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## BUILDING CAPACITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SOCIETY

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Economic and social development is widely affected by the impacts of climate change.



The European Green Deal, approved in 2020, is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making the European Union climate neutral in 2050.



**Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**

*Accompanying the*

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

**An Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**

{COM(2020) 641 final}

It is of critical importance that higher education system contributes to building capacities and interdisciplinary knowledge for a sustainable and resilient society, able to build back better our vulnerable economies.





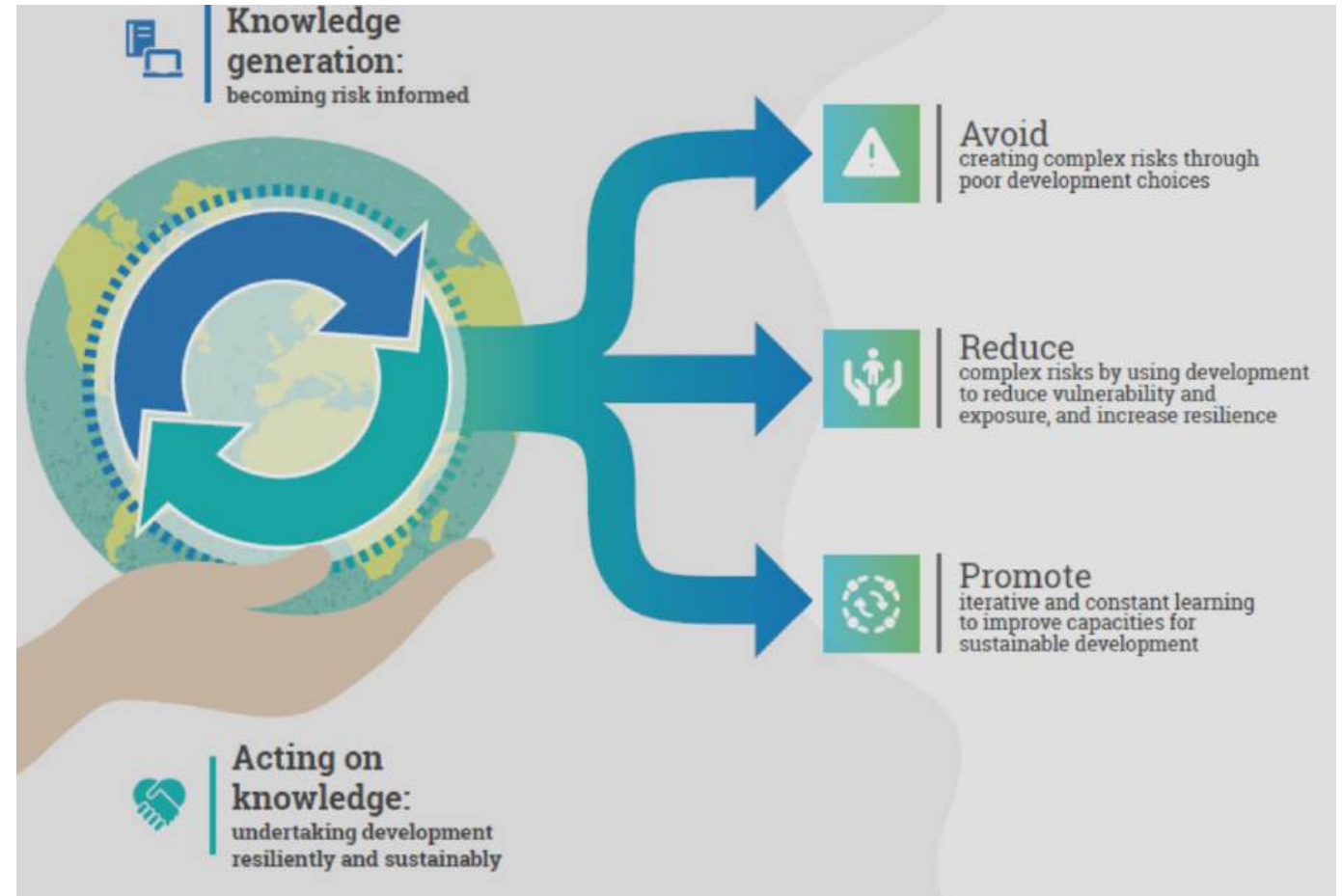
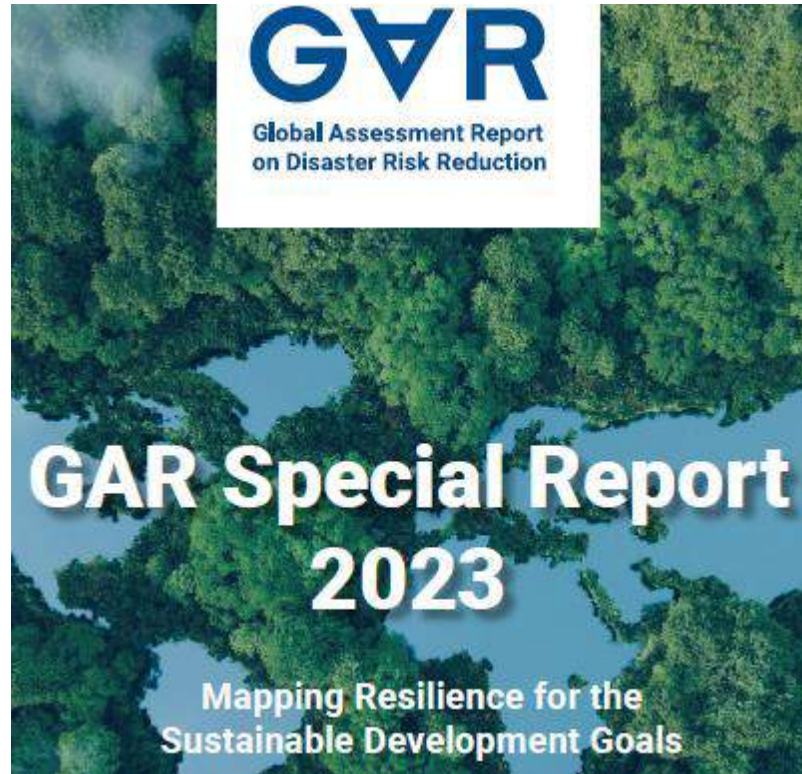
## Partners



