



WESTERN BALKANS ESG SUMMIT

MONTENEGRO 2023



the **Business** of the **Future.**



Event Catalogue

Our Vision is The Business of The Future

We had a vision to connect government officials, business leaders, policy designers and decision makers, to drive businesses of the future and contribute to a better, fairer, and more sustainable world and to, more specifically, **build a future for our region that serves interests of this and future generations**, as well as the interests of business and enterprises. We had a vision to create ESG momentum in our region by providing a platform for a constructive dialogue dedicated to ESG topics.

Looking back, we at Sustineri Partners, are proud to see how our vision translated into reality. We have started this journey with the goal of the Western Balkans ESG Summit becoming the flagship annual sustainability event for the region, driving positive change for businesses and society through selected long-term stakeholder initiatives launched at the event, and Montenegro, as an amazing tourist destination, also showcasing its potential as the region's conference centre where many innovative and crucial initiatives will be born. I strongly believe we have succeeded.

What is driving the ESG momentum, in particular as it pertains to our region?

Asset owners now routinely integrate ESG in their investment decisions. This is motivated not solely by their stated values but also by increasing proof of a positive correlation between a good ESG status and the excellent financial performance of their investee companies.

In 2015 we saw a veritable boom in sustainability pledges from the Paris Agreement to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since then, nations around the world started transposing those pledges into regulation.

The most immediate impact on our region stems from the EU Action Plan, a sweeping set of instruments, affecting every aspect of the economy of the member states and – importantly – spilling extraterritorially across downstream value chains.



For Western Balkans', the impact of these investments and regulatory trends in the EU is immense. The EU is the region's leading economic partner, accounting for almost 70% of the region's trade in goods and 61% of foreign direct investment stock in 2021.

Firms in the Western Balkans providing goods and services to EU consumers and commercial customers must abide by the same rules if they are to prosper. Governments must set the stage by enacting regulations that incentivize sustainable practices. Investors must demand accountability from the companies they invest in and companies themselves must take the lead in building a more sustainable future.

Furthermore, in addition to external factors, the drivers for change also originate from society itself. **This is the social licence to operate, and it is more important than ever.**



Consumers, especially younger generations, make choices based explicitly on sustainability. Employees choose to work for companies that are good employers and take strong positions on social and environmental issues. As societal change continues to gain momentum, the demand for governments to enact comprehensive laws and regulations aimed at fostering sustainability within our economies will intensify.

ESG standards are not a fad but a systemic shift. They are necessary for sustainable and prosperous Western Balkans. Adapting to this change is not a burden, it is an opportunity; it is not a cost – it is an investment in the business of the future.

Minimising ESG risks and maximising ESG opportunities often requires companies to reform internal structures, improve coordination and take a more integrated approach to risk assessment. Embracing change is never easy, and it requires strong leadership, but it is not impossible.

The business of the future understands that there will be no long-term profitability without sustainability. The business of the future prospers in partnerships.

That is the essence and purpose of this Summit. **We are here to foster collaboration and coordination across sectors and borders for the success of all.** ESG standards present a unique opportunity to shape a world that is not only fairer and more just but also environmentally sustainable. An opportunity to leave a legacy that our great-great-grandchildren can be proud of.

We have built strong partnerships and experienced genuine support on this regional journey. I would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to our co-organiser **Porto Montenegro** and our key partner **Government of Montenegro** for recognizing this initiative's potential at our initial meetings and for their unwavering support since.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all financial institutions, companies and law firms, which have supported the event, without whom this event would not be possible.

Our special thanks go to **OTP Group** and **AIK Banka** for their generous support. Thank you **Bloomberg Adria**, for being our regional media partner, and thank you to our national media partners across the Western Balkans for helping to spread the word about this important event.

This summit has created momentum. So much so, that the enthusiasm and interest went beyond the borders of Western Balkans. I am thrilled, delighted and immensely proud to announce that **we are expanding and becoming ESG Summit Adria.**

**Join us as we write the next chapter!
See you next year at ESG Summit Adria.**

Biljana Braithwaite
CEO and Founding Partner, Sustineri Partners

Western Balkans ESG Summit at a glance

Western Balkans ESG Summit is the first major regional event dedicated to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) topics. The event brought together regional and global government and business leaders and sustainability experts for a deep dive into the worldwide paradigm shift set to disrupt markets in South-East Europe. The Summit aspires to become the flagship annual sustainability event for the region. Farther than the conference days, the Summit will drive positive change for businesses and society through selected long-term stakeholder initiatives launched at the event.

For three days, participants received an immersive experience in Porto Montenegro, an award-winning marina boasting platinum-standard status for

environmental consciousness. The event featured keynote presentations and interactive panel discussions on critical ESG themes – sustainable finance, green transition, and green innovation. Attendees had an opportunity to learn about the most forward-thinking technologies and future business models and join focused workshops on emerging sustainability regulations or standards and tools for the best ESG business performance.

