

**balkan
green**
foundation

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020



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Transforming Innovative Concepts into Powerful Solutions



Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) is a regional organization that promotes inclusive and equitable progress within the Western Balkans in the sustainable development domain.

BGF has been successfully positioned as a key strategic partner for regional and global institutions, organizations, and communities to promote sustainable development, transform innovative concepts into powerful solutions, and strengthen regional and global partnerships.

BGF

At a Glance

VISION AND MISSION:

BGF aspires for a just and equitable sustainable development for the Balkan's region.

Marking seven (7) years since its inception, Balkan Green Foundation works to advocate and promote sustainable development in the Western Balkans, pushing forward initiatives that advance development policies and solutions, which are in line with the world's latest developments, global challenges and national agendas for EU integration on sustainable economic development, environmental protection, energy development, and climate change.

BGF

Programs

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



REGIONAL
COOPERATION



SOCIAL
INNOVATION



Message from the Board



ASTRIT ISTREFI
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear friends,

We just celebrated BGF's 7th anniversary. As we look back, we are extremely proud of the remarkable progress made by BGF during the past seven years. It is a great honor and privilege to be part of – and witness an organization that – within such a short period of time, became a leading sustainable development contributor in the Western Balkans region.

Such an achievement is a testament to the devotion, expertise and tireless efforts of the BGF team and Board of Directors; to partners and communities we work with; and to the invaluable support of our donors.

This annual report illustrates the difference BGF makes in the Western Balkans, and its contribution in building a just and equitable sustainable development for our region.

Today, the world looks different than it did seven years ago. The COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of authoritarianism and nationalist populism, and challenges to democracy and environment are profoundly affecting the communities across the globe. Such unprecedented challenges are having a significant impact in the Western Balkans, in our work and the work of our partners.

As we look ahead, the predicted trends do not seem very optimistic. Confronting the challenges ahead requires collaboration, perseverance and solidarity. As it requires vigilance, urgent attention and focus on durable solutions.

As we strive to bring about change in the Western Balkans, we will continue our efforts – with unwavering commitment – in partnership and collaboration with partners, communities and other actors in the region and beyond. And, to ensure the BGF's work remains accountable, transparent, and responsive to the needs and priorities of the communities in the Western Balkans.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to convey our deepest gratitude to the team, partners and donors who are building a solid foundation for future growth and success of BGF.

Message from the Executive Director



VISAR AZEMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a leading regional organization, we have combined initiatives and actions aiming for a sustainable and inclusive green growth to advance the position of the Western Balkans on its pathway towards EU integration in compliance with the European Green Deal agenda.

Since 2014, the venture has expanded in terms of capacities, impact and network. The engagement of the management and each of the team members has shaped the organization and positioned it as a valuable partner in the region and beyond for various crucial development processes.

The journey towards accomplishing the vision and mission of our organization has undertaken various challenges and vicissitudes. Despite the COVID-19, Balkan Green Foundation has managed to expand partnerships and continue implementation of existing projects. We have succeeded to advocate for environmentally friendly solutions, provide tangible support in empowering CSOs and green businesses and undertake valuable research and policy analysis.

This report shows our determination and persistency in achieving our goal by implementing various projects and activities in implementing our vision for a clean and sustainable Western Balkans. This achievement was enabled by the continuous support of our partners and donors, to whom we extend our gratitude and express our willingness for further cooperation.

Balkan Green Foundation will remain committed to help national governments transform policies that reflect energy transition, mitigate climate change and air pollution, as well as acknowledge benefits of social green businesses in the Western Balkans.

REALIZING OUR VISION IN 2020

Regional cooperation stands at the core of our vision. Regional initiatives make up a high percentage of our 2020 endeavors, bringing together citizens from all over the region to come together for the pursuit of a vision for sustainable development.

Advocacy

BGF places a lot of its focus on advocacy actions that help further our vision towards sustainable development. In 2020, BGF:

Successfully ran over 6 awareness raising campaigns on energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental protection and social green entrepreneurship.

Was one of the implementing partners of one of the biggest environmental events for the third year in a row and organized numerous discussions and workshops on sustainable development issues.

Engaged in over 2 joint legal actions in pursuit of environmental justice.

Participated in 5 working groups for drafting Kosovo's National Energy and Climate Plan.

Presented in 6 international conferences providing solutions for a sustainable and environmentally friendly region.

Held 4 lectures with students on the challenges and obstacles for sustainable development in Kosovo and the region as well as the role of civil society in pushing forward matters of sustainable development.

