have not been recognized yet, laying the foundation for prospects that should be explored in the future.

Antoaneta Ivanova

Albania

In Albania, there is not a common definition and understanding of green entrepreneurship, and the word “green entrepreneurship ecosystem” is rather ambitious. The only program targeting directly green startups in Albania is the Green Businesses Competition managed by the Partners Albania for Change and Development. Other donors and programs support green entrepreneurship as part of their social entrepreneurship pillars. Some programs operating in this regard are:

- RISE program – 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;
- 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;
- EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD) is an important support mechanism for Albanian agricultural cooperatives;
- The Swiss Entrepreneurship Program offers peer knowledge sharing, connections, community-building for start-ups and Albania is part of their coverage;
- Idea, a program supported by GIZ aiming to scale up entrepreneurial competencies and business skills of youngsters.

Supporting organizations such as Partners Albania for Change and Development, Yunus Social Business, ICTS Lab, Metropolitan Incubator, Destil Creative Hub, Swisscontact Albania, Coolab, Talent Garden, Center for Competitiveness Promotion provide either incubator and accelerators infrastructures, or related programs. There are companies like Grant Thornton Albania that provide legal and business pro bono for newly established green enterprises.

National funding addressing green startups is almost nonexistent. Institutions such as AIDA provides 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”, which has not been functional yet. The National Scheme of Support for Agriculture and Rural Development targets agricultural cooperatives. At a local level, the Municipality of Tirana in 2021 launched the call for proposals for new green startups. The program aims to support new green ideas for the period of 2021 – 2023 with a total amount of 36,000,000 ALL (approx. 290,000 EUR).

In terms of networks, Albania does not have a national network promoting and advocating the developmental needs and concerns of its social enterprises or green startups which hinders their growth and is considered one of the main challenges to their further development. Regarding research, green entrepreneurship is not explored and researched as a topic and no academic institution has a specific course related to this issue. Partners Albania has pioneered research on social economy and social entrepreneurship. Epoka University has a program on social business, following the model of Yunus,

which has conducted several scientific conferences. Recently, Metropolitan University has designed a curriculum and several masterclasses in this regard.

During 2015-2017, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Intesa San Paolo Bank Albania have financed 147 small and medium enterprises led and owned by women. The European Investment Fund (EIF) and the microfinance institution (BESA) have created an instrument for the employment and social innovation of small enterprises. However, none of these institutions have targeted specifically green startups. During the last years, Credins Bank has supported green startups with seed funding in collaboration with Partners Albania.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

[The RISE \(Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs\);](#)

[UK-Albania Tech Hub](#)

[Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development](#)

[Balkan Green Ideas](#)

[Entrepreneurship Models Building Relations and Creative Economy](#)

[EU for Innovation](#)

[Idea](#)

[The Swiss Entrepreneurship Program](#)

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

[Yunus Social Business](#)

[ICTS Lab](#)

[Partners Albania for Change and Development](#)

[Metropolitan Incubator](#)

[Destil Creative Hub](#)

[Swisscontact Albania](#)

[Coolab](#)

[Talent Garden](#)

[Center for Competitiveness Promotion](#)

NETWORKS

There are no national networks in Albania regarding green entrepreneurship.

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

[Epoka University](#)

[Metropolitan University](#) and [Metro-Research](#)

[Partners Albania for Change and Development](#)

DONORS

[European Union](#)

[Delegation of EU in Albania](#)

[United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women](#)

[US Embassy in Albania](#)

[British Embassy Tirana](#)

[Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation](#)

[USAID](#)

[RYCO](#)

[GIZ](#)

[Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#)

[One Telecommunication Company](#)

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

[European Investment Fund](#) and [Besa Fund](#)

[Credins Bank](#)

[European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) and [Intesa San Paolo Bank Albania](#)

GOVERNMENT

[Albanian Investment Development Agency \(AIDA\)](#)

[Ministry for Social Protection and Health](#)

[Municipality of Tirana](#)

[The National Scheme of Support for Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Compiling research on BiH's green economy and jobs is not without challenges, as data related to the existing, green jobs and green economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is scarce, and to generally quantify the potential of green jobs is a hard task due to the lack of sound information.