The event was organised by Sustineri Partners, a consultancy specialising in ESG advisory, and Porto Montenegro, a marina and real estate development set within Boka Kotorska. The Summit was convened in partnership with the Government of Montenegro and with Bloomberg Adria, as regional media partner.



Want to catch a glimpse of the Western Balkans ESG Summit? Don't miss our Highlights video!

Topics and themes

Topics and themes that were covered are Sustainable Finance, Green Transition and Green Innovation.



Sustainable finance is an essential tool to support the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive economy in the Western Balkans region. At the Western Balkans ESG Summit, experts will discuss sustainable finance regulation, including disclosure and green labels, as well as ESG investment trends, such as green bonds and loans. Carbon pricing is another topic that will be covered, as it is a crucial mechanism to internalize the external costs of carbon emissions and promote a shift towards cleaner and more sustainable business practices. Moreover, supply chain due diligence is becoming increasingly important, as investors and companies seek to ensure that their activities are not contributing to human rights violations, environmental degradation, or other negative impacts.



The green transition is a complex and multifaceted process that requires significant policy and investment efforts. At the Western Balkans ESG Summit, participants will discuss various aspects of the green transition, including Green Deals in Europe and the US, Just Transition, Decarbonisation, Resilience, Energy Transition, Circular Economy, and Natural resources. Green Deals are ambitious policy frameworks aimed at transforming entire economies towards sustainability, while ensuring that the transition is socially just and inclusive. Just Transition is a concept that seeks to ensure that workers and communities are not left behind in the transition towards a low-carbon economy. Decarbonisation and energy transition are central aspects of the green transition, as they require significant investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Resilience is also a critical component of the green transition, as it aims to increase the capacity of societies and ecosystems to cope with the impacts of climate change.



Green innovation is a key driver of the green transition, as it enables the development and deployment of new technologies and business models that are more sustainable and efficient. The Western Balkans ESG Summit will address several areas of green innovation, including Renewable energy, Green transportation, Climate tech and fintech, Smart buildings and cities, and Sustainable food. Renewable energy is a critical area of innovation, as it enables the decarbonization of the energy sector and contributes to energy security. Green transportation, including electric vehicles and alternative fuels, is also essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Climate tech and fintech are emerging areas that leverage technology to address climate change and support sustainable finance. Smart buildings and cities are another area of green innovation, as they enable more efficient and sustainable use of resources. Finally, sustainable food is becoming an increasingly important area of focus, as the food system is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

Western Balkans ESG Summit: Key Takeaways for Sustainable Future

- » ESG Standards recognised as a force for good in the Western Balkans
- » Business leaders and governments' representatives discussed a broad range of ESG issues and recognised the critical importance of pushing forward the ESG agenda
- » ESG Western Balkans Summit organised by Sustineri Partners and Porto Montenegro with the support of the Government of Montenegro.

Companies, investors, organisations, and other stakeholders left the Summit with a deep insight into what has been done and what are the main tasks on the agendas of the most relevant regional players. It is clear that now we know what is the right thing to do in the future but as importantly, what went wrong and needs urgent attention and consideration.

The Summit was undoubtedly an opportunity to reunite, have enriching side discussions and be reminded of

the importance of taking action collaboratively to prevent adverse impacts on people and the planet. It was an opportunity to discuss the transformative steps that financial institutions, businesses, and organisations in this region need to take to both contribute to a better, fairer, and more sustainable world and to, build a future for our region that serves the interests of this and future generations, as well as the interests of business and enterprise.

Mr. Jakov Milatović, opened the Summit with his first conference speech as President-elect.

“Sustainable development, green transition, environment, sustainable finance, innovation, and good governance are at the heart of all successful development efforts. For Montenegro, the Green Agenda and implementing activities in line with the European Green Deal is one of the priorities in our process of accession to the European Union” - Jakov Milatović, President of Montenegro.