Empowerment

Numerous initiatives in 2020 centered on the provision of know-how and financial opportunity to future changemakers. Beneficiaries of grants for 2020 were numerous CSOs, lighthouse projects and startups for the development of businesses whose operational principles are firmly grounded on social entrepreneurship.

BGF successfully runs over 3 active projects tailored to provide the necessary guidance to youngsters for the implementation of their social business ideas, with 2020 marking the first edition of Balkan Green Academy.

Research & Policy Analysis

This year, BGF published 5 research analyses in the field of energy, with the aim to provide guidance and encourage cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders to advance sustainable development endeavors at a local and regional level.

Additionally, BGF drafted a series of recommendations and practical political, technical and practical steps for a just energy transition in Kosovo, which were sent to governmental level institutions as a guideline for drafting National Plans and Strategies.



PROJECTS' SNAPSHOTS

2020 Overview

MULTI-ACTOR PARTNERSHIP (MAP)

MAP – “Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for an Energy Transition in Kosovo” is a project implemented by Balkan Green Foundation and Germanwatch. The project aims to tackle Kosovo’s energy system’s transition, particularly its electricity system, towards a more sustainable state, increasing the share of renewable energy and improving local energy efficiency.

The project effectively fosters a local multi-actor partnership as an ideal means to create resonance and support from key local actors, to develop their vision of a sustainable energy transition as a shared societal project. The project aims to transfer knowledge amid key local actors and other experienced knowledge carriers from around Europe to enable Kosovo to leapfrog on lessons learned in implementing sustainable energy transitions and integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

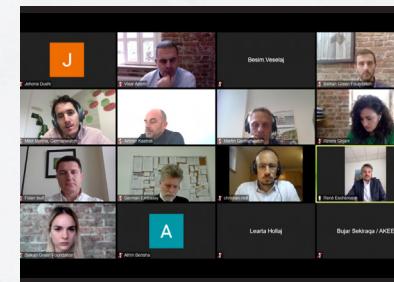
Funded by German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Engagement Global

SNAPSHOTS OF 2020



2 lighthouse projects supported and monitored their implementation; one (1) solar fruit dryer – Bio-AgroTech and one (1) solar panel system – Etno-Fest complex in Kukaj Village.

1 Policy Recommendation Paper on Security of Supply in the Energy Transition in Kosovo drafted, consisting of 11 Strategic Recommendations; 14 concrete policy steps; 9 practical/technical measures. This policy paper was presented with the objective to provide guidance for relevant governmental institutions on the path towards energy transition and National Climate and Energy Plan (NECP) preparation.



1 MAP Workshop held with stakeholders/ Core Team on **Energy Transition in Kosovo, with particular focus on Security of Supply.**

2 informal Core Team meetings, team which consists of representatives from Ministry of Economy and Environment, Kosovo Agency for Environmental Protection, Energy Efficiency Agency, Energy Regulatory Office, Kosovo Assembly, KOSTT, Association for Renewable Energy, German Embassy in Pristina, Agora Energiewende, KfW Office, and civil society.



GREEN CROSS

“GREEN CROSS – Towards Local Green Economies with Smart Investments in the Municipality of Kline and Has” project is a cross-border project implemented in Albania, Has Municipality, and Kosovo, Municipality of Klina.

It aims to contribute to an overall sustainable economic growth in the cross-border region by enabling transition of municipalities into the sustainable green economy through integrated policy, smart public investments, and capacity development.

This project is under the Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme for Environment between Albania and Kosovo.



Supported by European Union

SNAPSHOTS OF 2020

Work on the development of twinning Green Smart Investments Action Plans for two Municipalities is underway.

1 participatory workshop was held in Klina, to include the Municipality of Klina in the development of Green Smart Investments Action Plans to incorporate the financial benefits and green planning into local governance.

Over 650 LED indoor light bulbs were purchased to be installed in the Municipality of Has's publicly owned buildings (schools, hospitals, governmental buildings, etc.)

220 LED lamps with dimming systems for outdoor installments in Has Municipality are installed on the municipality's main road.

Planifications have commenced installing 800 LED lamps with dimming systems for indoor spaces and 15 outdoor LED lamps in Klina Municipality in early 2021.

Contributed to increased awareness on energy efficiency and a healthier, greener environment through various information dissemination outlets like social media channels and national media, where the importance of sustainable investments was emphasized.



SNAPSHOTS OF 2020

Numerous online meetings held between project partners

Collecting data to develop tools and indicators which help to align regional economic development strategies with climate targets.

