

# 1FUTURE

JOINED For sUsTainability - bUilding climate REsilient communities in WB and EU



## CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND LEADERSHIP

KHCSs at University of Tirana, University College  
CEPS and Polytechnic University of Tirana



## READ MORE

Discover the progress in sustainable development with the new Knowledge Hubs for Climate and Sustainability (KHCS) at the University of Tirana (UT), University College CEPS (CEPS) and Polytechnic University of Tirana (PUT). Discover their missions, innovative approaches, and collaborative opportunities in this edition.

## READ MORE



Explore insights from the development of the 1Future Platform, a digital tool designed to bring together academic communities and business sector, through an exclusive, tailor made virtual environment. Learn about our the platform and future plans in the comprehensive coverage inside.

## THE "1FUTURE PLATFORM":

## A PROTOTYPE FOR TOMORROW



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Sustainable Practices in Focus: Study Visits to the University of Novi Sad and IUAV University of Venice
- Educational Workshops and Policy Development

# THE KHCS ESTABLISHED AT UT: NEW PATHS FOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SUPPORTING RESILIENCE WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY AT UT

## ▶▶▶ KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Faculty of Economics at University of Tirana has launched the Knowledge Hub for Climate and Sustainability (KHCS), an extensive initiative designed to serve as a meeting point for various stakeholders. The KHCS aims to provide a collaborative space for higher education institutions (HEIs) staff and students, as well as representatives from the business sector, facilitating discussions and the development of joint ideas. This initiative is expected to bridge the gap between academia and industry, fostering innovation and practical solutions for climate and sustainability challenges.

## INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH

The KHCS is fully aligned with the mission and vision of UT. This hub represents a commitment to addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation and reflects a dedication to promoting a sustainable future for all. The KHCS empower communities to develop solutions and lead the way towards a more resilient and sustainable world.

## ▶▶▶ SPOTLIGHT ON KHCS AT UT

The KHCS will offer a wide range of services and organize numerous activities, including:

- Education programs to enhance knowledge and skills in sustainability
- Climate and sustainability awareness campaigns to promote responsible practices
- Conferences and workshops to share insights and advancements in the field
- Student activities that encourage active participation and learning
- Counseling to support sustainable business practices
- Networking events to connect stakeholders and foster collaborations
- Research activities to advance understanding and develop new solutions
- Surveys to gather data and inform future initiatives.



# CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND LEADERSHIP

## A NEW CHAPTER IN SUSTAINABILITY: OPENING OF KHCS AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CEPS

### »»» KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

University College CEPS - Center for Business Studies proudly announced the launch of the KHCS. This milestone event marked a significant step towards achieving the key goals of the 1Future project. The opening of KHCS was celebrated with a ceremony that not only highlighted the Hub's mission—to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, faculties, students, and stakeholders—but also emphasized its role as a catalyst for sustainable solutions and climate action.

## EMPOWERING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This initiative is not just about education and research; it is about creating a proactive, knowledgeable community that could lead the way in sustainability efforts. With a focus on practical, impactful actions, KHCS aims to inspire and equip its members to make significant contributions to environmental protection and community resilience.

### »»» SPOTLIGHT ON KHCS AT CEPS

**Leadership and Vision:** The ceremony was led by Nermin Palić, Ph.D., the newly appointed Head of KHCS, who presented the purpose, mission, vision, and objectives of the hub. The introduction of state-of-the-art equipment, procured as part of the project, was a highlight, underscoring the Hub's commitment to advancing sustainability through technological integration.

**An Open Invitation:** KHCS extended a heartfelt invitation to all individuals interested in making a positive impact—students, professors, external collaborators, alumni, and community stakeholders. The Hub is poised to be a vibrant community of learning and practice, driving forward the agenda of sustainable mobility through educational programs and workshops.



# KHCS AT PUT: UNITING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## BRIDGING DISCIPLINES FOR A GREENER FUTURE: KHCS LAUNCH AT PUT

### ➤➤➤ KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Faculty of Civil Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Tirana celebrated the establishment of the KHCS. This development underscores the commitment to integrate sustainable practices within academic and community frameworks.