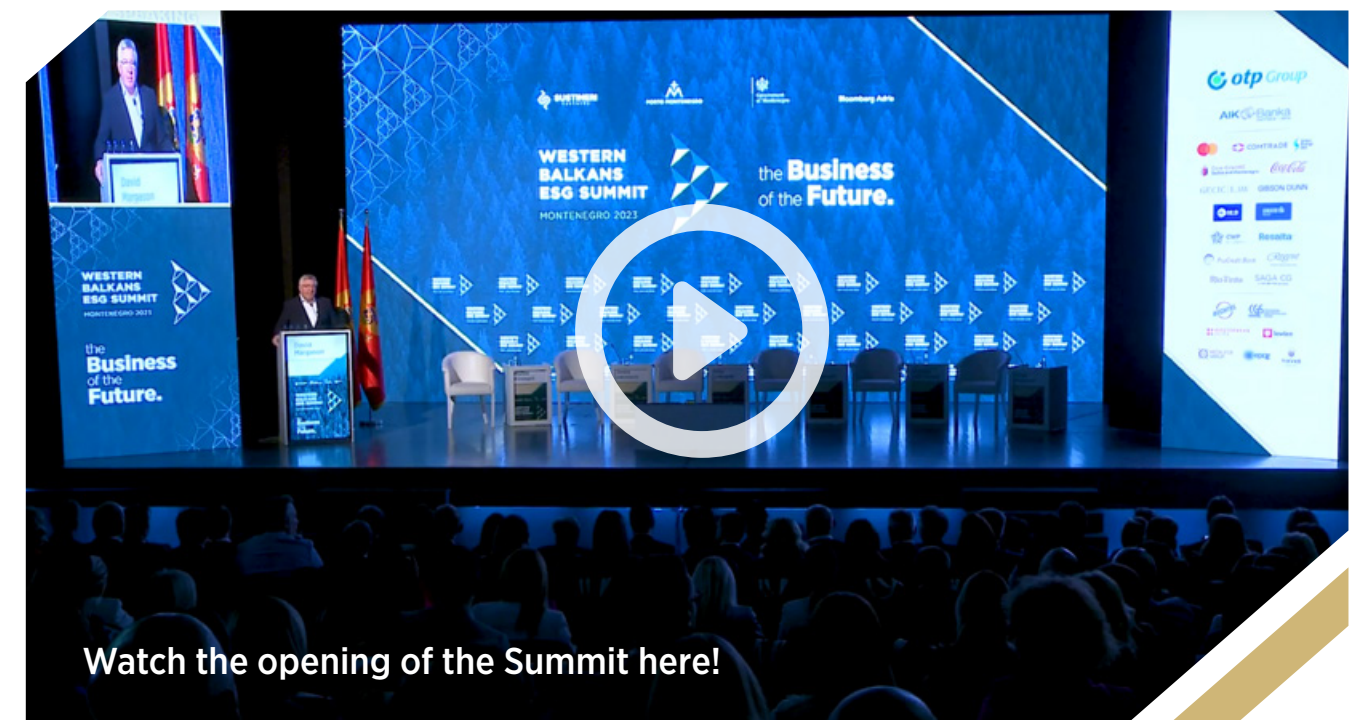
Sustineri Partners founder and CEO, Biljana Braithwaite, welcomed over 450 delegates, representing governments, every sector of the economy and all Western Balkans countries.

“Without the concrete contribution of both public and private sectors, there is no realistic prospect, no chance of us fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. ESG standards are not a fad, but a systemic shift. They are necessary for sustainable and prosperous Western Balkans. Adapting to this change is not a burden, it is an opportunity; it is not a cost – it is an investment in the business of the future.” - [Biljana Braithwaite](#), Founder and CEO of Sustineri Partners.



With its vision for a sustainable future and tourism, Porto Montenegro is a natural partner and venue for the Summit.

“Porto Montenegro as an example of sustainable development and a responsible investor with a long-term commitment to the area.” - [David Margason](#), Managing Director of Porto Montenegro.



The three-day programme ranged broadly over environmental, social and governance issues. It showed the need for the region to step up its

game in this area, not least with ever-increasing EU regulatory demands, which are in turn reflected in corporate customer and investor requirements.

Key highlights:

Green transition is inevitable, so how do we manage towards net zero

There is an urgent need for the Western Balkans and the whole of South-East Europe to accelerate the process of green energy transition. Regional businesses can not remain competitive and desirable business partners if they don't see the green transition as the opportunity for the improvement and expansion of existing industries.

Energy security is a critical driver for the growth of renewable energy. The adoption of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the associated action plan, which envisioned the adoption of the National Energy and Climate Plans could be a blueprint for achieving decarbonisation targets through energy efficiency, renewables, greenhouse gases emission reductions, interconnections, and research and development (R&D). Region is not operating in the vacuum and while the regulatory impact is inevitable steps need to be taken for it to be positive. For example, the most recent Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will have a significant impact on many economies, including the Western Balkans. High carbon-intensity sectors like iron and steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers and electricity should use the transitional phase to prepare for the reporting obligations and its implementation.

All stakeholders need to support Green innovation

As the world transitions towards a net zero economy, sustainable innovation will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development. In the region sustainable innovation requires collaboration between different stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and civil society. It is crucial to have strong and collaborative projects that can overcome the challenges such as lack of financing, inadequate infrastructure, or regulatory constraints. Education and skills development are critical in fostering a culture of innovation and supporting the transition towards a sustainable economy.