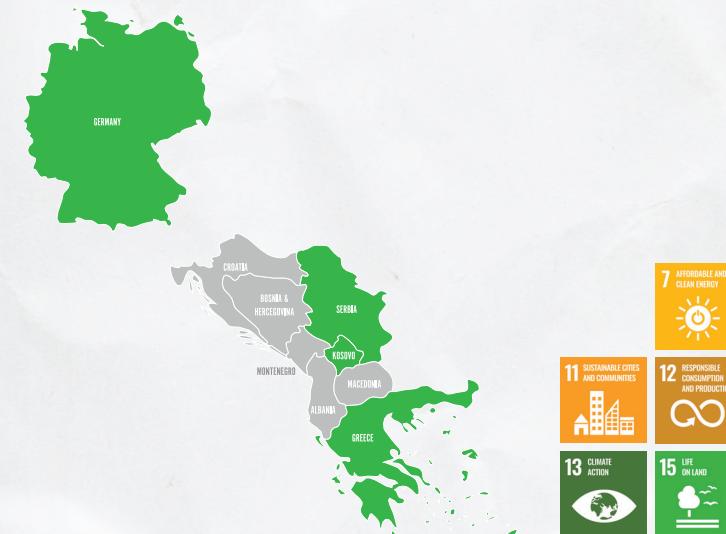
LOOKING FORWARD

Green Rural Deal will bring together regional and local stakeholders of different types and from different policy arenas to:

Co-create their own future

Provide a manual to support other regions

Compile policy briefing targeting decision-makers at the national and European level in an attempt to raise awareness for the need of rural regions.



GREEN RURAL DEAL

Green Rural Deal is a project initiated at the end of 2020 between Balkan Green Foundation, Wuppertal Institute, Germanwatch, Regional Association of Local Government of Western Macedonia and RES Foundation. The project's objective is to develop local capacities for a transition to a zero-carbon economy in three target regions: Western Macedonia (Greece), Kamenica (Kosovo), and Priboj (Serbia).

The project aims to support and empower municipalities in rural regions in the said countries in exchange with German municipalities through local capacity building, peer-to-peer learning and co-creation of concrete projects.

The Green Rural Deal will produce recommendations for each target region and work with core stakeholders in each region to co-create sustainable projects and strategies.

Supported by European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

PROMOTING GREEN ENERGY IN KOSOVO

“Promoting and supporting the inclusion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources in Kosovo’s energy mix” project aim centered on contributing to a better understanding among the general public and public officials of the benefits brought by investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in Kosovo; increasing the general awareness on the importance and the concrete benefits of energy efficiency measures; contributing to improved societal behavioural change towards energy spending and savings by using new technologies and measures, achieved through new fiscal, administrative and public policy measures.

SNAPSHOTS OF 2020

1 Position Paper on Sustainable Development in Development Policies and Involvement of Academia	1 Policy Research Paper on Improvement of Procurement Standards to Increase Energy Efficiency in Kosovo	1 Discussion Paper on Implementation of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policies and Requirements within SAA, ERA, ERPs	<p>With its conclusion late 2020, the project managed to incorporate thousands of citizens in the pursuit for green energy and healthier environment.</p> <p>Supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</p>
12 Infographics published on energy efficiency and renewable energy benefits	2 Explainer videos produced showcasing the benefits brought by investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.	5 Green Talk speeches by prominent figures within the field broadcasted on TV and live on social media. The purpose was to motivate citizens at large to join us in pursuit of our vision	
4 Movie screenings as classroom activities with the use of DokuFest’s Solar Cinema which brings cinema to educational institutions where cultural activities are almost non-existent organized	2 lectures held at two universities in Kosovo on “Challenges and Opportunities in Kosovo for Sustainable Development” and “Green Economic Options, Post-Covid 19”	Coorganized Kosovo Sustainable Development Week	

KOSOVO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK (KSDW)

For the third edition around, BGF was one of the implementing partners of Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW). The main objective of KSDW 2020, as in previous years, was to further advance the public dialogue and seek effective ways to promote sustainable development on one hand and green economic growth on the other. This year unlike previous years, KSDW was organized on an online format through an established Virtual Platform labeled under the branding of KSDW, with the moto **“Recovery is Green”**

KSDW 2020 included a range of combined activities, covering an array of environmental and development issues.

- 1 Launching event held on **“Covid Pandemic and Green Economic Recovery”**
- 9 panel discussions on topics: Green Deal; Transition to Sound Resource Management and Circular Economy; National Energy and Climate Plans; Energy Transition – Regional Approach with international and local panelists and experts
- 3 online classes on Waste management
- Drawn series of recommendations for future steps towards sustainable development in Kosovo and region – **KSDW Conclusions and Recommendations**
- 1 **Recap Event** for KSDW 2020 broadcasted live on TV and social media channels

KSDW platform includes awareness-raising products, such as video materials and infographics and will enable the follow-up announcements on the KSDW event, encourage public action and increase its visibility.

