



skill2sustain

Newsletter

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LAUNCH OF THE SKILL2SUSTAIN PROJECT



The Kick-Off meeting of the Erasmus+ project “Boosting digital and green skills for a resilient and sustainable Western Balkan society – SKILL2SUSTAIN”, co-founded by the European Union, was successfully held at the Science and Technology Park of the University of Novi Sad. Event took place on the 5th and 6th of May 2025 with participation from all project partners. Project is focused on the Western Balkans, with the main goal to mainstream a holistic approach to digitalization and green transition.

The Project Management, Risk, and Dissemination Plans, together with the Quality Assurance and Monitoring Plan, provide a structured framework for implementing, monitoring, and managing the SKILL2SUSTAIN project. They define governance, responsibilities, timelines, risk mitigation measures, reporting and evaluation mechanisms, and communication strategies, ensuring coordinated partner collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and the effective realization and exploitation of project outcomes.



INITIAL WORK STEPS



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»»» PROJECT OVERVIEW

Boosting digital and green skills for a resilient and sustainable Western Balkan society – SKILL2SUSTAIN is fully aligned with the objectives of the CBHE action, the activities, and the specificities of Strand II. The urgent need for the Western Balkans to accelerate the twin green and digital transition has been recognized through analysis conducted in the target countries of Region 1.

The broader aim of the project is to mainstream a holistic approach to digitalization and the green transition, while its specific objectives are in line with the **EU Green Deal, the Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027, and the Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development**. The project supports higher education systems in creating green and digital societal ecosystems.

A Digital and Green Initiative for WBC Education in Academia will be developed and signed by all project partners. Over three years, **10 curricula will be modernized or newly developed and implemented across 5 WBC HEIs: 2 new BSc programs in Disaster Risk Management, 3 modernized BSc/MSc programs, and 5 new certified LLL programs**. These will introduce innovative green topics such as circular economy, energy efficiency, renovation wave, climate change adaptation, sustainability, disaster resilience, and digital skills in Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The modernization and development paths will be defined based on national and regional needs, supported by know-how transfer from EU HEIs. Furthermore, **5 educational ICT-based interoperable Research and Education Centers will be established at WBC HEIs**. Teaching methodologies will be enhanced through study visits, and blended learning materials will be offered in EN/ALB/MNG/BIH/SRB via an ICT collaboration platform and an open-access e-library.



SKILL2SUSTAIN BUILDS A SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM FOR DIGITALIZATION AND GREEN TRANSITION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.



»»» PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

The Kick-Off meeting of the Erasmus+ project “Boosting digital and green skills for a resilient and sustainable Western Balkan society – SKILL2SUSTAIN”, co-funded by the European Union, was held on 5–6 May 2025 at the Science and Technology Park of the University of Novi Sad with participation from all project partners. The project, selected for funding under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education programme, brings together **14 partners from 7 countries, including higher education institutions, NGOs, and chambers of commerce and industry**. Running from April 2025 to March 2028, it aims to mainstream a holistic approach to digitalization and green transition by building an effective and sustainable education ecosystem in the Western Balkans.

During the meeting, partners introduced their institutions and shared expertise relevant to project implementation, while the **objectives and activities were presented through work package overviews**. The second day focused on **management, risk planning, quality assurance, and dissemination strategy**. The event also provided opportunities for informal networking and concluded with a concrete six-month action plan, ensuring strong collaboration and smooth implementation of upcoming activities.



**EVERY JOURNEY
TOWARDS
ACHIEVING OUR
GOAL BEGINS
WITH CLEAR,
COORDINATED
FIRST STEPS THAT
SET THE
FOUNDATION FOR
LASTING IMPACT**



>>> INITIAL WORK STEPS

>>> PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN (D1.1)

The Project Management Plan, led by the University of Novi Sad, provides a clear framework for implementing, monitoring, and managing the SKILL2SUSTAIN project. It defines project governance, management procedures, timelines, responsibilities, communication methods, financial principles, and monitoring processes, ensuring the coordinated achievement of expected outcomes. By outlining structured processes and clear roles, the plan supports effective collaboration among all partners and facilitates the successful realization of the project's goals.

>>> RISK PLAN (D1.2)

Risk management activities are embedded in Work Package 1 – Project Management, under the joint responsibility of the University of Novi Sad and the University of Montenegro. The document includes an overview of potential risks, along with an assessment of their likelihood, potential impact, and corresponding mitigation measures in the event these risks materialize.

>>> QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MONITORING PLAN (D6.1)

This document, coordinated by UKIM, establishes mechanisms and procedures to ensure systematic tracking of project progress and continuous improvement of implementation. It enables early identification of challenges and the adjustment of activities to achieve project objectives effectively.

>>> DISSEMINATION, COMMUNICATION AND EXPLOITATION PLAN (D7.1)

Deliverable 7.1 – Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan was developed under the joint responsibility of the University of Novi Sad and the University College "CEPS-Center for Business Studies" Kiseljak. The document presents a comprehensive framework for planning, implementing, and monitoring the project's outreach and impact-related activities. It outlines the strategic approach to ensure visibility, stakeholder engagement, and long-term exploitation of project results across all levels - local, national, and European.

**THE OFFICIAL
PROJECT
WEBSITE WITH
E-LIBRARY IS
LIVE (D7.2)**



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BUILDING SKILLS FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION



»»» PROJECT MEETING AND STUDY VISIT OHRID

The SKILL2SUSTAIN project team was once again active, participating in a **project meeting and study visit held in Ohrid, North Macedonia, from September 24 to 26, 2025**. Hosted by the University SS. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, this three-day event coincided with the renowned **MASE21 International Conference**, gathering experts and partners to discuss **progress on project deliverables, quality assurance, dissemination, and stakeholder engagement**. The meeting also addressed administrative and financial coordination, setting clear follow-up actions and reinforcing the consortium's shared commitment to fostering sustainability and innovation in higher education.

The study visit offered valuable insights into sustainable construction and green engineering, featuring **sessions on Life Cycle Thinking in material selection, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), seismic risk management, and hazard assessment in urban planning**. A highlight of the event was the keynote lecture by Prof. Dr. Tomo Cerovšek on "The Digital Transformation of Structural Engineering with Building Information Modelling (BIM) and AI." These activities strengthened the project's mission to enhance digital and green skills, promote climate resilience, and support sustainable development through education, innovation, and international collaboration.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Here's what's coming next:

The upcoming **Study Visit and Project Management Meeting will take place from December 1st to 4th, 2025, in Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by the Faculty of Economics & Business, University of Zagreb**. The agenda focuses on reviewing project progress, key deliverables, and upcoming activities under SKILL2SUSTAIN. Partners will discuss the Symposium, study visit reports, digital and green education analyses, and the establishment of Research and Education Centres. Topics also include accreditation, quality assurance, and planning the next activity cycle. The meeting, hosted by the University of Zagreb, will feature a study visit and other collaborative activities to strengthen cooperation and ensure smooth project implementation

PROJECT PARTNERS

LIST OF PROJECT PARTNERS:

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



FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

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



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