Regulations are being introduced by the speed of light, use any opportunity to prepare and hit the start running

Western Balkan companies must prepare to comply with new ESG rules and stay informed and proactive in their compliance efforts. EU ESG regulations are not limited to

the EU Member States but have a broader geographical reach, impacting global supply chains and financial systems. Although usually discussed in the context of trade with the EU these requirements are not confined to it but are becoming increasingly relevant in trade with the USA and Asia. Western Balkans companies, as potential partners of Western European economies, need to proactively prepare for compliance with new ESG rules. It is crucial for businesses to stay informed and proactive in their compliance efforts. Although regulations demand for broad discussion do not forget practical steps: hire a Chief Sustainability Officer, get a data management system, identify the material issues and risks, build your knowledge of the subject.

Governments need to pay attention to ESG developments and use standards for raising the bottom line

ESG intersects with governments' mandate to protect people, society and the environment. When enacting the legislation, regulations and policies that govern

emissions, water use, waste management, health and safety, gender equity or corporate governance (as a few examples) governments influence businesses and investment. When governments support strong ESG performance they are boosting investment competitiveness and helping draw foreign direct investment to the jurisdiction.

Securing the capital remains the priority of the region. How to do it in the ever changing environment?

The worldwide trend towards sustainable finance had profound implications for investors and businesses, with companies prioritising ESG issues gaining preferential access to capital and achieving higher returns in the long term. ESG considerations are increasingly critical to all stages of investment decisions, and the role of banks is essential to implementing the ESG agenda in the region. It is essential to build knowledge of ESG and to see it not as a cost or burden but as a business opportunity. ESG is now front of mind for financial institutions worldwide, but regional disparities still exist. It is essential that professionals across the industry -- and across borders -- cooperate to achieve ESG and sustainability goals.

Social licence to operate is a key factor in the sustainability and stability of the business environment. No excuses!

Social licence to operate is the key aspect of the ESG agenda. Securing the acceptance of a company or industry's standard business practices and operating procedures by its employees, stakeholders, and the general public is not an easy task. It can not be about the semantics but has to represent a paradigm shift in how we view and conduct business. There are many companies in the region that are successfully navigating this complex question and have strong business strategies for the engagement of stakeholders - governments, communities and civil society. They are showcasing that a business case for responsibility does exist and that the bottom line should and could be raised.

Sustainability reporting is the quickest way to integrate the ESG standards. Proper ESG materiality assessment & strategy development are key factors of accountability.

ESG reporting is complex and needs to be approached seriously and with the support and leadership from a company Board. Proper integration of sustainability into the company vision and processes can open the door to increased profitability and new markets. Strategy setting, implementation, measurement, reporting and benchmarking are all worthwhile and do lead to major business goals like responding to the investor's demand, brand loyalty, regulatory compliance, risk management and goal tracking. Perhaps most importantly, it stimulates innovation, as it pushes an organisation to enhance efficiency and identify areas that need improvement.

Gender equality and diversity are work in progress and we can not drop the ball.

It is crucial to continuously make a case for more women in leadership roles. The business case for more women on boards and in leadership positions is clear - better company culture, performance and results. It is crucial to unite women leaders, government representatives, NGO members, and business experts to promote gender equality at decision-making levels. The correlation between the position of women in the society and in the business sector is really tight, so greater gender diversity and inclusion needs to be promoted on all levels, across the industries and by all stakeholders.



Summit Speakers



Jakov Milatović

President-elect of Montenegro



Dritan Abazović

Prime Minister of Montenegro



Biljana Braithwaite

CEO, Sustineri Partners



Milan Antonijević

Advisor for Program Development, National Alliance for Economic Development - NALED



Milena Argirović

Country Head Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Takeda d.o.o.



Marijanti Babić

Country Head Serbia, Rio Tinto



Balázs Balogh

CRO & Executive board member, OTP banka Serbia



Uranik Begu

Executive Director of Innovation Center Kosovo



Vesna Bengin

Co-founder of the BioSense Institute



Edo Bratović

Mokrin House, Managing Director



Caroline Bright

IFC's Regional ESG Advisory Lead for Europe, Latin America, Central Asia, Middle East and Pakistan



Ivan Bulatović

Executive Director of SEE CAO



Lada Buševac

Head of the IFC office for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro



Marko Čadež

President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS)



Razmena Čekić-Durović

State Secretary, Ministry of Economy Republic of North Macedonia



Nicolas Chow

Director of Sustainability for EMEA, Plug and Play Tech Center



Matteo Colangeli

Regional Director for Western Balkans at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)



Krešimir Čondić

CEO of Ivicom Holding GmbH and Member of Board of Ivicom Consulting d.o.o.



