



In recent months, CeProSARD has been actively working on building partnerships and supporting project initiatives aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of the energy transition, the establishment of energy communities, and the adoption of a circular economy.

We have collaborated with national authorities, local governments, citizen associations, and the business sector to promote and support energy-efficient construction and infrastructure projects that enable sustainability through the use of sustainable materials and the application of green technologies.

Every step toward energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources is a step toward a better future, helping us create sustainable communities, lower living costs and a cleaner environment.

You will find more information about the activities in the past period in the continuation of this E-newsletter.

Green Heat - introduction of efficient customer-oriented (small grid district) heating service based on renewable energy sources

From January to July 2025, the Municipality of Radovich, in cooperation with the CA CeProSARD, actively worked on the implementation of the project “Green Heat - introduction of efficient customer-oriented (small grid district) heating service based on renewable energy sources”, focusing on the use of renewable energy sources and the reduction of energy costs in the public sector.

Within the project, two key strategic documents were developed:

- **Energy Efficiency Program of the Municipality of Radovich** for the period 2025–2028;
- **Business Model for ELRAD Energy LLC**, which will ensure the long-term sustainability of energy services.

In February 2025, the municipality signed a contract with an implementing company for the **installation of heat pumps** in five public buildings: Primary School “Krste Petkov Misirkov”, Secondary School “Kosta Susinov”, Kindergarten “Aco Karamanov”, Sports Hall “25 May”, and the administrative building of the Municipality. These systems will contribute to reducing energy costs; greater use of renewable energy sources; improving working and occupancy conditions in public institutions; as well as protecting the environment through reduced pollution.

On March 14, 2025, the first coordination meeting was held between representatives of the Municipality, the contractor company, and the supervising body, where the implementation plan and the technical aspects of installing the new heating systems were discussed. During April and May, two additional working meetings of the

same working group were held, during which: the micro-locations for placing the heat pumps were defined in accordance with urban planning conditions and current legal regulations; fire protection measures were discussed; all necessary permits and approvals were being collected in accordance with the regulations and legal acts; and field visits were conducted to the five public buildings in the municipality.

These meetings were held in continuous communication between the involved parties, with the goal of implementing the project according to schedule and legal requirements.

On March 26, 2025, the second meeting of the **Local Stakeholder Group for ensuring green energy** for the needs of the municipality was held. The meeting was opened by the Mayor of the Municipality of Radovich, Mr. Aco Ristov, who presented the progress of the project and the ongoing activities related to the installation of the new energy-efficient heating model in five public buildings in the municipality.

During the meeting, the two strategic documents developed within the project were presented, followed by an open discussion among the present representatives of institutions, the civil sector and other interested stakeholders. This working meeting enabled the exchange of views, suggestions, and support for further advancement of the processes. The second meeting of the Local Stakeholder Group represents an important activity in the implementation of the Green Heat project. The support and involvement of the community improves transparency of the entire process and raises public awareness about sustainable energy sources.

In May 2025, a no-cost addendum to the contract of the project was signed for additional 6 months, in order to ensure successful completion of all activities within the project.

Click [here](#) to read more information about the project and the activities.



Project Energy efficient construction and renovation

As part of the RECONOMY program, the project “Energy Efficiency in Construction and Renovation”, financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida, is implemented by Helvetas in partnership with CeProSARD, with the aim of promoting greener construction practices, reducing energy consumption, and creating inclusive employment opportunities, especially for young people and women, through skills development, green standards, and support for local enterprises and institutions involved in the construction value chain.

The project activities are carried out in the Western Balkan countries: North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, during the period 2023–2026.

Key Activities in the period January – June 2025

Signed partnership agreements

During this period, two additional partnership and support agreements were signed with organizations active in the energy efficiency market in construction and renovation — namely with the Macedonian Green Building Council and the Green Building Council of Montenegro. This cooperation will foster impact and

Developed Platform for the Green Building Councils for the Western Balkan countries

The Western Balkans Green Building Council (WBGBC) is a regional initiative that brings together the national Green Building Councils of North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, and Montenegro. Its mission is to support the development of greener,

sustainable development in the construction and renovation sector, promoting energy efficiency and innovation, specifically aiming to:

- Accelerating the green transition by promoting sustainable construction practices through engagement of key stakeholders.
- Improving access to certification services for materials and technologies, improving employability, especially for women and youth.
- Engaging professionals across sectors - architects, engineers, academia and policymakers - with an emphasis on inclusiveness.
- Empowering women and youth through targeted training and advocacy in green certification skills.