### ➤➤➤ KHCS AT PUT

#### Uniting Departments for Sustainability

KHCS at PUT was inaugurated as a collaborative effort between the Department of Environmental Engineering (DEE) and the Department of Construction and Transport Infrastructure (DCTI). This union marks a crucial step in nurturing an interdisciplinary approach to tackle environmental challenges.

#### Visionary Leadership

Dr. Entela Çobani, appointed as the Head of KHCS, led the opening ceremony. Her presentation illuminated the hub's mission to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, faculty, students, and local stakeholders.

#### Mission and Objectives

KHCS is dedicated to organizing open lectures and workshops focusing on the environment, climate change, sustainability, and resilience. This proactive approach aims to cultivate a broad understanding and engagement among the academic community and beyond.

## INVITING BROADER ENGAGEMENT

The hub extends an open invitation to all stakeholders interested in contributing to and benefiting from its initiatives. It includes students, academic staff, industry professionals, and local community members. KHCS aims to become a pillar for sustainable development education and practice by fostering an inclusive environment. The center seeks to empower its community through knowledge-sharing and collaborative projects that have tangible impacts on our environment and society.



# 1FUTURE

## EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

The University of Tirana's Faculty of Economics recently hosted an enlightening workshop focused on Education, Policy Development, and Awareness in Climate Change (CC) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM). This event, part of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, brought together academics, policy experts, and students to delve into Albania's alignment with the EU agenda on environmental issues.

### In-depth Discussions and Expert Insights:

Professors Perseta Grabova, Juliana Marko, and Meljana Bregu, initiated the workshop with a warm welcome and an insightful introduction to the day's agenda. Professor Elona Pojani then provided a comprehensive overview of the educational and awareness activities currently pursued at the University of Tirana, emphasizing the role of the 1FUTURE Project in building climate resilient communities within the academic sector in the WB.

Highlighting EU Integration and Policy Impact: Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director of the European Movement Albania, shared critical insights on the EU integration process and its implications for Albania, focusing on environmental policies. Etleva Bajrami, Deputy Dean for Learning, Student Activities, and Communication, outlined upcoming student activities and research directions, particularly in relation to EU issues in the field.



## Highlights and Recommendations 4

### Building Capacities and Fostering Market Readiness

Mirela Kamberi, UNDP Coordinator of National Communications for Climate Change, and Adisa Bala, Director of Disaster Risk Management at the National Agency of Civil Emergencies, discussed the pathways for enhancing policy and awareness in these fields. They emphasized the importance of aligning academic initiatives with market demands and strengthening research and capacity-building activities.

### Networking and Future Directions:

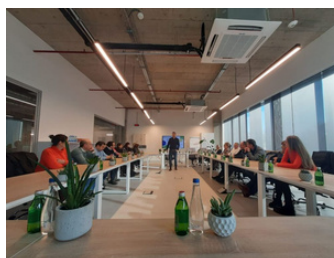
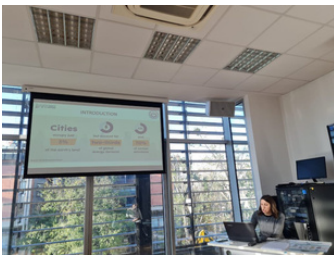
The workshop concluded with a networking section which provided a valuable platform for students of the Master of Science in Risk Management to connect with experts and discuss potential career paths. This session also set the stage for announcing the next steps and future initiatives aimed at bolstering Albania's resilience to climate and disaster risks.



**Stay tuned for more updates on the 1Future Project as we continue our endeavors in championing sustainability in the academic sector**

## Event Highlights:

- **Warm Reception:** University of Novi Sad's Emphasis on Sustainability Initiatives
- **Novi Sad's Sustainable Strategies:** Integrating Green Practices Across the Campus
- **Exemplary Sustainable Practices:** Demonstrations and Discussions
- **Project Review:** Evaluating the 1Future Project's Milestones and Synergies



### Warm Reception: Setting the Stage for Sustainability Initiatives

The University of Novi Sad warmly welcomed participants from across the EU and Western Balkans, kicking off the two-day study visit with an engaging introduction to its robust sustainability initiatives. The visit began with an immersive tour, showcasing how the university integrates sustainability into its operational and educational frameworks.

