

GROWTH

GREENING RELEVANCE IN OPERATIONS IN WESTERN - BALKANS
TERTIARY - EDUCATION HABITATS

TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY

TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY STRATEGY

By GROWTH Project Management Team



ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY

The Green University Strategy, adopted by all WBC partner HEIs, provides a joint framework for integrating sustainability into research, education, institutional operations, and societal engagement in line with the SDGs and the Green Deal transition.

TRAININGS ON GREEN PRACTICES

The Green University Strategy, adopted by all WBC partner higher education institutions, establishes a comprehensive framework for advancing sustainability through integrated research and innovation, interdisciplinary education, sustainable staff and operational practices, and strengthened public engagement and societal impact in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Deal transition.



GREEN AND SUSTAINABILITY TRAININGS AT WBC HEIS

INTRODUCTION SEMINAR FOR TEACHING STAFF ON GREEN TEACHING AND LEARNING CLASSROOMS AND METHODOLOGIES

STAFF MTRAINING FROM WBC HEIS

April, 2024

➤➤➤ ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The Seminar focused on integrating sustainability into higher education through innovative pedagogical approaches. The programme combined presentations, interactive workshops, and practical exercises addressing green teaching principles, curriculum development, active learning techniques, green lesson planning, and alignment of learning outcomes with sustainability goals using Bloom's taxonomy.

➤➤➤ EFFECT ON TEACHING STAFF WBC HEIS

The seminar strengthened the pedagogical capacities of WBC HEIs by equipping teaching staff with concrete tools and methodologies for embedding sustainability into their courses. It enhanced curriculum innovation, promoted interdisciplinary integration of environmental topics, and supported the systematic alignment of learning outcomes with green and sustainable development objectives across study programmes.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Staff gained tools to embed sustainability in courses
- Curriculum innovation and interdisciplinary integration improved
- Learning outcomes aligned with sustainability goals



Soft green skills: main learning outcomes

- Sustainability literacy
- Systemic and holistic thinking
- Capability and motivation for lifelong learning
- Critical thinking and reflection
- Reflexivity
- Empathy
- Collaboration
- Interdisciplinary skills and ability to work with stakeholders
- Foresighted, anticipatory and futures thinking
- Working with complexity and uncertainty
- Implicit development of values or value of learning and reflection
- Characteristics: empathy, compassion, self-motivation and sense of identity (Sandri, 2014)



ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-1
ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE



101083212
ERASMUS-AG-LS

Greening Relevance in Operations in Western-Balkans Tertiary-Education Habitats

GREEN TEACHING AND SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Katarina Tomic

Academy of Applied Preschool Teaching and Health Studies Krusevac

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TRAINING ON GREEN UNIVERSITIES

TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

November, 2024

»»» SCOPE OF THE TRAINING

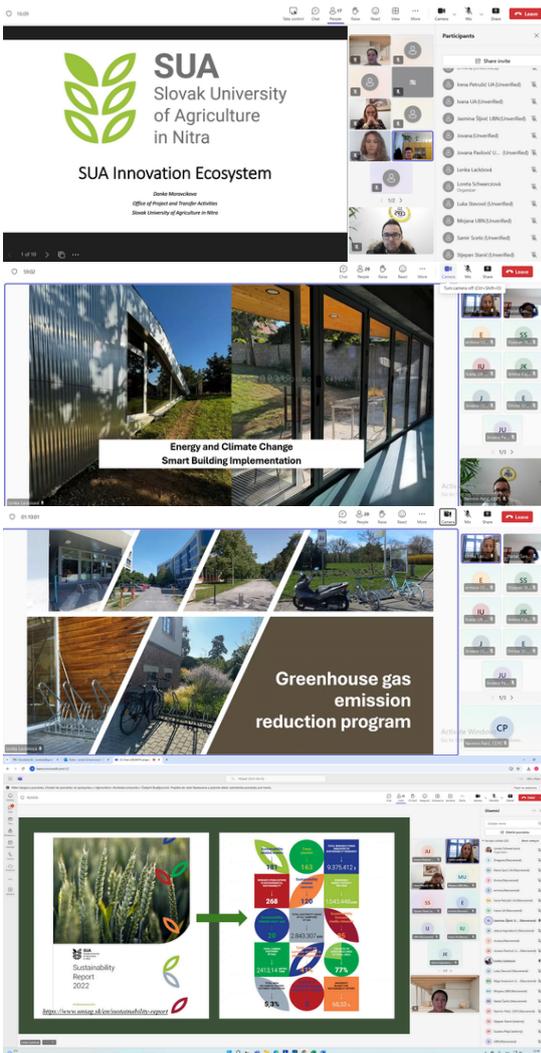
The Training of Trainers for WBC HEIs, delivered by SUA in Nitra, focused on presenting practical models of green university development, including sustainable campus management, green infrastructure planning, and community-based energy and environmental initiatives. Through examples from the Botanic Garden and the e-COOP project, participants explored European best practices, interdisciplinary approaches, and applied case studies, complemented by group-based practical assignments aimed at institutional adaptation.