KSDW continues to be the biggest event on sustainable development and the environment organized in Kosovo.



3 Editions



25 Panels



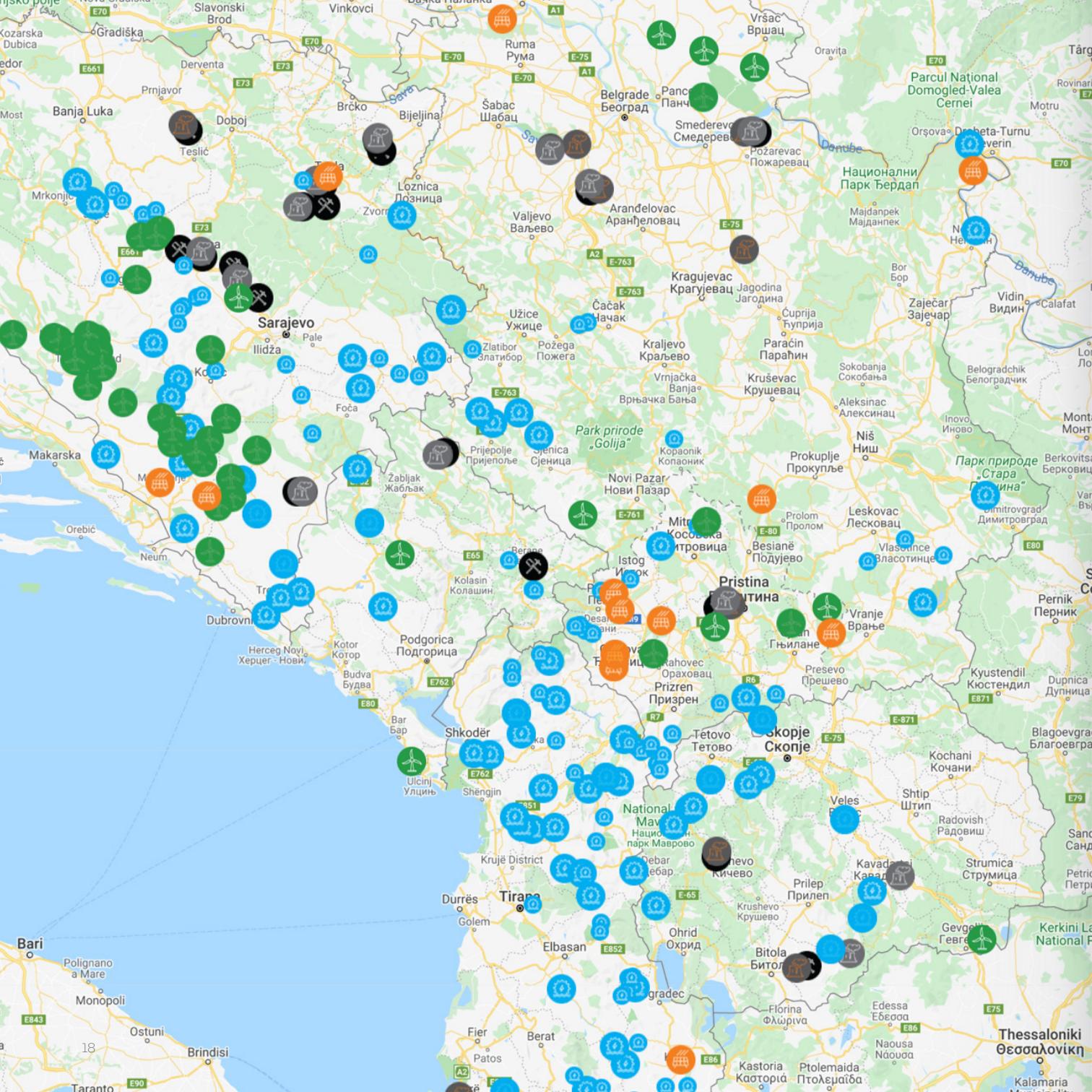
150 Speakers



1000 Participants

Since the first edition and onwards the KSDW is organized in close cooperation between:





BALKAN ENERGY PROSPECT

Balkan Energy Prospect is among the tools created by BGF to promote public understanding of the energy flow and its interaction with the economy and the environment.

This regional mapping platform provides a visual representation of data regarding efficient electricity access and connection of strategies within the Western Balkan (WB) region that will drive the cooperation process and contribute regionally towards the advancement of their energy systems, guided by the shared commitments, obligations, and targets of the Energy Community Treaty.

