

# GROWTH

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

## TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY



### OPEN AIR CLASSROOMS AT WBC HEIS

#### OPEN AIR CLASSROOMS

Open-air classrooms successfully established at four WBC HEIs, emphasizing healthy, engaging, and environmentally sustainable learning environments supported by natural ventilation and flexible spatial design.

### ORGANIZATION OF HACKATHONS



Four green innovation hackathons were implemented, one at each target WBC HEI, bringing together around 60 participants in total. The events focused on jointly defined green goals and encouraged participants to develop environmentally friendly solutions and products aligned with the green university concept and applicable within the upgraded sustainable campus environment. Designed as competitive events, the hackathons rewarded the most innovative ideas, which were further promoted through the project's dissemination activities and wider communication channels.

### GREEN UNIVERSITY INNOVATION HACKATHONS

# HACKATHON AT AUB FMHN

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

May, 2024

### REIMAGINES GREEN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

The Faculty of Management, Herceg Novi, organized a Green Transition Hackathon dedicated to energy-efficient and climate-neutral university campuses. The event focused on innovative green technologies such as solar and photovoltaic systems, heat pumps, green roofs and façades, waste sorting and recycling, wind turbines, and rainwater harvesting systems. As inspiration, participants explored examples of leading European green campuses, including the University of Bremen, the University of Bologna, the University of Nottingham, and the University of Groningen

### INNOVATION, COMPETITION AND HANDS-ON LEARNING

Organized in cooperation with the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis, the two-day hackathon (23–24 May 2024) combined creativity, technology, and teamwork. Students attended short workshops on virtual reality devices and 3D scanners and participated in a model-making competition for the best concept of a green university campus. The event gathered up to 15 students, primarily those enrolled in the Sustainable Development course, strengthening their practical skills, innovative thinking, and commitment to sustainable campus transformation.

**CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION TODAY  
SHAPE THE GREEN CAMPUSES OF TOMORROW**



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# HACKATHON AT CEPS

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

April, 2025



### ➤➤➤ GREEN INNOVATION HACKATHON: STUDENTS DRIVING CHANGE

University College CEPS Kiseljak organized the Green Innovation Hackatho, gathering 29 students divided into 10 teams and guided by four faculty mentors. The event aimed to develop creative and practical solutions for campus sustainability, focusing on topics such as a green working environment, smart mobility with electric bicycles, and the reuse of medical equipment for educational purposes.



### ➤➤➤ STUDENTS LEADING CEPS'S SUSTAINABILITY

Three standout ideas aligned with CEPS's green vision: Green Working Environment, Smart Mobility with e-bikes, and Reuse of Medical Equipment for education. A 3D printing workshop introduced students to eco-friendly applications of 3D modeling, while post-event confirmed high interest in future green initiatives, highlighting students as key drivers of sustainability transformation.



**STUDENTS ARE DRIVING INNOVATION AND TURNING IDEAS INTO PRACTICAL, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**



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**SVEUČILIŠTE  
HERCEGOVINA**  
HERZEGOVINA UNIVERSITY

# HACKATHON AT SVEHERC

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

May, 2025

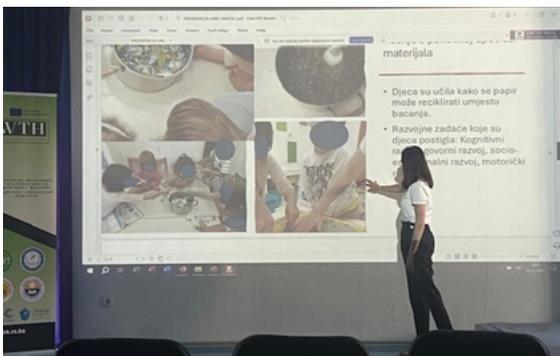
### »»» HACKATHON SPARKS SUSTAINABLE IDEAS

Herzegovina University hosted a Green Innovation Hackathon. The event brought together students and teachers who worked in teams to develop creative and innovative solutions aimed at influencing children and young people to think and act more sustainably. Participants translated their ideas into PowerPoint presentations and short performances using available IT equipment, demonstrating strong teamwork, creativity, and commitment to environmental sustainability.

