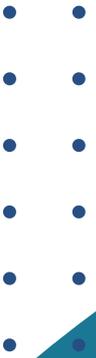


CEPS BOOK OF CASE STUDIES

Developed in the framework of the IFUTURE Project





COLLABORATION ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY RESEARCH IN KISELJAK

This project examines a collaborative initiative on urban mobility research in Kiseljak, Bosnia and Herzegovina, involving students and professor from University College “CEPS – Center for Business Studies” Kiseljak and the Municipality of Kiseljak through the 1FUTURE platform. The project addressed limited data-driven transport planning in small municipalities, assessing mobility patterns, bottlenecks, and sustainability gaps while testing a low-cost, collaborative model leveraging student engagement and academic expertise. Eighteen undergraduate students, mentored by Prof. Nermin Palić and coordinated with municipal officer Dejan Štekić, conducted surveys, interviews, observations, and data analysis, followed by co-design workshops with municipal staff. Outputs included a structured dataset, an applied research study, a published scientific paper, and a conference presentation, providing actionable insights for municipal planning. Students gained practical research skills, interdisciplinary teamwork experience, and green and digital competencies. The project strengthened academia–municipality collaboration, demonstrated the value of student-led research for evidence-based urban mobility planning, and offers potential for scaling, replication, and integration into curricula to support sustainable transport and green transition goals.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS GUIDING THIS STUDY:

- How can collaboration between higher education institutions and local municipalities contribute to data-driven planning for sustainable urban mobility in small and medium-sized municipalities such as Kiseljak?
- What are the key mobility patterns, bottlenecks, and sustainability challenges within the urban transport system of Kiseljak identified through student-led field research and data analysis?
- To what extent can student-engaged, practice-based research serve as an effective and low-cost model for supporting evidence-based urban mobility planning and policy development at the local level?

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFITS FROM THE COLLABORATION:

- Evidence-based planning: Access to data and analysis supporting informed mobility decisions
- Cost-effective research: Valuable insights generated with minimal financial resources
- Stronger academia–municipality links: Improved cooperation and knowledge transfers
- Innovative perspectives: New ideas for addressing local mobility and sustainability challenges

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

The study used a mixed-method approach:

- Field data collection: Surveys, interviews, and on-site observations
- Quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to assess traffic flows, transport use, and key mobility challenges
- Students and municipal staff jointly discussed findings and explored potential mobility solutions
- Research synthesis and dissemination: Results were compiled into a scientific paper and published





QUOTES

- “I particularly appreciated how interactive sessions and fieldwork encouraged collaborative thinking about how Kiseljak could become a more accessible, safer, and sustainable city for all of us.” – Student participant
- “This was a valuable opportunity for students to apply their knowledge in a real-world context and for the municipality to benefit from fresh academic perspectives in shaping its new strategy” – Municipal representative

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

The collaboration produced valuable outputs supporting sustainable urban mobility in Kiseljak, including an applied research study, a structured dataset, and an analytical framework for future planning. Results were disseminated through a scientific paper and conference presentation within the 1FUTURE project. Students gained practical research skills, interdisciplinary teamwork experience, and competencies in academic writing and public-sector engagement. The municipality and CEPS benefited from evidence-based insights and strengthened cooperation, demonstrating how student-led research can support local mobility planning and sustainability goals while contributing to green and digital competencies.

WHY IT MATTERS

This initiative shows how collaboration between universities and local authorities can support evidence-based planning for sustainable urban mobility, especially in small municipalities with limited resources. It also demonstrates how student-led research can generate useful data while strengthening practical skills and partnerships between academia and public institutions.