 [www.1future.feut.edu.al](http://www.1future.feut.edu.al)

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IFUTURE page



Source: Nadin, R. and Opitz-Stapleton, S. (2019) Figure 2: Risk-informed development and its core aims. In: *Risk-informed development: from crisis to resilience*. ODI and UNDP.





## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



**ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**



### Societal transformation:

Enable the achievement of the SDGs towards building a more sustainable world

### Pedagogy and learning environment:

Employ interactive, project-based, learner-centred pedagogy. Transform all aspects of learning environment through a whole-institution approach to ESD to enable learners to live what they learn and learn what they live

### Learning outcomes:

Empower people to take responsibility for present and future generations and actively contribute to societal transformation

### Learning content:

Integrate sustainability issues, in particular those enshrined in the 17 SDGs such as climate change, into all kinds of learning



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**Education for**

**Sustainable**

**Development**

A roadmap

**#ESDfor2030**



Based on the performed needs analysis the broader aim of the project was defined:  
*Mainstream and holistic approach towards climate and sustainability action.*

In addition, the following specific objectives are developed:

- SO1: Establish Knowledge Hubs for Climate and Sustainability (KHCS) within each WBC HEIs;
- SO2: Mainstream climate and sustainability culture within WBC HEIs;
- SO3: Raise awareness of staff and student community on the needs for climate action within HEIs;
- SO4: Increase Synergies between academia, business sector and government for implementing joint initiatives for climate and sustainability and
- SO5: Reinforcement of networking and collaboration between staff and student communities of WBC and EU about climate and sustainability actions.