The agriculture sector has a longstanding tradition, with a large workforce, especially in rural areas, where employment opportunities are much needed. Tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors in BiH, with high rates of incoming tourists, and an urgent need to create more infrastructure and services. Biogas is a very new development in BiH, with only two biogas plants operating in 2016. However, the large amounts of biomass produced in BiH can, and should, be transformed into a source of energy. Energy obtained from biogas can either be connected to the grid and sold on to the main electricity provider in BiH, or used as a source of heating for households with small farms, or used to reduce large energy bills for medium and large farms whilst creating employment for the maintenance of the plants instead. Renewable energy is a necessity for the future. Producing clean energy will ensure both sustainability and less environmental damage (unlike thermal energy, or fracking). 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. 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. The development of these sectors depends not just on governmental or international investment, but also on offering opportunities for citizens, through awareness, action, and income generation opportunities¹.

The main stakeholders of the green entrepreneurship ecosystem in BiH are many organizations, projects, donors, authorities. Each entity and Brčko District have its own regulations and bodies as well as major funding funds. Following the example of the Law on the Environmental Protection Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we can conclude that in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to donor support, funds are collected from the fees of environmental polluters; environmental user compensation; special environmental charges payable at each registration of motor vehicles.

Support projects/programs are: Misli o prirodi, Balkan Green Ideas, UrbanLED projekat, Regionalna mreža za upravljanje informacijama o biodiverzitetu i izvještavanje, Life projekt-IPPCBiH, DRINKADRIA, GED projekat.

Like many bodies, the issue of environmental protection and green entrepreneurship is divided within the competence of institutions in the Republika Srpska, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Brčko District. A strategy commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism has been developed for the Federation of BiH. Most of the funds are allocated from the budgets of the Federation and the cantons, while the rest of the funds come from international bodies and organizations.

¹ https://ba.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2017/09/studija_-_zeleni_poslovi_-_korekcije_-_30-08-2017.pdf

There are currently a large number of foreign investments and projects in BiH that address green environment issues. Also, a certain part of the income comes from the industry and factories in BiH that pay compensation for the waste generated by their production.

Supporting organizations are: Mozaik Foundation, Centar za promociju civilnog društva, NVO Arbor Magne, Ekosfera, Eko-natura, WYG International, Centar za ekologiju I energiju, Centar za životnu sredinu.

To conclude, 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 - BGI and partly the GED project are there to provide support, encourage entrepreneurship and green businesses, but also the Federal Chamber of Commerce.

Support organizations - Mozaik, CPCD, and a couple of others, have support programs aimed directly at encouraging the development of ideas and businesses in the fields of environmental protection.

Government - put the greatest focus on improving policies, laws, and strategies in the field of environmental protection, and don't 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 and the environment institutionally and strategically, while a smaller number support startups, product development, and services in the field of the green economy.

Academics and Research - several kinds of researches and tests on the basis of which the steps and content of some projects are created.

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

DONORS

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

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

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

NETWORKS

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

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

GOVERNMENT

- FMERI
- Ministarstvo vanjske trgovine i ekonomskih odnosa BiH
- FMSaob
- Ministarstvo za prostorno uređenje građevinarstvo i ekologiju RS
- FMNO
- FMOIT
- EMPU
- EMPVŠ
- FMZdr

Kosovo

In Kosovo, there are 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 Trade and Industry, and they are categorized as individual, partnership, LLC and medium enterprises, etc².

The most approximate legal point of view that envisages some aspects of green businesses is the 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. In overall, the law foresees that the social enterprises will operate within the capacities of human resources and capacities of biodiversity³.

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 development 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 SME`s, although the draft strategy takes into account the increase in efficiency of energy and the use of renewable energy as an “opportunity” for the industry certain in which SMEs operate⁴.

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; and*
- *Management Strategy Waste 2.0 (2017-2021).*

The first two strategic documents provide energy efficiency improvements in the Kosovo private sector, but to 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 funds⁵.

² <https://arb.krs-gov.net/Page.aspx?id=1,32>

³ Law on social enterprises - <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18187>

⁴ 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>

⁵ <https://kiesa.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/006E7C56-65F4-41A-86FE-F48265F97E89.pdf?fbclid=IwAR317m2LfHlodhSK1C58ulEpVHaZBWMYX2DXtZ92feiZi5MN1Z0xqm963DI>

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 support⁶. We must emphasize that with the new government created in 2020 the number of Ministries in Kosovo has been reduced, and as a result, this ministry has ceased to exist.

Nevertheless, there seems to be an increase in businesses that adopt the environmental protection concept into 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 nevertheless, they have had great support from international organizations, where most of them have had at least one project to support green businesses in Kosovo.