### Novi Sad's Sustainable Strategies: Comprehensive Approach Across Campus

The University of Novi Sad demonstrated its extensive commitment to sustainability. Detailed presentations covered a wide array of topics including sustainable urban development, advances in circular economy applications, and sustainable agricultural practices. A significant highlight was the exploration of how Internet of Things (IoT) technologies are being utilized to achieve sustainability goals, particularly in reducing the environmental footprint of campus operations. Interactive sessions allowed attendees to see firsthand the innovative projects that have been implemented, ranging from energy-efficient building designs to sustainable waste management systems.

### Project Review: Assessing Progress and Planning Future Actions

The second day of the visit shifted focus towards reviewing the progress of the 1Future project. This session was crucial for evaluating how the project's objectives are being met and discussing the next steps. The review included a presentation of the first draft of the sustainability and climate action plan, an important milestone under Work Package 2. Each Western Balkan partner also reported on the status of their tasks related to the establishment of Knowledge Hubs for Climate and Sustainability and the procurement processes involved.

### Looking Ahead: Continuous Engagement and Collaboration

The University of Novi Sad study visit not only highlighted the university's dedication to sustainability but also reinforced the collaborative spirit of the 1Future project. The study visit concluded with a section dedicated to the 1Future network sustainability, providing a platform for participants to discuss potential collaborations and share insights. The engaging environment fostered discussions on best practices and innovative ideas for future sustainability projects within the 1Future network.

## Event Highlights:

- **Warm welcome:** Participants were welcomed from the Head of Department
- **IUAV Sustainability Agenda:** The different aspects of sustainability at IUAV
- **Sustainability in Education:** An overview of IUAV's sustainable education topics
- **Project Review:** Follow up on the 1Future Project



## IUAV Sustainability Agenda

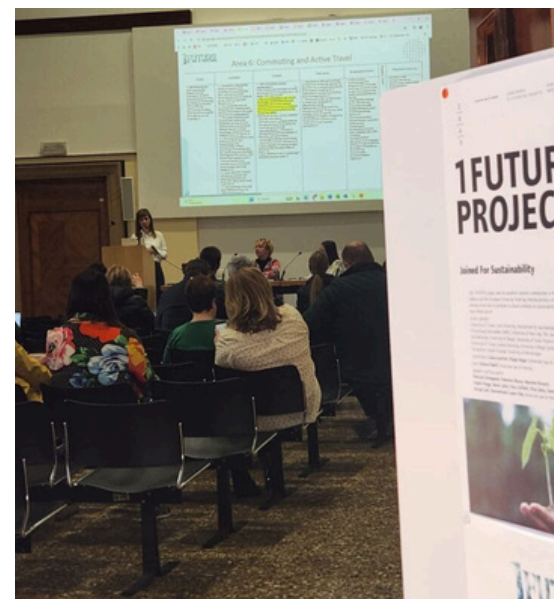
As part of the 1Future Project, a comprehensive study visit to IUAV in Venice was conducted, offering participants an in-depth look at the university's sustainability initiatives. The two-day event featured a series of presentations, discussions, and campus tours designed to show IUAV's commitment to sustainable practices in education and research. The event was welcomed from the Head of the Department, who provided an overview of IUAV's sustainability efforts. Participants then attended a session introducing sustainability at IUAV, which was followed by a detailed discussion on the university's research initiatives in this field. Further sessions included presentations on sustainability-focused courses and IUAV's international mobility programs, offering insights into the opportunities for study and training abroad. A campus tour provided participants with IUAV's blend of historic and modern facilities, illustrating the university's commitment to sustainable architecture and design.

## Project Review

A significant highlight of the event was a dedicated session where the objectives of the 1Future Project were presented to all participants, offering a comprehensive project review.

## Sustainability in Education at IUAV

On the second day, discussions focused on IUAV's mobility programs and projects in the Balkans, the role of sustainable materials, and an overview of sustainable education topics. A lecture on Marine Spatial Planning highlighted the critical interplay between sustainability, climate change, and land-sea interactions. Additional sessions on sustainability in architecture and design emphasized the creative solutions and innovations being implemented at IUAV. The study visit concluded with a wrap-up session summarizing the key insights and future directions for sustainability in education and research.