With the establishment of cooperation and integrated energy infrastructure, countries will increase cross-border collaboration, develop regional projects, and lower their carbon economy.

As such, this platform provides valuable information about six (6) WB countries in terms of their energy technologies, potential synergies for a future integrated energy market, and capacities for energy diversification within the WB region.



ALBANIA



BIH



KOSOVO



NORTH MACEDONIA



MONTENEGRO



SERBIA



	7 Partner Organizations (National Leads) involved in 7 countries in the Western Balkan region.
	7 launching events organized
	More than 12 national workshops held
	9 th Edition of the BGI Annual Regional Competition held
	21 selected National Finalists competed before an international jury consisting of policymakers, investors, and entrepreneurs.
	5 winners selected
	Awards in amount of 40,000\$ delivered

BALKAN GREEN IDEAS

Balkan Green Ideas (BGI) is a program that supports the development of local and sustainable small green ideas in the Balkans. BGI aims to stimulate and encourage innovation for green ideas while engaging local communities to generate green businesses that utilize local resources and community-based markets.

By supporting innovative, local sustainable economic development initiatives, BGI aims to contribute substantially to building a peaceful, competitive, and prosperous region of the Western Balkans, by constantly pursuing regional environmental sustainability, align with the new WB Green Deal Agenda, and provide a support program for sustainable green enterprises that will contribute towards a green Balkans and economically sustainable small rural and urban areas in our region.

Supported by **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** and recently by **ERASMUS+**



BALKAN GREEN ACADEMY

Balkan Green Academy (BGA) project aims to educate young people on three main pillars: policy, economics and society by using a cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary approach, encouraging knowledge building and at the same time combining modules that will explore the policy perspective, the economic and social impact of businesses.

Each year the academy is educating future Balkan Green Ideas applicants about green initiatives and sustainable development.

Supported by the **Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)** and **USAID**

28 participants from all over the Western Balkans and Greece were selected to join the Academy	
More than 100 mentorship hours were held for the participants on green ideas and provision of assistance in the development of sustainable business models of micro and small green initiatives in the Balkan region	
13 experts (trainers, speakers and guests) were engaged for the provision of the highest caliber of education for the Academy participants and bringing insights from the realm of practical experiences.	
2 live peer circles online events were held on "Green Entrepreneurs Peer Circle" and "Funding Sustainable Businesses" , open and available to the general public.	
An all-encompassing curriculum created for Green Social Entrepreneurs covering the building blocks of green entrepreneurship, providing an in-depth overview of legal frameworks, governance of green businesses and finance, fundraising and alternative funding.	

REGIONAL INCUBATOR FOR SOCIAL EN- TREPRENEURS (RISE)

RISE project supports young change-makers in developing their impactful ideas into sustainable social businesses. The objective of the project is to address a specific and crucial need in the region in relation to its current context and history: opening new spaces of reconciliation for the youth of the Western Balkans through social entrepreneurship.

The project, due to its very regional nature, will tend to increase the number of cross-border interactions around social entrepreneurship during the 3 years of the project and thereafter.

The tailor-made support program is developed and monitored by the Consortium: RYCO, GROUPE SOS Pulse, SEEYN, the Institut français, and the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO)

Supported by the Agence Française de Développement and Regional Youth Cooperation Office

SNAPSHOTS OF 2020

1 **Info-session** held to promote the call for applications

Over 46 teams selected from the Western Balkan region, **7 of which from Kosovo to participate in the RISE Journey**. The seven selected teams will be supported in the development and definition of their social business ideas through business canvas.

Teams received 20 hours of personalized training on important social entrepreneurship pillars to assist with the development of the teams' social entrepreneurship ideas

1 published study **“Regional study and Guidelines on Social Entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans.”** BGF contributed in presenting the current situation at a local level in regards to the development of social entrepreneurship and provided input on the recommendations presented in the study.

1 **webinar** was organized to disseminate findings of the published study.

Ran a 3 month long RISE project and Social Entrepreneurship Campaign to promote regional cooperation through social entrepreneurship among the WB6 youth.



EMPOWER – ENGAGE – BUILD OWNERSHIP

The end of 2020 marks the successful conclusion of the three-year project between 'Empower – Engage – Build Ownership' implemented by Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) in cooperation with Institute for Development Policy (INDEP). The project aimed to enable Kosovo's civil society sector to fulfill its role in the democratic environment by acting as independent interlocutors, monitoring public institutions, increasing accountability and transparency in policy development and decision making processes regarding concerns of communities and civil society groups in the area of environment preservation, green energy and sustainable economic growth.