⁶ https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/Storage/Consultations/15-02-29-24122018/1.%20Strategjia%20Kombetare%20per%20Inovacion%20dhe%20Ndermarresi_Shqip.pdf

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

- [Balkan Green Ideas](#)
- [RISE- Regional incubator for social entrepreneurs](#)
- [Green Economy Financing Facility \(GEFF\)](#)
- [Millenium Foundation Kosovo](#)

DONORS

- [Embassy of Sweden Pristina, Kosovo-](#)
- [The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#)
- [European bank for reconstruction and development](#)
- [World Bank Kosovo](#)
- [USAID](#)
- [European Union](#)
- [UNDP](#)

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- [Balkan Green Foundation](#)
- [Green Business Kosovo](#)
- [Forum for Civic Initiatives \(FIQ\)](#)
- [Innovation center Kosovo -](#)
- [UNICEF Kosovo -](#)
- [Lens -](#)

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- [ProCredit Bank](#)
- [TEB Bank](#)
- [International Finance Corporation](#)

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](#)
- [RECURA Financials](#)

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- [Prishtina's University Hasan Prishtina](#)
- [ESLG College](#)
- [UBT - Higher Education Institution](#)

GOVERNMENT

- [Kosovo environmental protection agency](#)
- [Ministry of Economy and Environment](#)
- [Ministry of agriculture, forestry and rural development](#)
- [Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund](#)
- [Ministry of Economic Development](#)



Montenegro

After gaining independence in 2006, Montenegro became a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by succession and a non-Annex I Party to the UNFCCC. In September 2015, Montenegro developed and submitted National Climate Change Strategy by 2030 and submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The Government of Montenegro adopted a 30% reduction as an internal target by 2030 (INDC), compared to the 1990 level, and is now evaluating and implementing mitigation options to meet this goal.

Projects focused on greening Montenegro economy are in the initial phase of implementation and are aiming to promote private sector investment in low-carbon and green businesses in Montenegro through addressing identified root causes and barriers to investment in low-carbon economic growth.

The Government adopted the Strategy on Smart Specialization with a precise and expertly supported methodology on how EU regions should define their priority areas for research and innovation and established a platform for regional cooperation, which is the method of smart specialization of the region (S3).

Being the central institution of Montenegrin science, culture, and art, the University of Montenegro should work on the strengthening of connections with our economic, social, and international surroundings through productive associations with private and public sector businesses. However, the chronic problem in Montenegro is a discrepancy between market supply and demand at the labor market and it could be concluded that the Universities (public and private) are not implementing market requests into their curriculums and do not cooperate with the real sector, which would be the key in achieving balance at the labor market and meet higher standards in the economy.

One of the key steps in initiating private sector investment to invest in green businesses in Montenegro was to establish the Fund for Environmental Protection – Eco Fund. The Eco Fund is envisioned to be financed from polluters (fee on some products, e.g. fuel), through “the polluter pays” system and from ecological fees charged from tourists, while their activities should be directed to environmental protection at the public interest level and financial, logistical and advising type of support for companies and individuals in implementing significant ecological activities. However, cooperation with other institutions is not significant and formalized, while procedures on Fund’s self-financing are not established and implemented yet. The Eco Fund is financed through the National annual budget for its functioning and some of the planned activities. The only activity they are conducting is related to announcing public calls for co-financing individual energy efficiency activities (e.g. the supply of electric vehicles or energy systems).

Investment-Development Fund – IDF, as the Governmental financing credit institution (bank), provides the Loan program for projects targeting environmental protection, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources. This is one of several credit lines within this institution. However, the conditions and procedures on determining the eligibility of the applicants are not transparent as well as successful applications of this credit line. Administrative and other costs, collateral obligations, long procedures, and subjective deciding on each application are characteristic for this Fund, which should provide financial support on behalf of the Government for businesses with solid and profitable business ideas with lower negotiating power in front of the commercial banks.

The major donor for all kinds of projects and activities in Montenegro, at the Governmental, public, or private sector is the European Union through its programs. Most of its sources are directed to the Government and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Government used donations from the EU mostly to adjust and harmonize regulations in all fields and to implement important projects of public interest (e.g. reconstructions of infrastructure), while NGOs applied projects upon announced calls with some concrete activities with clearly identified beneficiaries and target groups (e.g. education on specific topics, the supply of specific equipment).

There are several supporting institutions that connect donors, institutions and business sectors with citizens, such as incubators and technology parks: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center – IPC Tehnopolis, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, Chamber of Commerce, and other voluntarily based business associations.