## NEEDS FOR IMPROVEMENT

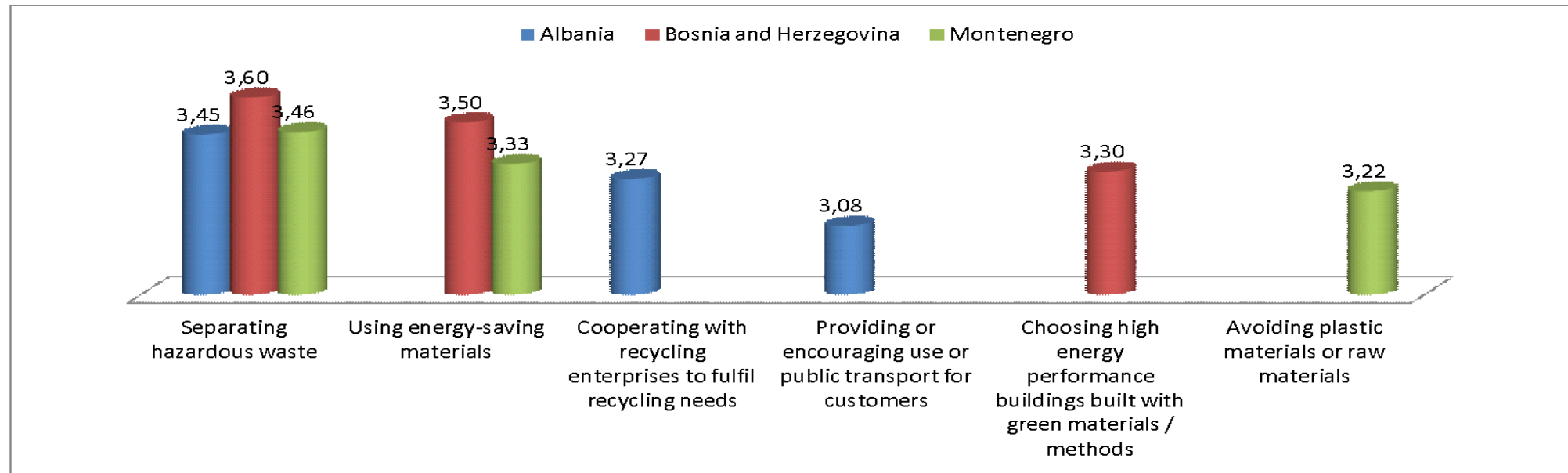


The conducted surveys and interviews with public and private institutions, business communities and other stakeholders also identified the needs in terms of capacities and knowledge in the areas of climate change adaptation action and sustainability. The research included a total of 901 companies from the Western Balkans: Albania – 478, Bosnia and Herzegovina – 207 and Montenegro – 216.

| Country and company size   | Green business measures                                                                                         | Level of adoption |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Albania - all companies    | Implement measures to protect the environment                                                                   | 56.3%             |
|                            | Estimate the level of energy consumption/savings/losses                                                         | 67.1%             |
|                            | Implement measures to reduce pollution                                                                          | 81%               |
|                            | Have a green transport plan/procedure (for staff, customers, freight)                                           | 72%               |
|                            | Have adopted a national/international environmental certification program                                       | 79,1%             |
| B&H - all companies        | Engage in community-based environmental initiatives                                                             | 44.4%             |
|                            | Estimate the level of energy consumption/savings/losses                                                         | 49.3%             |
|                            | Implement measures to reduce pollution                                                                          | 64.7%             |
|                            | Send delegates to environmental conferences/activities; Estimate the level of energy consumption/savings/losses | 62.8%             |
|                            | Engage in community-based environmental initiatives                                                             | 65.7%             |
| Montenegro - all companies | Engage in community-based environmental initiatives                                                             | 52. 8%            |
|                            | Implement measures to reduce pollution                                                                          | 75.5%             |
|                            | Implement measures to protect the environment                                                                   | 81.9%             |

All companies have some top-rated measures in common:

- Environmental protection measures;
- Reducing pollution measures;
- Energy saving measures and
- Engagement in community based environmental initiatives.



Company representatives' views on green business practices (top rated)