»»» IMPACT ON TEACHING STAFF AT WBC HEIS

The training strengthened the capacity of WBC HEIs to implement green transition measures by providing practical tools and models, enhancing sustainability integration into governance and operations, and empowering staff to drive institutional green transformation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Practical models for developing green university infrastructure
- Integration of sustainability into institutional governance and operations
- Community-based approaches to energy and environmental challenges
- Strengthened capacity of WBC HEIs to implement green transition strategies



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TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY

THE "TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY STRATEGY" PROVIDES WBC HEIS WITH A SHARED FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO ALL CORE INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

November, 2024

WORKSHOPS ON THE CREATION OF "TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY STRATEGY"

Three two-day workshops delivered by colleagues from Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences were held online via Zoom, bringing together four participants per WBC institution, during which the current situation at the target HEIs was analysed, key needs and challenges were identified, international strategic frameworks were reviewed, and main objectives, milestones, procedures, and implementation mechanisms were defined, culminating in the peer review and finalization of four draft institutional strategies prepared as a result of the workshops.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STRATEGY

It is a key framework guiding HEIs in embedding sustainability and green practices across all areas of their operations and academic activities:

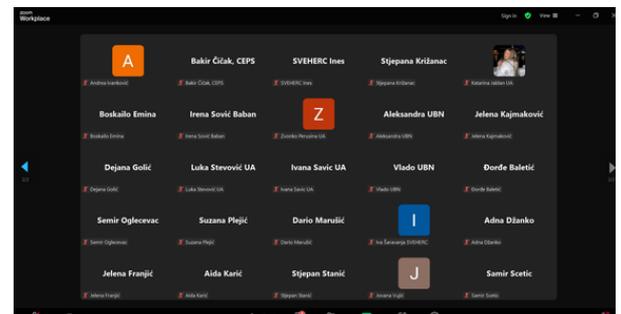
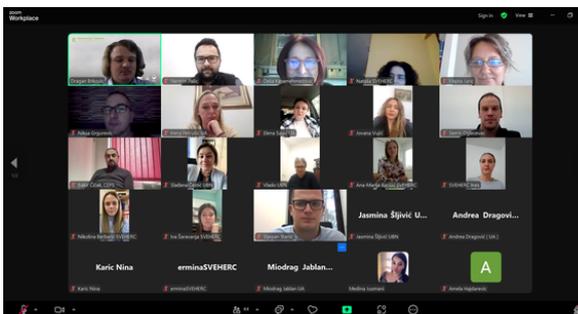
- Integrates sustainability across HEIs
- Aligns with global and regional goals
- Promotes interdisciplinary research
- Enhances staff and student competences
- Strengthens institutional impact
- Positions HEIs as green leaders

AS A RESULT, 4 STRATEGY ADOPTED

To initiate the development of so-called green universities, it was essential to formulate a comprehensive action plan to guide this long-term transformation. The resulting strategic document includes an analysis of the current state of affairs, clearly defined objectives and milestones, implementation steps and guidelines, mandatory actions and procedures, as well as identified actors responsible for carrying out the planned measures. The "Towards Green University Strategy" has been formally adopted by all four target HEIs.



Project: 101083212 — GROWTH — ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-1



WBC HEI

Towards the green university strategy

WP2: OPTIMIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

D2.3: Towards green university strategy prepared for



5TH ISC: GREEN SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

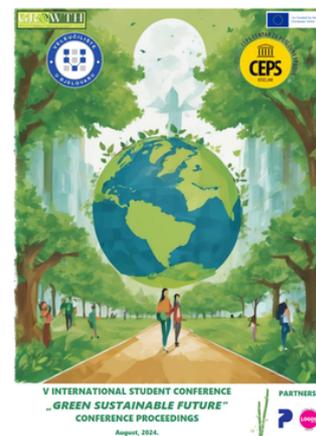
May, 2024

➤➤➤ EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICAL EDUCATION

Within the Erasmus+ CBHE project GROWTH, University College "CEPS-Center for Business Studies" Kiseljak organized the 5th International Student Conference "Green Sustainable Future", bringing together students from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Slovakia, North Macedonia, and Malta, with 30 papers presented by participants from 12 higher education institutions, which was promoted on the top national radio television channel HRT1.