### »»» WINNERS AND IMPACT OF THE HACKATHON

More than 15 participants presented their solutions to a jury, which awarded cash prizes to the three most innovative teams. All participants received certificates, and the hackathon strengthened project-based learning skills, promoted sustainability engagement, and reinforced the university's commitment to environmental responsibility.

**TOGETHER,  
SMALL IDEAS  
CAN SPARK BIG  
SUSTAINABLE  
CHANGE**



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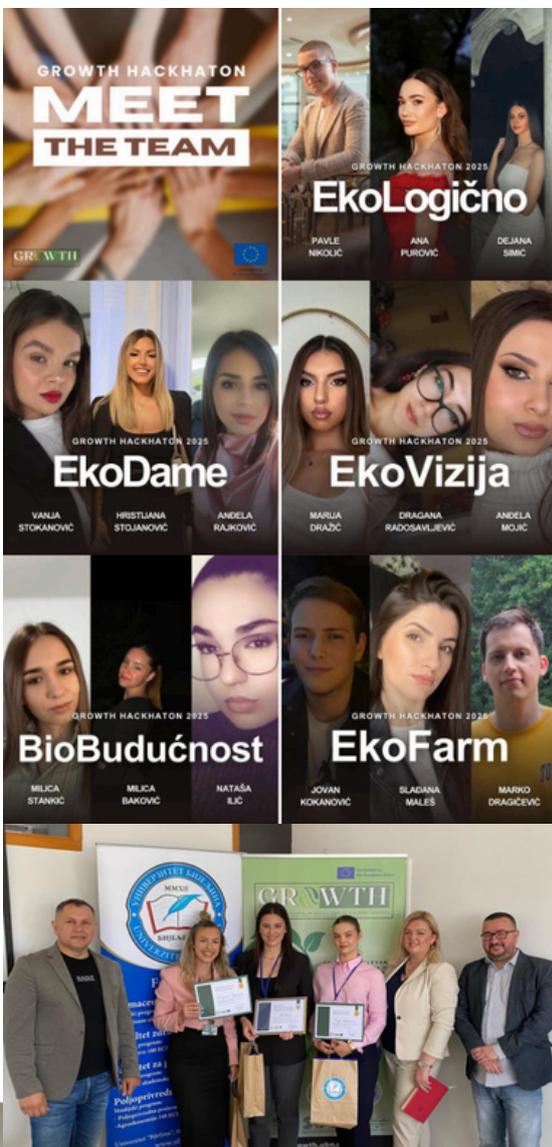
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# HACKATHON AT UBN

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

June, 2025



### STUDENTS STEP UP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Bijeljina University organized a GROWTH Hackathon focused on sustainable development, digital transformation, and student life. It attracted enthusiastic teams from various study programs who proposed innovative solutions for a greener and more sustainable campus and community. Participants also attended an educational session led by university leaders and faculty, including Prof. Dr. Boro Krstić and Prof. Dr. Bojan Damjanović, who highlighted the importance of creativity, practical skills, and environmental awareness in addressing contemporary sustainability challenges.

### TEAMS DRIVING GREEN CAMPUS SOLUTIONS

In the lead-up to the hackathon, the “Meet the Team” campaign on social media introduced all participating teams, generating strong engagement and excitement. Teams included EkoLogično, EkoDame, EkoVizija, BioBudućnost, and EkoFarm, each bringing unique ideas ranging from smart ecological platforms and green initiatives to improving student life and promoting sustainability in daily practices. The campaign and preparatory sessions motivated participants to collaborate effectively and approach the hackathon with creativity, innovation, and commitment to environmental goals. Botanical Corner (Hristijana, Vanja, Anđela) combined nature, design, and education was the winning idea.

