



SKILL2SUSTAIN

Newsletter

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MEETINGS IN ZAGREB AND LJUBLJANA



SKILL2SUSTAIN consortium met in Zagreb and Ljubljana for project management meetings and study visits focused on advancing digital and green transformation in higher education across the Western Balkans. The meetings combined strategic planning of key project activities with hands-on exploration of innovative teaching practices, including BIM, GIS, circular economy, and green building applications in real-world and academic settings.

SKILL2SUSTAIN dissemination activities were carried out through presentations at international conferences, stakeholder events, and institutional Info Days across the Western Balkans and Europe, promoting the project's work on strengthening digital and green skills in higher education. The project successfully implemented its first training activity in Skopje, focused on circular economy in the construction sector, Design for Disassembly, and Life Cycle Assessment, bringing together partner institutions for practical, hands-on learning and exchange.



DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES



➤➤➤ FIRST YEAR PROJECT OVERVIEW

During its first year of implementation, the Erasmus+ SKILL2SUSTAIN project established a solid organisational and strategic foundation for advancing digital and green skills in higher education across the Western Balkans. The **Kick-Off Meeting in Novi Sad** brought together all 14 partners and defined the overall governance structure, management procedures, and implementation roadmap. Key foundational documents were developed, including the **Project Management Plan, Risk Management Plan, Quality Assurance and Monitoring Plan, and Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan**, ensuring coordinated implementation, clear responsibilities, and aligned quality standards across all work packages.

Throughout the year, the consortium held a series of intensive **project meetings and study visits in Ohrid, Zagreb, and Ljubljana**. These activities focused on advancing core project areas such as **curriculum development, stakeholder needs assessment, equipment planning, and the establishment of Research and Education Centres**. A strong emphasis was placed on integrating **sustainability principles, circular economy approaches, and digital tools such as BIM, GIS, and AI** into higher education systems, while also strengthening inter-institutional coordination and long-term planning for capacity building and curriculum accreditation.

In parallel, SKILL2SUSTAIN achieved **significant visibility and impact** through dissemination and stakeholder engagement activities across the region and Europe. The project was presented at international conferences, university info days, and stakeholder events, including **DigiEduHack 2025, the MASE Symposium**, and various institutional forums. These activities strengthened awareness of the project's objectives and reinforced its relevance for the **green and digital transition**.

A key milestone in the first year was also the implementation of the **first training activity on Circular Economy in Construction**, hosted in **Skopje**. This training brought together partners from across the Western Balkans and provided hands-on learning in **Design for Disassembly and Life Cycle Assessment**. Overall, these activities ensured that SKILL2SUSTAIN moved beyond planning into active implementation, strengthening regional cooperation and laying the groundwork for the development of innovative, practice-oriented education in digital and green skills.



**WHEN
KNOWLEDGE
MEETS
COLLABORATION,
EDUCATION
DRIVES A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**



»»» PROJECT MEETING AND STUDY VISIT IN ZAGREB

From 1st to 4th December 2025, the SKILL2SUSTAIN team members gathered in Zagreb, Croatia, for a combined Project Management Meeting and Study Visit. The first two days, held at the **Faculty of Economics & Business, University of Zagreb**, focused on key project work packages, including planning of the state-of-the-art analysis in digital and green education, needs assessment for Western Balkans higher education institutions and stakeholders, equipment procurement, and establishment of Research and Education Centers, as well as quality assurance, dissemination, and financial reporting.

The Study Visit program, organized at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and on the construction site of the **new Zagreb City Library and Social and Cultural Center at Paromlin**, highlighted practical approaches to green building education, project-based learning in LCA, and the **use of virtual reality for decarbonized buildings**. Partners had the opportunity to exchange experiences, see innovative teaching and research practices, and further align activities **to support the green and digital transition in higher education across the Western Balkans**.



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**PROGRESS
HAPPENS
WHEN IDEAS
TURN INTO
ACTION FOR A
GREENER
WORLD**



»»» PROJECT MEETING AND STUDY VISIT IN LJUBLJANA

The SKILL2SUSTAIN consortium held a study visit and project management meeting at the **University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering**, from 10–13 February 2026, bringing together academic and non-academic partners to advance digital and green transformation in higher education across the Western Balkans. The first part of the event focused on **equipment procurement and the establishment of Research and Education Centres (WP3)**, and **outlined capacity-building and curriculum accreditation activities (WP4)**. Additional sessions on dissemination, financial reporting, and a draft Memorandum of Understanding strengthened governance and long-term cooperation planning.