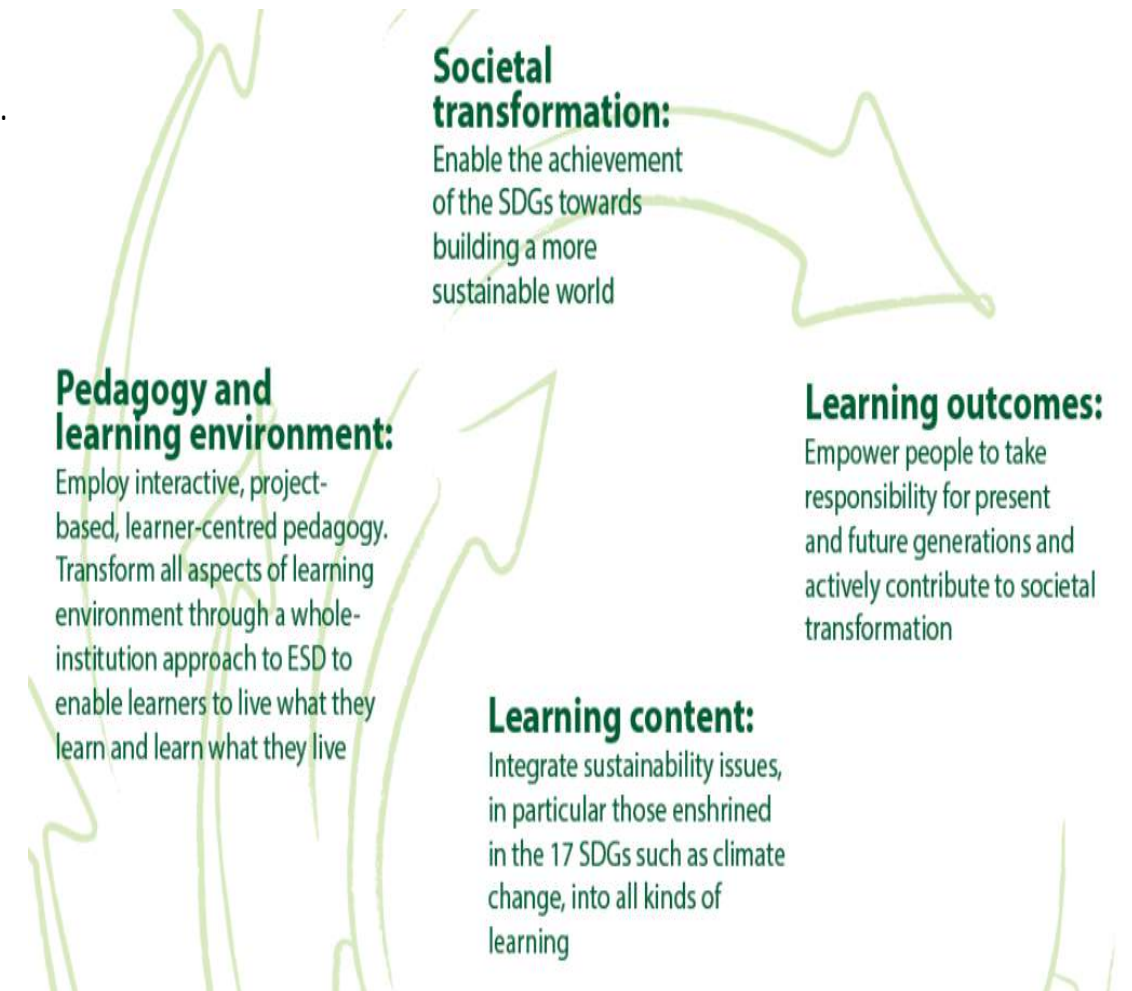


## IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION IN WB COUNTRIES

There were 61 courses revised in total, which offer a new perspective of sustainability to 2808 students enrolled in revised courses in the academic year 2024–2025, at 6 WB HEIs.

The curricula include selected topics from the fields of:

- climate change mitigation;
- climate change adaptation;
- protection of water and marine resources,
- circular economy;
- sustainable use of natural resources;
- human health protection;
- pollution control and waste management;
- protection of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- disaster risk management and resilience;
- sustainable use of energy;
- sustainable and smart mobility;
- sustainable tourism;
- urban development.





SINCE 2014



## Knowledge For Resilient soCiEtY – K-FORCE (2016–2020)



Technical  
University of  
Denmark



## jOINed For sUsTainability – bUILDing climate REsilient communities in WB and EU – 1Future (2023–2026)



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## Boosting digital and green skills for a resilient and sustainable WB society – SKILL2SUSTAIN (2025–2028).



UNIVERZA  
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## FURTHER ACTION

Western Balkan Region needs to accelerate the twin green and digital transition are recognized. In the next three years, the joint energy and knowledge of WB and EU partners, will be aimed to support action within higher education systems for creating green and digital societal ecosystems, in line with “EU Green Deal”, “Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027” and “COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on learning for the green transition and sustainable development”.



Thank you for your attention!

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