**STUDENTS' CREATIVITY AND TEAMWORK ARE DRIVING REAL CHANGE TOWARD GREENER CAMPUSES**



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**SVEUČILIŠTE  
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# ESTABLISHMENT OF OPEN AIR CLASSROOMS AT WBC HEIS

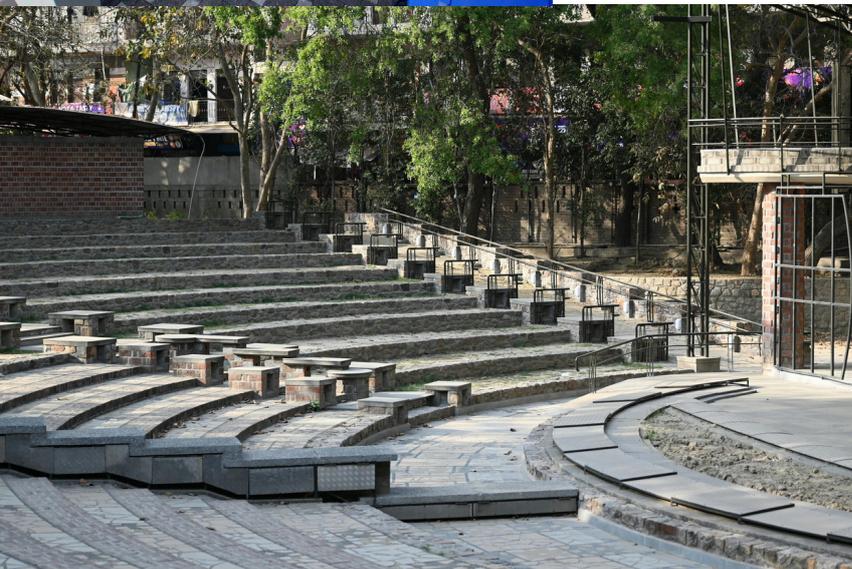
## INNOVATIVE GREEN EDUCATION

### ➤➤➤ BREATHING LEARNING

Open air classrooms are healthy and engaging learning environments, enhanced by flexible wall openings. They provide a spacious, well-ventilated atmosphere without solid barriers or stuffy air, promoting comfort and focus. These spaces are also environmentally friendly, as natural ventilation reduces the need for heating and cooling, saving energy.

### ➤➤➤ ESTABLISHMENT AND PILOT CLASSES

Western Balkans HEIs established open-air classrooms to create eco-friendly, engaging learning spaces. The Faculty of Management, Herceg Novi hosted outdoor lectures promoting reflection and active participation. CEPS Kiseljak set up a riverside classroom with movable furniture and greenery for pilot lessons on sustainable mobility and waste separation. University of Bijeljina and Hercegovina University created naturally shaded classrooms integrated into campus life, supporting practical activities on renewable energy and sustainability. Across all institutions, these spaces enhance student engagement, promote environmental awareness, and demonstrate the long-term impact of innovative green pedagogy.



**OUR OPEN-AIR  
CLASSROOMS BRING  
SUSTAINABILITY TO LIFE,  
TURNING EVERY LESSON  
INTO AN EXPERIENCE  
THAT INSPIRES  
STUDENTS TO THINK,  
ACT, AND INNOVATE  
GREEN**

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# LOCAL INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS

RECYCLING, GREEN ENERGY SOURCES, AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



## ➤➤➤ GREEN INNOVATION IN PRACTICE TRAINING

Faculty of Management Herceg Novi organized training session, “**Green Management in Practice**,” bringing together staff and students to explore sustainability through the ESG framework and a practical €50,000 green investment simulation. The session reinforced that sustainability is not a cost, but a strategic investment in long-term efficiency, credibility, and competitive advantage. Also, students were engaged in lectures and **workshops on architecture, 3D printing, energy efficiency, sustainable development, and renewable energy**, enriched by study visits to Žiljebi ethno village and Tito’s Villa in Igalo.