Supported by the European Union in Kosovo



59

civil society organizations (20 of which supported in 2020) were awarded with grants from 5,000€ to 15,000€, to implement projects addressing the most urgent issues in the target sectors:

9

Capacity Building Trainings (CBT) were organized in the 7 main administrative centers of Kosovo. The aim of these activities was to provide knowledge on three main areas:



ENVIRONMENT



ENERGY



GREEN ECONOMY GROWTH



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR



MONITORING PRACTICES



PROPER PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

SNAPSHOT OF THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT (2018 - 2020):

5000

participants gathered in project activities.

5

research papers developed.

22

info-sessions delivered for grant giving component.

500

representatives of CSOs from different cities of Kosovo were beneficiaries of training and information sessions held by experts of relevant fields.

1

final report published enumerating project's achievements, which were also presented through **video material**.

1

visibility event organized, aiming to portray the successes and community impact deriving from the project.

THROUGH EEBO:

Cooperation has been strengthened among CSOs, local and governmental institutions as a result of project activities – thus contributing to a stronger participatory democracy and civic engagement in Kosovo. Numerous **success stories** were achieved resultant of the project scheme.

Better understanding from the wider population has been achieved regarding the importance of adopting sustainable development practices in Kosovo through outreach and public awareness activities.



RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

Implementation of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policies and Requirements within the SAA, ERA and ERPS

This publication provides an analysis of the National Programme for Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (NPISAA) and its interconnection with the ERA and ERP in the realm of progress in energy efficiency measures and renewable energy sources. It does provide information on the monitoring process, performance, and efficiency of Kosovo's fulfillment and provides concrete recommendations about what steps should be taken by the Government of Kosovo to fulfill its part of the agreement with the EU.



Improvement of Public Procurement Standards to Increase Energy Efficiency in Kosovo

This research paper aims to raise awareness among central and local administration authorities, to promote the amendment and implementation of the Law on Public Procurement in purchasing only products, services and buildings with high energy efficiency performance, as well as to push forward Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs), establishing a convenient environment for the development of ESCOs. The results indicate that these institutions face different issues which make it impossible to implement Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), and delays are occurring in the fulfillment of goals and obligations arising from the Energy Community Treaty (ECT).



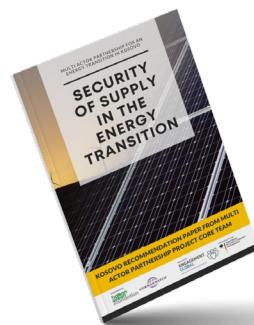
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND INVOLVEMENT OF ACADEMIA

The purpose of this research is to analyse the inclusion of the concept of sustainable development in the policy development documents of Kosovo, as well as the component of the inclusion of education and scientific research in the sustainable future of the country. The main research question is how much the concept of sustainable development and the science of sustainability is included in the country's strategic development documents.



Recommendations – Security of Supply in the Energy Transition in Kosovo

The objective for drafting this recommendations paper is to support the government of Kosovo in the implementation of government plans for a RES phase-in – especially for drafting the revision of the Energy Strategy, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and the concept for RES development. The paper consists of 11 Strategic Recommendations, 14 concrete policy steps and 9 practical/technical measures. It has been drafted, jointly agreed upon in 2019 and updated in Oct 2020 by the core team of a multi-actor-partnership, which consists of experts/important actors of the Kosovo energy sector, that are active in energy and sustainable development.



Phasing in Renewables – Towards a Prosperous and Sustainable Energy Future in Kosovo: Challenges and Possible Solutions

This study focuses on the challenges that need to be faced in order to phase in renewables and phase out lignite. It provides evidence and inspiration from other countries that have tackled such challenges already. The solutions proposed in this study are intended to serve as a basis for discussion and inspiration on how these manifold challenges can be faced.



Hydropower Plants in Kosovo the Problems and their Real Potential

This document analyses portraits the overall situation of the hydropower sector in Kosovo and assesses its real potential of these projects. The analysis mentions the existing hydropower plants, the ones planned to be constructed, their problems and the real impact on the environment and concerns of local communities regarding these constructions. This research concludes that hydropower plants have problems and negative impacts mainly on the social, political, economical and environmental domains.



LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY 2020

BGF represents the Western Balkans region at the roundtable on Environmental Human Rights

BGF represented the WB region at the European level roundtable, held under the patronage of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The roundtable brought together environmental activists to disclose barriers faced by environmental human rights defenders and activists working on issues related to the environment.



BGF part of the Regional Youth Leadership Forum

BGF emphasized the need for an integrated approach in implementing the Common Regional Market Action Plan, by involving the existing mechanisms in place in all WB6 countries, such as CSOs, business communities, and institutions through the process

to ensure strengthening of the existing structures and avoid overlapping and repetition of the present initiatives.