As a part of the civil society sector, NGOs in Montenegro are eligible to apply for donations in order to meet society's needs in terms of services and rights, where and when necessary. Thus, donors and NGOs identified many needs in meeting ecological standards among the business sector and population: education, regulations' requirements, concrete activities, protection, and preventive activities, etc. NGOs successfully conducted many projects targeting environmental protection with beneficiaries among all population groups and business sectors. There are several "green" NGOs active in Montenegro whose main focus is conducting activities and services related to environmental protection or interventions in cases of pollution. Other NGOs also conducted projects in that field, although not exclusively devoted to these issues. Activities and projects conducted by NGOs with donors' support made our society aware of environmental protection's importance and being aware that we all are part of the problem and its solution at the same time.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

[The national program for improving the competitiveness of the economy for 2020](#)
[UNDP Mission in Montenegro](#)

DONORS

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

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

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

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

[Investment Development Fund – IDF \(incentive interest rates for green businesses\)](#)
[Eco Fund, Fund for Environment](#)

NETWORKS

[Enterprise Europe Network – EEN](#)
National business associations (Employers' Federation, Montenegro Business Alliance, Union of Young Entrepreneurs, Women Business Association)

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

It was obvious, from the very beginning of the desk research, that a cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary approach to this field is missing. This was not unexpected, given the fact that there is no legal framework for this sector, nor social entrepreneurship in general.

The topic of Social Entrepreneurship is relatively new in the context of North Macedonia's policy. In official government strategies, the concept of social enterprise is first introduced in more comprehensive strategies for cooperation with the civil society sector (2012-2017).

As of today, a clear definition and the ecosystem in which the social enterprises operate in the Republic of N. Macedonia is underdeveloped. Numerous mechanisms and actors that will enable the recognition and continuous development of social enterprises are lacking. There is no clear overview of the actors active in the ecosystem, the type of services, and the support they offer. The adoption of the Law for Social Entrepreneurship is still delayed.

However, thanks to the extensive research and the consultation process involving all stakeholders: social enterprises, civil society organizations, public institutions, and academic institutions, the final draft of the Strategy for Social Entrepreneurship is prepared with an Action Plan. Hopefully, for the sake of the overall socio-economic environment, the process of legal adoption of these documents will soon take place.

Based on the above findings, and lack of the legal framework, the Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Map for North Macedonia with dimensions that consists mainly of quantitative data on the main stakeholders that is at the end of this chapter has been conducted. Realistically, on the National level, we can now talk about an enabling environment and a few actual but strong participants in this ecosystem.

Thanks to the strong determination of the EU and global Donors' policies for the sector, there is a strong mobilization involving various stakeholders to tackle the topics for green entrepreneurship less or more seriously (especially NGOs, Chambers, Media). Quite a large number of the stakeholders mapped in the table provided demonstrate limited or very modest, only declarative activities (for example Governmental institutions like Ministries), or the activities are not promoted because some of the stakeholders are not aware of their social impact (for example, various study programs available at the accredited Universities). However, this does not mean that they are not important for the Ecosystem map. On the contrary, they all have mandates for developing a positive environment and should be involved more actively in future networking.

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 / “GEAR – Green Economy for Advanced Region”
- GREENOVET – European VET Excellence Platform for Green Innovation
- “I od Bitola se mozi” Program III / 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

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)/ Heinrich Boll Stiftung
- Rockefellers Brothers Fund/ Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)/ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- UNDP & UN/ USAID/ Western Balkans Fund – WBF

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- ARNO – Association 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)
- CHAMBERS
- Chamber of Organic Producers (KOP)/
- Crafts Chamber Skopje
- Small Business Chamber
- Private Companies
- EE OTPAD / OMMO Bike Stand / PAKOMAK /
- SUNILENS ...
- CSOs / NGOs
- Community Development Institute – CDI / ECO – LOGIC / Eko Pravda /
- Eko-Svest / Eko Vita / Elektromobilnost Makedonija / ERGOS / ELIPSA /
- Go Green / Green Culture World Foundation / Impact Foundation / IN VIVO /
- KONEKT / LAG Agro Lider / Local Development Agency – LDA, Struga /
- Macedonian Ecological Society – MED / National Centre for Development of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Learning – NCDIEL /
- National Federation of Farmers / National Council for Women
- Entrepreneurship – NVWE / Prva Organska Zadruga / Planetum / PUBLIC /
- Slow Food / Zelen Institut ...
- Other support organizations:
- Balkan Green Foundation / CEED Hub Skopje / DOM /
- International Republican Institute (IRI) / PREDA Plus Foundation