University of Herzegovina hosted an **in-house workshop titled “Towards Green University – Guidelines”** for administrative and teaching staff. The workshop focused on presenting GROWTH project activities relevant to the development of the University’s Green Strategy and on discussing key principles of sustainable development in higher education, including green policies, energy efficiency, and the green transition.

## ➤➤➤ SPREADING THE GREEN AGENDA

University “Bijeljina” organized training sessions on **recycling, green energy sources, and sustainable infrastructure** further advancing its Green Strategy. The first session gathered teaching, administrative, technical, and management staff, student representatives, and external stakeholders, while the second engaged alumni employed in regional companies, exploring how their organizations’ goals align with the University’s green transition efforts. Both events emphasized raising awareness about recycling, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure, strengthening collaboration between the University and its wider community, and expanding the dissemination of the green agenda beyond campus.

## ➤➤➤ ELECTROMOBILITY AND AIR MONITORING

CEPS Kiseljak organized professional trainings with workshops within the Erasmus+ GROWTH project, focusing on **electromobility and air quality monitoring**. The electromobility workshop introduced students to trends in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, featuring expert lectures and a practical demonstration of charging a VOLVO electric vehicle using a FUJI charger acquired through GROWTH. The Air Monitoring Workshop combined theoretical training on indoor and outdoor air quality assessment with hands-on use of monitoring equipment procured through the GROWTH project. By engaging students, teaching staff, and business sector representatives, CEPS reinforced its commitment to sustainable development, green technologies, and cross-sector cooperation, while strengthening institutional capacities in line with the European Green Deal objectives.

**GREEN MINDS, SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW!**

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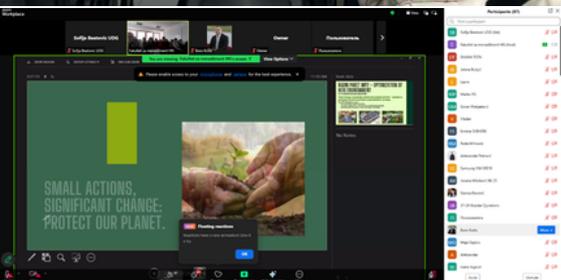
# FINAL PROMOTIONAL CONFERENCES

"TOWARDS GREEN UNIVERSITY"



## ➤➤➤ GROWTH FINAL CONFERENCE IN BIJEJINA

The final conference of the Erasmus+ GROWTH project in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on January 24, 2026, at Bijeljina University, gathering 104 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro, including academic staff, students, alumni, and business representatives. The event showcased key project results, highlighting the installation of a geothermal heat pump for campus heating and cooling, the University's green initiatives, the award-winning student idea "Botanical Corner," and the development of an E-manual and video tutorial supporting green transformation in teaching, learning, and research. Strong cooperation with the local community was emphasized, particularly in campus greening and improved waste management systems. The conference concluded that the green transition must be institutionally driven, embedded in education, and supported by student initiatives and partnerships with the economy, reaffirming Bijeljina University's strategic commitment to sustainable development and enhancing the regional visibility of the GROWTH project.



## ➤➤➤ GROWTH FINAL CONFERENCE IN HERCEG NOVI

The second final conference of the GROWTH project was held on February 23, 2026, at the Faculty of Management in Herceg Novi, in a hybrid format, gathering around 50 participants in person and more than 100 online. The event brought together teaching and non-teaching staff, students, representatives of the business community, SECMNE as a project partner, and other relevant stakeholders, with the main objective of widely disseminating project results to ensure long-term sustainability and stimulate further green investments. Key outcomes of the project were presented, highlighting implemented green practices, identified challenges, and recommendations for future action. The conference also emphasized the importance of cooperation between academia, industry, and decision-makers in advancing green initiatives and supporting climate change mitigation efforts.



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