# 1FUTURE

## 1FUTURE PLATFORM

### A new Collaboration Platform in the Western Balkans

The 1Future project is excited to unveil the prototype of the 1Future Platform, a state-of-the-art digital tool designed to transform how Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), business sectors, government agencies, and other stakeholders collaborate towards sustainable development and climate action in the WB region.



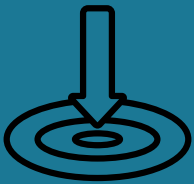
#### Dynamic Features of the 1Future Platform:

Facilitates collaborative workshops and campaigns, offers a virtual meeting space, interactive user accounts for global interaction, and a platform for developing and sharing sustainable business solutions.



#### Engagement and Innovation:

Businesses use the platform to find and compete for sustainable solutions, and virtually commit to significant climate actions, enhancing their corporate responsibility.



#### Anticipated Impact:

The platform is expected to connect at least 300 members from the business community and HEIs, creating a robust network of committed actors dedicated to driving forward the sustainability agenda across the region.



To make launching your new site easier, you are in bootstrap mode. All new users will be granted trust level 1 and have daily email summary emails enabled. This will be automatically turned off when 50 users have joined.

Let's start the discussion! There are 8 posts. Visitors need more to read and reply to – we recommend at least 30 posts. Only staff can see this message.

#### EDF Human Rights Report about the Sustainable Development Goals - Why are they important for people with disabilities in Europe? ✎

■ Trainings Needs | Risk Management | Energy Efficiency | Urban Resilience | Construction | Economics

👤 This is the first time Vesna has posted — let's welcome them to our community!

Vesna Apr 18

EDF Human Rights Report about the Sustainable Development Goals

Why are they important for people with disabilities in Europe?

Easy to read version

The European Disability Forum

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe. In short, we call it 'EDF'.

- EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

Apr 18

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Apr 19

## Platform features

### Modern and Responsive Design:

Intuitive user interface optimized for both desktop and mobile devices.

### User Trust Levels:

Gamified trust levels that grant users more privileges as they contribute and engage positively.

### Rich Text Formatting:

Supports Markdown and HTML for formatting posts. Ability to embed images, links, videos, and other media.

### Notification System:

Real-time notifications for mentions, replies, and other interactions. Email notifications for updates and digests.

### Search Functionality:

Advanced search with filtering options to find relevant topics and posts quickly.

**Tags and Categories:** Organization of topics into categories and tags for better navigation and discovery.

### Community Engagement Features:

Polls, likes, badges, and achievements to encourage participation. Trust system to recognize and reward community contributions.



Stay tuned for more updates on the 1Future Project as we continue our endeavors in championing sustainability in the academic sector



# SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS: "ALBANIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMY AND BUSINESS - 1FUTURE ISSUE: CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY"

EXPLORE THE NEXUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY



EMPOWER CHANGE,

ENVISION TOMORROW

The "Albanian Journal of Economy and Business" invites scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to contribute to a special issue focused on the urgent global challenges of climate change and sustainability. This edition is a platform for multidisciplinary dialogue, research dissemination, and innovative solutions critical to sustainable development.

Key Themes for Submission:

**Natural and Social Sciences:** Insights into climate science, atmospheric disruptions, societal impacts, and economic considerations.

**Engineering and Technology:** Innovations in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and green technologies.

**Humanities and Arts:** Ethical, philosophical, and cultural dimensions of sustainability.

**Urban Planning and Business:** Strategies for sustainable urban development and corporate sustainability.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Original research articles, reviews, case studies, and perspectives are welcomed.
- Submissions must be original and not under review elsewhere.
- Articles will undergo rigorous peer review.
- Access the full guidelines and submission templates in the project official website.

### Important Dates:

**Submission Start:** May 2024

**Deadline:** November 15, 2024

**Notification of Acceptance:**

December 30, 2024

**Publication Date:** January 15, 2025



This special issue represents an opportunity to contribute to a significant scholarly conversation on sustainability and climate change, bridging gaps between research, practice, and policy to foster a sustainable future. Join us in this critical discourse and help shape the global approach to these pressing issues.

»»» NEWSLETTER «««

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## Partners



Montenegro  
Ministry of Ecology,  
Spatial Planning and Urbanism



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Stay  
tuned