POLICY RELEVANCE

The results support:

- evidence-based urban mobility planning at the local level in Kiseljak
- development of sustainable transport policies in small municipalities
- stronger cooperation between academia and public institutions in policymaking
- integration of research findings into local transport strategies
- promotion of green transition and sustainable mobility goals in Kiseljak



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY HEALTH: STUDENT-LED BLOOD DONATION IN KISELJAK

The blood donation project campaign in Kiseljak successfully brought together students, teaching staff, local citizens, Red Cross volunteers, and medical professionals from the Transfusion Center in Sarajevo. A total of 36 donors participated, contributing to a vital community health initiative. The campaign was coordinated primarily through the 1 Future digital platform, which streamlined registration, communication, and overall event management. Students and staff also contributed by creating promotional materials and raising public awareness about the importance of blood donation. Volunteers guided potential donors, while medical personnel ensured safe and efficient collection procedures. The campaign fostered new collaborations, improved organizational practices, and demonstrated a replicable model for future community health events. Participants gained valuable skills in project management, teamwork, and community engagement. Overall, the initiative highlighted the power of solidarity, civic responsibility, and humanitarian action, creating a sustainable framework for future blood donation drives and other health-related community projects.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS GUIDING THIS ACTION:

- How can collaborative initiatives between higher education institutions, local authorities, and humanitarian organizations enhance community engagement and participation in blood donation campaigns?
- What strategies and tools, including digital platforms like 1FUTURE, are most effective in improving the efficiency, coordination, and sustainability of local health-related campaigns?
- How does student involvement in community health initiatives contribute to skill development, social responsibility, and the long-term sustainability of public health efforts?

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFITS FROM THE COLLABORATION:

- Improved community engagement: Strengthened ties with students, citizens, and volunteers.
- Enhanced operational efficiency: Better coordination of donors and volunteers using the 1FUTURE platform.
- Innovative event management: Adoption of digital tools and structured campaign planning.
- Sustainable public health impact: Creation of a replicable model for future blood donation drives.

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

The action used a mixed-method approach:

- Planning and co-design workshops
- Community engagement: Outreach to citizens through social media, posters, and announcements
- Volunteer coordination and on-site execution
- Data tracking and analysis: Monitoring participation and collecting data to evaluate campaign effectiveness and inform future initiatives





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- "It was an honor for me as a student to participate in the organization of this action, showing the importance of contributing to the well-being and sustainability of our community." – Student participant
- "This action demonstrated such humanity, solidarity, and community spirit, while promoting sustainable community health and fostering long-term civic engagement." – Red Cross Kiseljak representative

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Participating in the blood donation campaign provided students with valuable practical experience in organizing and coordinating a community health event. They developed project management and teamwork skills through collaboration with teaching staff, volunteers, and local authorities. Additionally, exposure to real-world medical and organizational contexts enhanced their professional competencies, preparing them for future roles in healthcare, social work, or community-based projects. This initiative also contributes to SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being by promoting access to essential blood supplies and fostering a culture of sustainable community health.

WHY IT MATTERS

This blood donation campaign matters because it strengthens community solidarity, promotes civic responsibility, and addresses a critical public health need. By involving students, staff, and local citizens, the initiative not only ensured the safe collection of blood but also built a sustainable model for future health campaigns, fostering skills, awareness, and long-term community resilience.

POLICY RELEVANCE

The results support:

- informed health planning for local blood supply
- sustainable community engagement and volunteerism
- Stronger institutional collaboration between academia and humanitarian organizations
- efficient digital coordination using the 1FUTURE platform
- a model for future health initiatives



STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE

In July 2025, University College CEPS Kiseljak hosted the ALERT Level 1 Integrated Response Train-the-Trainers program, initiated by DTCare Sarajevo under the leadership of Doc. dr. Amer Smailbegović, in cooperation with the Texas State University ALERT Center. The project included a five-day intensive training program that resulted in the certification of ten law enforcement professionals as Level 1 instructors in evidence-based active attack response. By combining theoretical instruction with realistic tactical simulations, the program strengthened institutional coordination and standardized emergency response practices across Bosnia and Herzegovina. CEPS students observed the training, linking academic knowledge with real-world crisis management. The initiative directly supported Sustainable Development Goal 16 by enhancing institutional resilience, public safety, and professional accountability. The newly certified instructors are expected to replicate the program nationally, ensuring long-term sustainability and multiplier effects. This case highlights how proactive leadership, international collaboration, and academic engagement can build safer and more resilient communities.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS GUIDING THIS STUDY:

- How does evidence-based, scenario-driven training enhance institutional resilience and operational readiness of law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina?
- What are the effects of international collaboration and Train-the-Trainers models on standardizing emergency response practices and knowledge transfer within local institutions?
- How can academic engagement and student observation in high-risk training programs contribute to professional competencies and support sustainable security and public safety goals?