Nina Drakić

President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro



Goran Đurović

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro



Jorn Eugene Gjelstad

Ambassador of Norway to Serbia, to Montenegro and to North Macedonia



Courtney Fingar

Founder and Principal, Fingar Direct Investment



Branko Gabrić

Counsel, Gecić Law



Jelena Galić

Chairperson of the Board of Directors at AIK Banka



Slavica Grkovska

Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Good Governance Policies, Republic of North Macedonia



Larisa Halilović

Leadership Development Expert



Ervin Ibrahimovic

Minister for Capital Investments of Montenegro



Gábor Jandácsik

OTP Bank Albania, Chief Risk Officer and Member of Management Board



Ognjen Janeski
Master of Ceremonies



Jovana Joksimović
Assistant Minister in charge of International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Mining and Energy of Serbia



Marija Jovanović
Lecturer, Essex Law School



Tamás Kamarási
CKB Bank, Chairperson of Management Board



Maša Njegovan
ESG Senior Manager at Deloitte Risk Advisory



Ana Novaković Đurović
Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro



Hedwige Nuyens
Chair of European Women on Boards



Prince Nikola Petrović Njegoš
Prime Minister of Montenegro



Branko Kecman
CEO and Founder of Advantis broker



Tijana Koprivica
Chief Business Sustainability Officer, Delta Holding



Caitlin Kraft-Buchman
CEO and founder of Women at the Table



Martin Leberle
CEO and President of the Management Board, NLB Bank



Gergely Pókos
OTP Bank, Green Program Directorate - Executive Director



Đorđe Popović
Managing Director of Resalta Serbia



Irena Radović
Executive Director of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro



Aleksandar Radulović
CEO, Montex Elektronika



Artur Lorkowski
Director, Energy Community



Nancy Mancilla
Founder, ISOS Group



David Margason
Managing Director of Porto Montenegro



Gabriel Marosi
Group Sustainability Officer of Erste Group



Lulzim Rafuna
President of Kosovo Chamber of Commerce



Jelena Ristić
Country Manager Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mastercard



Nikola Rovčanin
Montenegrin Electric Enterprise, Executive Director



Rikard Scoufias
Chairman of HEREMA (Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company)



Aleksandar Mastilović
Expert in Telecommunications and Digital Transformation



Adeliada Mehmetaj
Co-founder and Head of Research, ConsciESG



Metodija Minoski
Team Leader in Group Environmental Management, ProCredit Holding



Aleksandra Njagulj
Founding Partner at Sustineri Partners



Agim Selami
Founder and Executive Director, ZIP Institute



Olindo Shehu
Managing Partner, Deloitte CE South



Robert Spano
Partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and former President of the ECTHR



Goran Svilanović
Country Manager Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro, Abkons Group



Ivan Tomić

Director of Strategy and Business Development, NLB Bank



Borko Torbica

Owner and Vice President of the Board of ELNOS Group



Milica Trajkovic

Head of the Innovation and Business Development Department - BioSense Institute



Jelena Trninić

Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Director, The Coca-Cola Company



Leons Tuda

Investment Advisor to the CEO, Balfin Group



Maja Turković

SVP Business Development Europe at CWP Global



Gunn Vik

Director for Global Hydropower & Solar Energy, Norwegian Energy Partners (NORWEP)



Ernest Vlačić

Ph.D., MBA, University and College professor



Andreas Wiele

Co-founder of OakTreePower



Remon Zakaria

Head of Montenegro for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Agenda

Location
Officers Club (Dom vojske)

Day 0 - April 26, 2023

12.00-20.00 Registrations at Lobby of Hotel Regent

Day 1 - April 27, 2023

08.00-09.00 Registrations at Officers Club (Dom vojske)

08.45-09.30 Press conference

09.30-09.40 Welcome remarks by the CEOs of Sustineri Partners and Porto Montenegro

Biljana Braithwaite, *Founding Partner & CEO of Sustineri Partners*
David Margason, *Managing Director of Porto Montenegro*

09.40-09.50 Welcome remarks by the new President-elect of Montenegro

Jakov Milatović, *President-elect of Montenegro*

09.50-10.45 Keynote Panel (1)

Net Zero pathways - decarbonising the economy by 2050

With the adoption of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in 2020 Western Balkan countries created a blueprint for the transition from a traditional economic model to a net zero economy in line with the European Green Deal. The associated action plan envisions the adoption of the National Energy and Climate Plans that prescribe decarbonisation targets and plans to reach those targets through energy efficiency, renewables, GHG emission reductions, interconnections, and R&D.

The Summit will open with a high-level discussion about the pathways and enablers of the net zero transition in the Western Balkans and explore different dynamics and challenges of decarbonisation across countries and sectors.