The study visit provided practical insight into integrating green competences and digital transformation in education. Participants explored **applications of BIM, GIS**, and other technologies through hands-on sessions, lab visits, and real-world examples, linking them to curriculum design and learning outcomes, while also addressing accreditation, staff capacity, and implementation challenges.



BRINGING SUSTAINABILITY AND DIGITAL SKILLS INTO CLASSROOMS, CONFERENCES, AND INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE ACROSS EUROPE



DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

21st MASE Symposium

At the 21st MASE Symposium in Ohrid (September 2025), Assoc. Prof. Anka Starčev-Ćurčin, PhD presented the SKILL2SUSTAIN project, outlining its objectives and emphasizing the role of higher education in supporting climate action and the European Green Deal, with a focus on integrating sustainability principles and digital tools such as BIM and GIS.



DigiEduHack 2025

SKILL2SUSTAIN was featured at the DigiEduHack 2025 Conference on Trends and Challenges in Digital Education, where Assoc. Prof. Ljiljana Popović, PhD presented a practical example of combining sustainability competences with digital skills to support innovative, climate-conscious education aligned with EU priorities.



INFO DAY at CEPS Kiseljak

At an INFO DAY held at CEPS Kiseljak, attended by over 400 participants, Assist. Prof Nermin Palić, PhD, and Assist. Prof Mirzo Selimić, PhD presented the SKILL2SUSTAIN project as a key initiative to strengthen green and digital skills through modern curricula, innovative teaching approaches, and lifelong learning, while enhancing cooperation with European and regional partners.



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**REAL CHANGE
HAPPENS WHEN
EDUCATION
CONNECTS
PEOPLE, SKILLS,
AND PURPOSE
INTO A SHARED
PATH TOWARD
SUSTAINABILITY**



➤➤➤ **DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES**

Stakeholder Consultation Event in Tirana <<<

The University of Tirana took part in a stakeholder consultation on reducing plastic pollution in the Shkumbin River Basin, where SKILL2SUSTAIN was presented by Assoc. Prof. Elona Pojani, PhD highlighting its role in strengthening green and digital skills and supporting sustainable development and policymaking in the Western Balkans.

GNP Conference 2026 INFO DAY and Research Presentation <<<

At GNP 2026, SKILL2SUSTAIN was showcased through research and an Info Day. Prof. Dr. Mirjana Laban presented findings on the growing demand for digital and green skills, while Prof. Miloš Knežević introduced the project's Lifelong Learning programmes aligned with labour market needs.

Open Day and Seasonal Job Fair at the UoM Campus <<<

SKILL2SUSTAIN was presented at the University of Montenegro's Open Day and Job Fair, promoting upcoming BIM and GIS programmes and highlighting opportunities for student skills development and links with professional practice.

INFO DAY at the University of Banja Luka <<<

The SKILL2SUSTAIN Info Day at the University of Banja Luka presented key project objectives, including curriculum development and the establishment of research and education centres, emphasizing the university's role in strengthening digital and green competences in the region.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY GROWS THROUGH TRAINING AND TRANSFORMED IDEAS



TRAINING VISIT AT SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE

From February 23 to 27, 2026, the **Faculty of Civil Engineering at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje** hosted a **Training Visit** dedicated to the topic of **Circular Economy in the Construction Sector, with a focus on Design for Disassembly (DfD) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**, as part of the CircularB module within the Erasmus+ project Skill2SUSTAIN.

The event brought together participants from partner institutions across the Western Balkans:

- University of Montenegro
- Polytechnic University of Tirana
- University of Tirana
- University College CEPS Kiseljak

Prof. Dr. Meri Cvetkovska and Prof. Dr. Milica Jovanoska-Mitrevska provided a rich and engaging learning experience for all attendees. This activity was a valuable opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen regional collaboration, and advance sustainable, innovative practices in civil engineering education across the Western Balkans.





UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In the next newsletter, you will read about:

- Study Visit and Project Management Meeting at University of Novi Sad
- Digital and Green Initiative for WBC Education in Academia
- Research and Education Centers (RECs) for green and digital transition
- Network of RECs
- Workshops for Stakeholders
- Training visits
- SKILL2SUSTAIN Symposium

LIST OF PROJECT PARTNERS:

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

PROJECT PARTNERS



FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

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



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