➤➤➤ PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

The presentations were organized into two thematic sessions, covering topics such as circular economy strategies, green technologies in transportation, climate change and health, digital solutions for sustainability, smart energy systems, social and environmental justice, workplace safety, experiential learning for sustainability, equality in society, and innovative teaching approaches in higher education.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

A total of 30 papers dedicated to sustainable development and green practices were received and published in the Conference Proceedings.



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INHOUSE WORKSHOP AT WBC HEIS

SECOND YEAR OF THE PROJECT



SVEUČILIŠTE
HERCEGOVINA
HERZEGOVINA UNIVERSITY

»»» WORKSHOP "TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY"

An in-house workshop on the topic Towards Green University – guidelines was held at the premises of the University of Herzegovina with administrative staff. The planned workshop was held to familiarize staff with the activities and preparations that are being undertaken through the GROWTH project and that are necessary for defining the Green Strategy at the University of Herzegovina. The key principles of sustainable development in higher education were also discussed, with an emphasis on green policies that are being undertaken and that could still be undertaken in order for the institution to progress in line with modern trends in sustainable development, green transition and energy efficiency. The workshop was led by Dr. Nataša Šantić as coordinator for the GROWTH project at the University of Herzegovina, and the workshop also included a brainstorming session to collect new ideas that could be implemented in the strategy and operations of the institution.

»»» PEDALING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

On November 28, 2024, at the University of Bijeljina, in cooperation with entrepreneurs, a training session on recycling, green energy sources and infrastructure was organized. The training was attended by all interested parties, not only by representatives of the local administration, respected local entrepreneurs with whom the University as an academic community cooperates, but academic and administrative staff, as well as our students. The main topic was the green agenda and raising awareness of the importance of green transition, recycling, saving electricity and infrastructure. The conclusion was that all of us, as individuals and representatives of our community, will make efforts to incorporate good practices, which were transferred to us by foreign partners through the GROWTH project, into our daily lives.



GREEN MINDS, SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW!

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EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION

CAPACITY BUILDING AT 4 WBC HEIS



SVEUČILIŠTE
HERCEGOVINA
HERZEGOVINA UNIVERSITY



➤➤➤ OVERVIEW OF THE EQUIPMENT

As part of Work Package 2 of the GROWTH project, it is necessary to conduct the procurement, purchase, and establishment of equipment. The equipment purchasing process was guided by a review of planned purchases to best meet the needs of the project and EBC HEIs.

Within the project implementation, University College CEPS procured equipment aimed at strengthening green infrastructure, digital capacity, and sustainable campus development, including recycling containers, electric bicycles, air quality measuring devices, 3D printers, outdoor classroom furniture, video conferencing equipment, a 360° web camera, an electric vehicle charging station, and a hand-held particle counter. University Herzegovina procured recycling containers, outdoor classroom benches, laptops, and air pollution control equipment; the University of Bijeljina carried out the purchase, delivery, and installation of heat pumps with accompanying equipment; while University Adriatic in Herceg Novi acquired computer equipment and 3D printers, all contributing to greener and more digitally advanced learning environments. Mini events were organized at each WBC HEI to promote and demonstrate the proper use of the newly purchased equipment.



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UPCOMING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT IN THE LAST YEAR OF THE PROJECT?



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OVERVIEW OF THE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Open-air classrooms provide healthy, engaging, and environmentally friendly learning spaces with natural ventilation, no solid walls, and minimal energy use for heating or cooling.

Hackathons are relatively new events in the Western Balkan countries and four target universities will need to develop guidelines for organizing these complex but innovative events.

Local institutional training sessions on recycling culture, green energy sources, infrastructure.



Right photo by [link1](#); Left photo by [link2](#).

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»»» NEWSLETTER #2. «««

Edition #2

April 2025



Co-funded by
the European Union

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 international.ubn@gmail.com

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