Moderator: Goran Svilanović, *Country Manager Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro, Abkons Group*

Ervin Ibrahimović, *Deputy Prime Minister for Regional Development and Minister of Capital Investments of Montenegro*

Jovana Joksimović, *Assistant Minister in charge of International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Mining and Energy of Serbia*

Razmena Čekić-Durović, *State Secretary, Ministry of Economy Republic of North Macedonia*

Artur Lorkowski, *Director, Energy Community*

Matteo Colangeli, *Regional Director for Western Balkans at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*

10.45-10.55 **Keynote presentation (1)**

Evolution of ESG – from voluntary to mandatory due diligence

Robert Spano, Partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and former President of the European Court of Human Rights

10.55-11.10 **Keynote presentation (2)**

Sustainable finance

Tamás Kamarási, Chairperson of Management Board, CKB Bank and President of the Montenegrin Foreign Investors Council

Gergely Pókos, Green Program Directorate - Executive Director, OTP Bank

11.10-11.20 **Vision on sustainability for the region**

Jørn Eugene Gjelstad, Ambassador of Norway to Serbia, to Montenegro and to North Macedonia

Gunn Vik, Director for Global Hydropower & Solar Energy, Norwegian Energy Partners (NORWEP)

11.20-11.45 **Coffee break**

11.45-12.35 **Panel (2)**

ESG regulation – getting ready for compliance

Countries around the world are introducing regulations to prevent greenwashing and increase transparency around sustainability claims made by companies and investors. The EU is leading the way with the introduction of the sustainable finance regulation package that will impose mandatory sustainability reporting on large companies and financial institutions.

This panel will gather domain experts from institutions and professional service firms who will share their opinions about challenges and best practice associated with compliance with the ESG regulation.

Moderator: Marija Jovanović, Lecturer, Essex Law School

Robert Spano, Partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and former President of the European Court of Human Rights

Branko Gabrić, Counsel, Gecić Law

Olindo Shehu, Managing Partner, Deloitte CE South

Lulzim Rafuna, President of the WB6 CIF Management Board

Aleksandra Njagulj, Founding Partner at Sustineri Partners

12.35-13.35 **Panel (3)**

Sustainable finance – securing capital in a changing environment

A growing number of institutional investors are incorporating ESG metrics into their capital allocation decisions. The shift toward sustainable finance has profound implications for investors and companies alike, with companies that commit to addressing urgent ESG issues poised to get preferential access to capital and achieve higher returns in the long term.

This panel will gather representatives of the leading financial institutions from the region for a discussion about their ESG integration strategies, new financial instruments and implications for businesses that are raising capital.

Moderator: Courtney Fingar, Founder and Principal, Fingar Direct Investment

Jelena Galić, Chairperson of the Board of Directors at AIK Bank

Caroline Bright, IFC's Regional ESG Advisory Lead for Europe, Central Asia, LatAm and Middle East, IFC World Bank Group

Ivan Tomić, Director of Strategy and Business Development, NLB Bank

Balázs Balogh, CRO & Executive board member, OTP banka Serbia

Metodija Minoski, Team Leader in Group Environmental Management, ProCredit Holding

13.35-15.00 **Lunch refreshments in the garden of Officers Club (Dom vojske)**

15.00-16.00 **Panel (4)**

Green transition – powering the Net Zero economy

In order to reach carbon neutrality, Western Balkan countries need to carry out the clean energy transition by phasing-out coal, shifting to renewable energy sources and greener transport networks, advancing energy efficiency and reducing energy poverty. Given its high dependence on coal, accounting for around 70% of electricity produced in the region, decarbonisation of the region will require substantial investments in renewable energy capacities.

This panel will gather project developers and investors that have led the diffusion of renewable energy in the region for a discussion about the opportunities lying in the clean energy transition and the effect of the anticipated EU regulation with cross-border effect on the pace of the energy sector decarbonisation.

Moderator: Ivan Bulatović, Executive Director of SEE CAO

Nikola Rovčanin, CEO of Montenegrin Electric Company

Maja Turković, SVP Business Development Europe, CWP Global

Gabriel Marosi, Group Sustainability Officer, Erste Group

Borko Torbica, Owner and Vice President of the Board of ELNOS Group

Krešimir Čondić, CEO of Ivicom Holding GmbH and Member of Board of Ivicom Consulting d.o.o.

16.00-16.55 **Panel (5)**

Social license to operate – getting all stakeholders on board

The traditional form of capitalism focused on “shareholder primacy” is under pressure all over the world. We are on the eve of the rise of stakeholder capitalism, witnessed by a number of companies whose destinies have been determined by the approval, or disapproval, of its stakeholders going beyond the formal regulatory permitting process – the concept called “social license to operate”.

This panel will explore business strategies for the engagement of stakeholders - governments, communities and civil society - that build trust in companies and projects and create value beyond profit.