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- Fund for Innovations and Technology Developments (FITD)
- National Designated Authority (NDA)
- Small Enterprise Assistance Funds (SEAF)
- World Bank

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

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

- Accredited Universities and
- Faculties
- Centre for Technology Transfer and
- innovations – INNOFEIT
- Faculty for IT &CT, Bitola
- Institute of Communication Studies IKS

GOVERNMENT

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

Serbia

Green economy and green entrepreneurship in Serbia, although not a new concept, is still at a very low level of development. In a country where approximately 2.5 million people live in areas with excessively polluted air, treat only 12% of wastewater, and annually about 350 thousand tons of waste ends up in 1,600 unregistered illegal landfills, the transition to a green economy is not an opportunity but a necessity that means living and health for all citizens.

The stakeholder analysis we made showed that the institutions in Serbia hardly recognize the green economy. The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Serbia does not have a sector or have persons in charge of the development of green entrepreneurship. The Strategy for Support of Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness sets the development of eco-innovation and green entrepreneurship as one of its goals, but there are no specific sectors that deal with this topic, steps, or initiatives in that direction. In the previous mandate, the Ministry of Environmental Protection formed a group for green and circular economy within the sector dealing with strategic planning, projects, and European integration, but only one person currently works in that group and besides creating a Roadmap toward Circular Economy in 2019, there are no programs in this direction. The Government of the Republic of Serbia does not have agendas that are directly aimed at supporting green entrepreneurship. The closest to this type of support is the Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia, which, among other things, supports some eco-innovation projects, but this is not their strategic approach, nor is this area specifically targeted.

There are a number of programs and projects of large international institutions that are currently investing most of their funds in support of state bodies in the transformation to green technologies and achieving environmental standards. A small part of these funds is invested in the development of strategic documents and public policies that go in the direction of supporting green entrepreneurship, and some of the institutions such as the UNDP have direct programs to support the start-up ecosystem and innovation in this area.

The general start-up ecosystem in Serbia is more focused on digitalization, IT solutions, and the so-called creative industries, and unfortunately, the potential of the green economy has not yet been recognized.

Important support for green entrepreneurship in Serbia is the civil sector, which through its policy research as well as specific initiatives that are mostly regional in type, actively works on public advocacy for regulatory change and creating a strategic framework, educates the general public about the importance of green economy for economic development and environmental protection. A small number of organizations, through international projects, provide subgrants for green ideas. The scope of such action, although pioneering, is not great, because these are projects with limited budgets and duration, and this approach cannot be a substitute for systemic support. There is great potential in networking these organizations as well as green entrepreneurs, and there are several networks that are making efforts to come together and thus improve the situation.

What is noticeable is that there are no capacity building and education programs for green entrepreneurship. The academic sector is worryingly weakly interested in education and research in this

area, except for a few private faculties and one institute, all other programs that exist in Serbia are focused exclusively on environmental protection. This may be the result of a really small number of programs that financially support work on this topic.

For the situation to be improved, Serbia needs a more systemic approach toward green entrepreneurship, solid institutional and academic support, long-term projects and incubators supporting green ideas and initiatives, as well as stronger regional and international networking.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

UN Environment

UN Women

[UNDP](#)

[The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#)

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/fact-sheets/usaaid-competitive-economy-project>

<https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/news-information/fact-sheets/women-entrepreneurs-and-startup-founders-initiative>

<https://www.usaid.gov/serbia/news-information/fact-sheets/usaaid-serbia-energy-efficiency-activity>

[The Green for Growth Fund \(GGF\)](#)

[Heinrich Böll Foundation](#)

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

[Serbian Chamber of Commerce – Centre for Circular Economy](#)

[Trag foundation – Green Ideas Forum](#)

[EIT Climate - KIC Hub Serbia](#)

[ACCELERATE 20230 - UNDP and Impact HUB – Circular Challenge](#)

[Climate Innovation Hub – Young Innovators program](#)

[Smart kolektiv](#)

FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

[INNOVATION FUND OF REPUBLIC OF SERBIA](#)

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](#)

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

[Faculty Futura University of Metropolitien – BA Studies – Environmental Economics](#)

[Institute of Economic Sciences](#)

[Belgrade Polytechnic – Recycling technologies](#)

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](#)