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFITS FROM THE COLLABORATION:

- Enhanced operational readiness: Standardized active attack response protocols for law enforcement.
- Improved inter-agency coordination: Stronger collaboration between local and national security institutions.
- Capacity building: Creation of a network of certified trainers for national replication.
- Sustainable security practices: Adoption of evidence-based methods supporting long-term institutional resilience.

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

The study used a structured, evidence-based training approach:

- Blended instruction: Combined classroom teaching with scenario-based tactical simulations
- Practical exercises: Participants engaged in integrated response drills replicating active attack situations
- After-action analysis: Guided debriefings evaluated decision-making, coordination, and communication
- Research synthesis and dissemination: Results were compiled into a scientific paper and published





QUOTES

- “This course left a strong impression on me, we learned a lot of useful things, which will mean a lot to us in the future.” – Student participant
- “The approach that included practical and theoretical aspects of dealing with high-risk situations is extremely important for improving the capabilities of law enforcement and security agencies.” – Ministry of Security participant

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

The ALERRT Level 1 program certified ten law enforcement professionals as instructors, established standardized response protocols, and enhanced inter-agency coordination. It created a sustainable trainer network, strengthened institutional resilience, and supported SDG 16 by promoting accountable security practices. Participants gained practical crisis management and coordination skills, linking academic knowledge with real-world applications, while CEPS and DTCare improved their capacity to organize and disseminate professional training, advancing long-term preparedness and sustainable institutional development.

WHY IT MATTERS

This initiative matters because it strengthens institutional preparedness and coordinated response to high-risk security incidents. By combining international expertise, professional training, and academic engagement, the program enhances the capacity of law enforcement institutions and contributes to safer and more resilient communities.

POLICY RELEVANCE

The results support:

- evidence-based protocols for active attack situations
- strengthened the capacity of law enforcement agencies and public institutions
- international best practices adapted for local contexts
- SDG 16 alignment: Promotes peace, justice, strong institutions, and accountable security practices.



SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS AND GREEN TRANSITION

The International Student Conference “Sustainable Innovations and Green Transition” was held on May 22, 2025, in Kiseljak, Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing together students and young researchers from 13 higher education institutions across six countries, along with local company representatives. A total of 57 papers were presented, covering topics related to sustainable business, green technologies, urban resilience, public health, and energy efficiency. University College CEPS Kiseljak organized the event in collaboration with international partners from Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, and Malta. Students and company representatives participated as authors under the mentorship of academic staff, gaining practical experience in research, teamwork, and academic communication. The conference promoted knowledge exchange between academia and practice while contributing to several UN Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The event highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing sustainable solutions and fostering innovation for a green transition.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS GUIDING THIS ACTIVITY:

- How can collaboration between students, young researchers, and industry representatives advance sustainable innovations and the green transition?
- What practical solutions and business models can emerge from multidisciplinary research to promote sustainability and environmental resilience?
- How can insights from this conference inform policies, industry practices, and local initiatives to achieve Sustainable Development Goals?

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFITS FROM THE COLLABORATION:

- Strengthened academic-industry partnerships and networking opportunities
- Enhanced student learning through mentorship and real-world exposure
- Increased visibility and reputation of participating institutions internationally
- Access to diverse research insights supporting sustainable development initiatives

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

The activity used a multidisciplinary, collaborative methodology:

- Students, young researchers, and company representatives submitted papers on sustainability, green technologies, and urban transition topics
- Mentors and faculty guided participants in research design, analysis, and presentation skills
- Interactive sessions, panel discussions, and Q&A promoted knowledge exchange between academia and industry





QUOTES

- “I believe that researching the impact of the environment on human health is of utmost importance today, as timely prevention and education can help prevent the development of numerous diseases.” – Student participant
- “Events like these give students practical experience, peer networking, industry engagement, and stronger connections with mentors.” – Academy participant

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

The International Student Conference showcased 57 papers from 13 institutions across six countries, fostering academic exchange and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Students gained research and presentation skills, while company representatives connected academia with industry. The event enhanced institutional visibility, promoted international cooperation, and contributed to SDGs including health (3), education (4), clean energy (7), sustainable cities (11), and climate action (13). It also strengthened students’ capacity to develop innovative, sustainable solutions for real-world challenges.