Moderator: Agim Selami, Founder and Executive Director, ZIP Institute

Goran Đurović, Minister for Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro

Jelena Ristić, Country Manager Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mastercard

Rikard Scoufias, Chairman of HEREMA (Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company)

Jelena Trninić, Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Director, The Coca-Cola Company

Milan Antonijević, Advisor for Program Development at the National Alliance for Economic Development - NALED

16.55-17:10 **Coffee break**

17.10 – 17.55 **Presentation**

Integrating ESG into sustainability reporting

ESG materiality assessment & strategy development

Aleksandra Njagulj, Founding Partner at Sustineri Partners

Branko Kecman, CEO of Advantis Broker President at Business Club Banja Luka

Adeliada Mehmetaj, Co-founder of ConsciESG

Nancy Mancilla, Founder, ISOS Group

17.55 **End of Day 1**

19.00-21.00 **Cocktail reception at Jetty Dock**

Day 2 - April 28, 2023

09.30-09.40 **Mission-oriented innovation: Tackling climate change with green technologies**

Maša Njegovan, ESG Senior Manager at Deloitte Risk Advisory

09.40-09.50 **Innovative clean technologies and sustainable architecture: Practical recommendations for initiating an ecological transition in Montenegro**

Prince Nikola Petrović Njegoš, Chairman of the Petrović Njegoš Foundation

09.50-10.00 **Renewable electricity - reducing carbon footprint and protecting against rising prices**

Gábor Jandácsik, Chief Risk Officer, OTP Bank Albania

10.00-10.10 **Telemedicine – protecting healthcare system, patients and planet**

Milena Argirović, Country Head Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Takeda d.o.o.

10.10-10.25 **Plug and Play Tech Center Presentation**

Uranik Begu, Director for Western Balkans, Plug and Play Tech Center

[Nicolas Chow], Director of Sustainability for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa at Plug and Play Tech Center

10.25 -10.35 **Wildfire protection - reducing risks and damages through early detection and timely response**

Martin Leberle, President of the Management Board, NLB Bank AD Podgorica

Aleksandar Radulović, CEO, Montex Elektronika

10.35-10.45 **Digital village – revitalising rural areas through digital transformation**

Tijana Koprivica, Chief Business Sustainability Officer, Delta Holding

Milica Trajković, Head of Center for Innovation and Business Development, BioSense Institute

Edo Bratović, Managing Director, Mokrin House

10.45-10.55 **Ai-enabled solution for the reduction of energy consumption of buildings**

Andreas Wiele, co-founder of OakTreePower

10.55-11.20 **Coffee break**

11.20-12.10 **Panel (6)**

Gender equality & diversity – the business case for women leadership

Research shows that boards with greater diversity are more effective. Diversity, including gender balance, drives innovation and higher effectiveness by exploring different approaches to problem-solving. This results in stronger financial performance for companies. On November 22, 2022, the European Parliament gave its final approval to the new EU rules to promote a more balanced gender representation on the boards of listed companies.

This panel will explore the business case for women's leadership and its crucial role in the wider economic empowerment of women, including the drive to close the gender pay gap, and introduce the new regional initiative for the promotion of gender equality at the decision-making level – Adria Women on Boards.

Moderator: Larisa Halilović, Leadership Development Expert

[Slavica Grkovska], Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Good Governance Policies, Republic of North Macedonia

Lada Buševac, Head of the IFC office for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

Irena Radović, Executive Director of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro

Marijanti Babić, Country Head Serbia, Rio Tinto

Marko Čadež, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS)

12.10-12.25 **Launch of the Women on Boards Adria**

Biljana Braithwaite, Founding Partner & CEO of Sustineri Partners

[Hedwige Nuyens], Chair, European Women on Boards

[Caitlin Kraft-Buchman], CEO and founder of Women at the Table

12.25-12.50 **Coffee break**

12.50-13.40 Panel (7)

Sustainable infrastructure – building a net zero future

With urban areas continuously growing, there is a need for a new type of cities that are more compact, sustainable and resilient to the effects of climate change. The proposed EU directive envisages that from 2030 onwards all new buildings should be carbon neutral. Can Western Balkan countries keep up with this target?

This panel will explore innovation and best practices in sustainable infrastructure and explore how the paradigm in building roads, buildings, energy and water infrastructure in the region is shifting towards consideration of social and environmental, in addition to economic implications.

Moderator: Aleksandra Njagulj, *Founding Partner at Sustineri Partners*

Ana Novaković Đurović, *Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro*

David Margason, *Managing Director of Porto Montenegro*

Leons Tuda, *Investment Advisor to the CEO, Balfin Group*

Đorđe Popović, *Managing Director, Resalta Serbia*

Remon Zakaria, *Head of Montenegro for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*

13.40-14.30 Closing panel (8)

Green innovation – developing future-proof technologies and business models

Reaching the net zero goal will require us to reinvent every single aspect of life on the planet – from the way we produce and consume energy to the food we eat. This represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for developing countries to build competitive advantages in new technologies and leapfrog from business-as-usual to a sustainable development pathway.