BGF part of 'Energy Democracy in Kosovo' Green Talk by DokuFest

Discussions examined the role of power and politics in the existing regime that resists the integration of renewable energy as an energy source, as well as the ability to encourage the manifestation of energy democracy and how this may affect the search for change in infrastructure for the transition to clean and sustainable energy.



BGF part of Green Caucus meeting on Kosovo's energy potential and environmental issues

BGF gave emphasis to issues pertinent to the energy sector in Kosovo, while underlining the importance of the role of Green Caucus to increase the level of transparency as well as to represent the public interest.



BGF part of the panel "The European Green Deal after COVID-19: What's in it for Southeast Europe?"

Organized by the Assembly of Kosovo and South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), the conference brought together representatives from countries from Southeastern Europe and discussion spanned over

three thematic areas namely the environment, EU accession process of the Western Balkans, and labor force migration offering a platform for comprehensive coverage on current matters.



BGF part of Western Balkans Think Tank Forum "Green Deal" panel

During the discussions, BGF stressed the importance of active contribution from the Western Balkans to European strategies and policies and provided solutions for a sustainable and environmentally friendly region. BGF also emphasized the need for a greater political will to achieve goals on carbon emission and climate change neutrality and a more robust governance for a just transition in the Western Balkans.



BGF represented the voice of citizens and the civil society at the inauguration event of the installation of new electro filters in the power plan 'Kosovo B'

On this occasion, BGF acknowledged the EU's commitment on its active involvement in environmental policies in Kosovo, and appealed for further increase on investment in green energy. A special guest at this important ceremony was also the EU Foreign Policy Representative Josep Borell as well as Special Representative of the European Union/Head of the EU Office (EUSR/HoO), Natalia Apostolova.



REFLECTING ON BGF'S MAIN EVENTS

During the last seven years, Balkan Green Foundation has continuously worked on advocacy and awareness raising initiatives concerning Kosovo's and the region's sustainability issues, particularly focusing on the country's energy transition path and its progress towards sustainable development. This has been done by organizing and initiating numerous events, workshops, meetings, forums and conferences, where members of the public sector, civil society, international organizations and field experts were gathered to discuss and debate the issues, challenges and opportunities for Western Balkans path towards sustainable development, energy transition, and environmental protection.

ANNUAL HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCES:

2019: Annual High Level Conference on Energy Transition in Kosovo – “Energy for the Future”

Balkan Green Foundation organized the discussion with the theme “Energy for the Future”. During this conference specific focus was given to the overall energy situation in Kosovo, the challenges, general directions, the development trends, energy efficiency, renewables, the potentials but also challenges in this sector including the successes achieved in the energy transition, effectively identifying ways to embrace a decarbonized future in the energy community.



2018: Annual High Level Conference on Energy Transition – “Challenges and Opportunities in Kosovo and the region”

Balkan Green Foundation organized a Conference on Energy Transition with the theme “Challenges and Opportunities in Kosovo and the region”. The focal point of this conference was the discussion on the relation between the region's dependency on fossil fuels and the importance of prioritizing diversification of the sources of energy in the energy development agendas, where sustainability, reliability and affordability should be the cornerstones of their policies on energy.



2016: Western Balkans Sustainable Policies towards EU integration – Regional Conference

Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the European Office in Kosovo/ EUSR, organized a high-level regional conference to discuss matters regarding sustainable development, climate change, and Western Balkan countries' pathway towards Europe. The conference tackled energy, climate change and environmental policies, in the context of the Western Balkans.



THREE ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FORUMS

For three years in a row, BGF and the Energy Community in cooperation with other partners (Heinrich Böll Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and RES Foundation) organized the Sustainability Forum to discuss the best ways for the Energy

Community to embrace a decarbonized energy future.

2019

In 2019, the participants at the Forum mainly expressed concern regarding the delay in the establishment of a new 2030 Energy Community legislative framework to increase substantially the share of energy from renewable sources, especially wind and solar, improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emission, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.



2018

In 2018, the main focus of the Forum was on the best ways to shape energy and climate policy in the Energy Community.



2017

At the first Sustainability Forum which was held in 2017, focus was given to the best ways to contribute towards a low-carbon transition of the Energy Community.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2018: Balkan Green Foundation organized a discussion on Western Balkans and its climate ambition

Balkan Green Foundation organized a discussion held in Brussels with a focus on: "Western Balkans and Ukraine: EU's Role in Modernization through higher Climate Ambition". The discussion panel focused on the issues pertaining to Western Balkan countries and Ukraine facing a number of profound transformation challenges, where climate policy and energy sector reforms can be a key for progress.