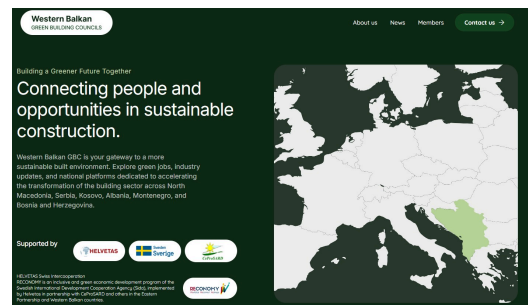
Within the framework of the project, 9 organizations working in the field of energy efficiency in construction and renovation have been supported so far, and we continue to establish new partnership agreements.



healthier, and more energy-efficient buildings by promoting shared knowledge, cross-border cooperation and innovation in the construction sector.

As part of the project activities, we developed an e-platform for the Green Building Councils of the Western Balkans. The platform serves as a central hub where individuals, companies, and institutions can discover sustainable opportunities, engage with local Green Building Councils, and stay informed about the key developments shaping the green building industry in the region.

For more information, follow the work of the Green Building Councils in the Western Balkans at the following [website](#).

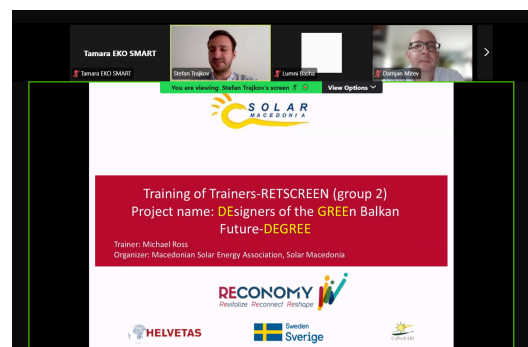


Supported Training of Trainers (ToT) on the RETScreen Software

As part of the project activities, the Macedonian Solar Energy Association – Solar Macedonia organized the second Training of Trainers (ToT) focused on the energy software RETScreen for the Western Balkan countries.

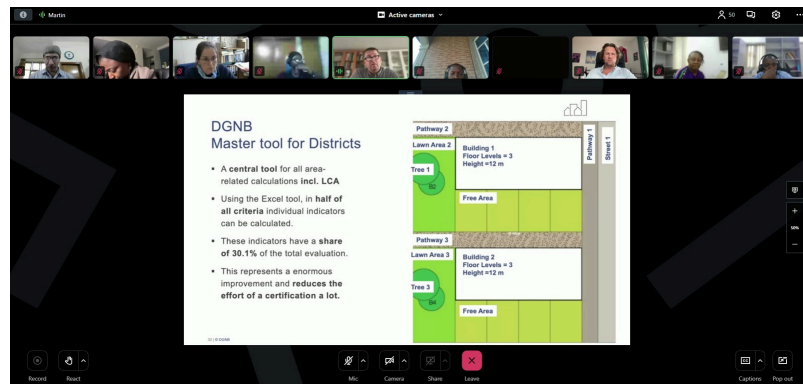
The aim is to strengthen the processes of energy calculation and optimization for companies operating in the solar sector. The software is available in multiple languages, which enabled the implementation of an international training program with a special focus on the Western Balkans.

Special thanks go to the lead trainer, Michael Ross, and to all participants in the groups.



Supported International Training for DGNB Certification Consultants

In the period from 2 to 6 June 2025, an International Training for DGNB Certification Consultants (Academy of the German Sustainable Building Council – DGNB) was conducted for all interested members of the Green Building Councils of the Western Balkans supported by the project.



Through the international DGNB Consultant training, participants qualify as accredited experts for DGNB certification in an international context. The training prepares participants to apply and optimally implement the certification requirements in the design, planning, and construction process according to the international version of the DGNB system for buildings and districts in practice. The focus is on adapting the DGNB system to the specific local requirements of emerging markets.

Promotional Event for the Launch of the Kosovo Green Building Council

In May 2025, we organized the first official event to mark the successful launch of the Kosovo Green Building Council under the theme "Promoting Sustainable Building for a Shared Future." The Project Manager, Damjan Mitev, participated as a panelist at the event, which represents a key milestone for the future of sustainable development.