WHY IT MATTERS

This initiative bridges academia, industry, and young researchers, fostering knowledge exchange, skills development, and awareness of global sustainability challenges while strengthening networks and inspiring future solutions. It also promotes collaboration across borders, encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to real-world sustainability issues.

POLICY RELEVANCE

The results support:

- strengthening collaboration between academia, industry, and civil society on sustainability.
- informing policy and decision-making on green technologies and sustainability practices.
- advancing SDG implementation through practical student-led research and innovation.



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MONITORING AND ANALYSIS

The Training Workshop on Air Quality monitoring and Analysis was held on May 29, 2025, at the Knowledge Hub for Climate and Sustainability (KHCS) at University College CEPS Kiseljak. The training combined a theoretical introduction to traffic noise and air quality monitoring with practical demonstrations of modern equipment used to measure air pollutants and traffic noise in both indoor and outdoor environments. Participants—including students, academic staff, and representatives from the business sector—gained hands-on experience in the use of monitoring devices procured through the GROWTH project, strengthening their understanding of environmental monitoring practices. The workshop also supported cross-sectoral cooperation and contributed to capacity building in climate sustainability and environmental protection in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal. Through interactive learning and practical demonstrations, participants improved their technical competencies and awareness of the importance of monitoring environmental impacts related to transport and urban activities.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS GUIDING THIS STUDY:

- How can modern monitoring technologies improve the measurement and understanding of air pollution and traffic noise in urban environments?
- What knowledge and practical skills are necessary for students and professionals to effectively conduct environmental monitoring?
- How can collaboration between academia, industry, and practitioners support better environmental protection and climate sustainability practices?

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFITS FROM THE COLLABORATION:

- Improved technical capacity for monitoring air pollution and traffic noise
- Strengthened cooperation between academia, industry, and local stakeholders
- Increased awareness and knowledge on environmental protection and sustainable transport
- Opportunities for practical training and professional development for staff and students

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

The study used a combined theoretical and practical training methodology:

- Introductory lectures on air quality monitoring and environmental impacts
- Demonstration of modern equipment for measuring air pollution and traffic noise
- Hands-on exercises conducted in the classroom and outdoor campus area
- Interactive discussions between students, academic staff, and industry representatives



QUOTES

- “Great experience and very enjoyable interaction with the participants. I had the opportunity to use the equipment provided through the 1FUTURE project and practice the basics of its operation.” – Student participant
- “This was a valuable opportunity for our company to observe how noise and air pollution, often overlooked, impacted both daily life and vehicle testing environments.” – Business sector participant



RESEARCH OUTCOMES

The training strengthened participants' knowledge and practical skills in monitoring air pollution and traffic noise through a combination of theoretical learning and hands-on demonstrations. Participants gained experience in using modern monitoring equipment and interpreting environmental data in both indoor and outdoor settings. The activity enhanced cooperation between academia, students, and business sector representatives, promoting knowledge exchange and practical application of environmental monitoring practices. Overall, the workshop contributed to building institutional and individual capacities for environmental protection, sustainable transport, and climate sustainability initiatives.

WHY IT MATTERS

This initiative equips participants with practical skills and knowledge to assess and manage air quality and noise pollution, directly supporting environmental protection and sustainable transport initiatives. Fostering collaboration between academia, students, and the business sector, it promotes evidence-based decision-making and strengthens local capacity to address climate and pollution challenges effectively.

POLICY RELEVANCE

The results support:

- evidence-based environmental monitoring for informed local and institutional decision-making
- implementation of sustainable transport and climate protection measures
- strengthening cross-sector collaboration between academia, industry, and students
- alignment with European Green Deal objectives and national sustainability policies