2015: Conference On Challenges Of Western Balkan's Energy System

Balkan Green Foundation (BGF) led discussions at the event hosted by Ulrike Lunacek, Vice-President of the European Parliament, on the potential of the countries of the Western

Balkans to modernize their economies and energy systems to make them fit-for-purpose in a future sustainable and renewable economy.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) AND WORLD BANK (WB)

Balkan Green Foundation throughout the years has participated in several IMF and WB annual meetings. Above all, BGF during these meetings has continuously advocated against WB's support for the 'New Kosovo' Coal Plant and has endorsed and raised awareness on supporting green projects instead.



Among different interactive events, BGF's executive Director, Visar Azemi, once brought about the issue of the new coal plant in Kosovo and addressed a question to the president of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, regarding the WB's position on

supporting coal in Kosovo, where the latter confirmed that the World Bank has made a very firm decision to not support the "New Kosovo" coal power plant in Kosovo.

This was the first time that this WB's decision was made official to the public.



BGF PART OF THE 2019 WESTERN BALKANS SUMMIT IN POZNAŃ

Balkan Green Foundation was part of the The Western Balkans Summit held in Poznań. The agenda of the event included issues of economy, connectivity, civil society with a focus on youth and culture, and security.



LEGAL ACTIONS

NGOs WIN FOURTH LAWSUIT AGAINST MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

On 8 June 2020, Balkan Green Foundation, GAP Institute, Group to Legal and Political Studies, and the Institute for Development Policy, on the basis of the law on Access to Documents Public and Judgment of the Court of Appeal of Kosovo, have re-sent the request for access to official documents to the Ministry of Economy and Environment, for the project that already failed, the power plant 'Kosova e Re'.

Specifically access was re-asked for: (1) final call for application sent to prequalified companies and (2) changes in the tenders package that have occurred from the first call for pre-qualification until the selection of bidders and the reasons for changes in the package.

The court decision on granting access to these documents guarantees the interest of citizens and the right of them to be informed, and stands true to BGF's commitment for transparency. This is the fourth verdict giving rights to NGOs for access to the public documents, which have illegally been kept secret by the MED.



PENAL OFFENSE FILED AGAINST MESP SECRETARY FOR BADOVC LAKE AREA

Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS), Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) and GAP Institute, on 31st of January 2020, filed a criminal report against the Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) for its actions regarding the case of construction in the Badovc Lake area.

Lake Badovc, for business/residential purposes accounting for its strategic importance for the security of drinking water supply and for an ecological environment for citizens of Pristina and beyond.

BGF, GAP, GLPS and INDEP stood against this project and called on the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and Pristina authorities to:

To reject and revoke all permit applications for the implementation of this harmful plan for the sustainable development of the capital and beyond.

To stand for the protection of the public interest mandated by the laws in force and the Constitution.

Not to approve a project that further suffocates public spaces, contradicts country legislation on the protection of water resources, adversely affects the environment and biodiversity, and causes Pristina and its surroundings to lose even that little greenery that's left and fades the citizens opportunity to visit Lake Badovc.

Resultant of these actions, this joint proceeding managed to attain justice on the matter and ensure protective measures for the Badovc surface water source.



OUR TEAM



VISAR AZEMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



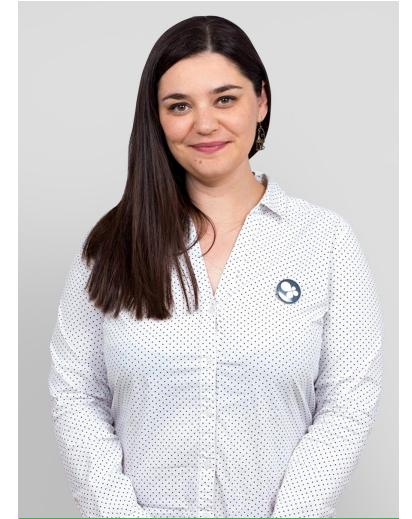
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JEHONA DUSHI
PROJECT OFFICER



LIRIKA RAÇA
ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FINANCE ASSISTANT

DONORS



GET INVOLVED

YOU TOO COULD BECOME PART OF OUR MOVEMENT!

There are different ways you could contribute and become part of our pursuit for sustainable development:



Be mindful of our everyday behaviors and eliminate habits that harm the environment!



Become a volunteer



Integrate elements of social entrepreneurship into your business model!



Cooperate for joint movements for various sustainable development initiatives.

STAY TUNED TO OUR ENDEAVOURS!