As project lead, he presented the activities and support provided to market stakeholders in the Western Balkan countries within the framework of the project "Energy Efficiency in Construction and Renovation", part of the RECONOMY program, implemented by Helvetas in partnership with CeProSARD.

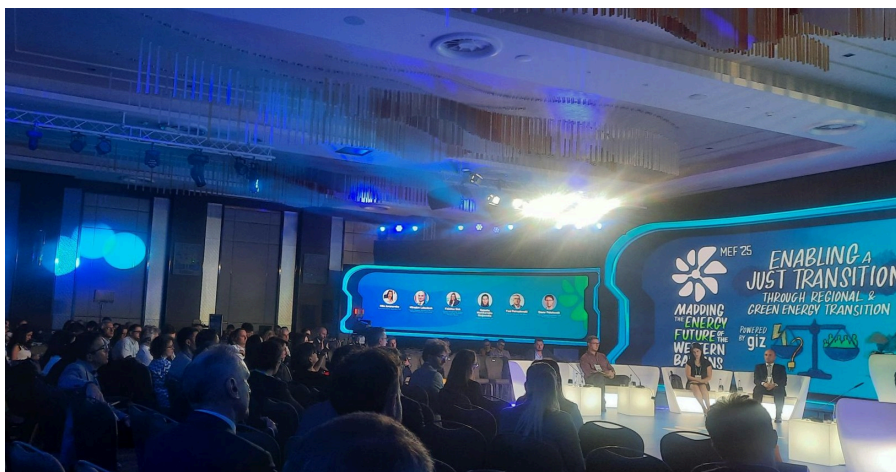


Participation at the Energy Forum MEF25

With the support of Helvetas, CeProSARD, together with several organizations (market actors) supported by the project (KNAUF North Macedonia, the Macedonian Solar Energy Association – Solar Macedonia, and the Macedonian Green Building Council), took part in the eighth edition of the Macedonian Energy Forum – MEF25, held in Skopje in June 2025. Under the motto “Mapping the Energy Future of the Western Balkans,” the Energy Forum represents a regional event dedicated to the energy transition and sustainable development of the Western Balkans. The Forum brought together leading figures from politics, industry, science, and civil society with the aim of fostering dialogue and cooperation to accelerate the region's energy transformation.

Key goals of MEF 2025:

- Promoting enhanced cooperation among Western Balkan countries in a changing geopolitical context;
- Aligning regional priorities with the goal of full decarbonization by 2050;
- Supporting local and regional industrialization;
- Encouraging productive discussions, partnerships, and future initiatives related to technological innovations and the application of artificial intelligence in the energy sector.



Proud to See the Growing Impact of Green Building Councils in the Western Balkans

Through the implementation of the project “Energy Efficiency in Construction and Renovation,” we have enabled an accelerated transition towards sustainable building. The Green Building Councils in the region are emerging as key drivers of change, bringing together stakeholders and shaping a greener and more resilient built environment for the region.



From Vision to Action: Green Building Councils in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo | RECONOMY Snippet

RECONOMY is a regional inclusive and green economic development program of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in partnership with CeProSARD and others in the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan regions.

Academy for circular economy

Between January and June 2025, representatives from CeProSARD participated in the *Circular Economy Academy*, part of the project “Civil Society and Youth for Inclusive and Sustainable Development through Circular Economy,” implemented by People in Need (PIN) as coordinator, in partnership with ARNO, Leaders for Education, Activism, and Development (LEAD), and Ekovita. The project is financially supported by the European Union through the IPA Civil Society Program and aims to foster innovation, strengthen capacities, and mobilize youth to create a greener future through circular economy practices.

The Academy brought together 12 civil society organizations, experts, and mentors who laid the foundation for collaboration and transformation through interactive sessions. With 10 educational modules and over 250 mentoring hours, it provided support to civil society organizations to develop their capacities and business ideas toward circular and sustainable solutions. The Academy successfully offered knowledge and expertise from more than 30 national experts in circular economy and created a small community of civil society organizations, universities, businesses, and public institutions that will continue collaborating on this important topic. It also served as an excellent opportunity for networking and planning new partnerships.

On 25 June, the Academy’s final event was held, showcasing the circular business initiatives developed by the participating civil society organizations. As a symbolic encouragement for future steps, all participants received a lamp made from recycled materials, intended to “illuminate their path” toward further development. Additionally, participants planted seed cards in eco-pots - a symbol of resilience, perseverance and new beginnings.