This panel will gather some of the leading innovators from the region and explore technologies and business models in which we have made the largest breakthroughs.

Moderator: Aleksandar Mastilović, *Expert in Telecommunications and Digital Transformation*

Nina Drakić, *President of the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro*

Uranik Begu, *Director for Western Balkans, Plug and Play Tech Center*

Vesna Bengin, *Co-founder of the BioSense Institute*

Ernest Vlačić, *Ph.D., MBA, University and College professor*

14.30-14.35 Closing remarks

Biljana Braithwaite, *Founding Partner & CEO of Sustineri Partners*

14.35-14.45 Closing remarks by the Prime Minister of Montenegro

Dritan Abazović, *Prime Minister of Montenegro*

14.45-16.00 Closing lunch at Summer Garden Porto Montenegro

16.00 Event programme ends

Master of Ceremonies: Ognjen Janeski

Panels

Net Zero pathways - decarbonising the economy by 2050


The panel discussion “**Net-zero pathways: decarbonising the economy by 2050**” explored the importance of green transition for Western Balkans and the whole of South East Europe, to not remain competitive and desirable business partners, but also to tap into opportunities it presents for both new and existing businesses, noting that that energy security is the primary driver for the growth of renewable energy.



Moderator: Goran Svilanović, *Country Manager Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro, Abkons Group*

Panellist:

- » **Ervin Ibrahimović**, *Deputy Prime Minister for Regional Development and Minister of Capital Investments of Montenegro*
- » **Razmena Cekic Durovic**, *State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia*
- » **Jovana Joksimović**, *Assistant Minister for EU integration and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Mining and Energy of Serbia*
- » **Artur Lorkowski**, *Director of the Energy Community*
- » **Matteo Colangeli**, *Regional Director for Western Balkans at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*

 Watch the full panel discussion here.

ESG regulation – getting ready for compliance


The panel discussion “**ESG regulation: getting ready for compliance**”, emphasised that ESG-related regulations of Western Balkans main economic partners, such as the EU, US and Asian countries, are already impacting supply chains and financial systems globally. Western Balkans’ companies that wish to do business with companies coming from these countries must proactively prepare for compliance.



Moderator: Marija Jovanović, *Lecturer, Essex Law School*

Panellists:

- » **Robert Spano**, *Partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and former President of the European Court of Human Rights*
- » **Branko Gabrić**, *Counsel at Gecić Law*
- » **Olindo Shehu**, *Managing Partner at Deloitte CE South*
- » **Lulzim Rafuna**, *President of the WB6 CIF Management Board*
- » **Aleksandra Njagulj**, *Founding Partner at Sustineri Partners*

 Watch the full panel discussion here.

Sustainable finance – securing capital in a changing environment


In the panel discussion “**Sustainable finance – securing capital in a changing environment**”, representatives from leading financial institutions in the region discussed the shift in investments that are moving towards stronger ESG integration, as well as how business can integrate ESG into their strategies, covering new financial instruments and implications for businesses that are raising capital.



Moderator: **Courtney Fingar**, Founder and Principal, Fingar Direct Investment

Panellists:

- » **Jelena Galić**, Chairperson of the Board of Directors at AIK Banka
- » **Caroline Bright**, Regional ESG Advisory Lead for Europe, Central Asia, LatAm & Middle East of IFC World Bank Group
- » **Ivan Tomić**, Director of Strategy and Business Development of the NLB Bank
- » **Balázs Balogh**, CRO & Executive board member of the OTP banka Serbia
- » **Metodija Minoski**, Team Leader in Group Environmental Management of the ProCredit Holding

 Watch the full panel discussion here.

Green transition – powering the Net Zero economy

In this panel discussion “**Green transition – powering the Net Zero economy**”, project developers and investors leading the diffusion of renewable energy in the region discussed the opportunities in the clean energy transition, the impact of relevant EU regulations on energy sector of the region, the importance of renewable energy for regional energy security and market access as well as the applicability of social and governance aspects of ESG standards, such as labour rights and local community engagement, to “green” businesses.



Moderator: **Ivan Bulatović**, Executive Director of SEE CAO

Panellists:

- » **Nikola Rovčanin**, CEO of Montenegrin Electric Company
- » **Maja Turković**, SVP Business Development Europe of CWP Global
- » **Gabriel Marosi**, Group Sustainability Officer of Erste Group
- » **Borko Torbica**, Owner and Vice President of the Board of ELNOS Group
- » **Krešimir Čondić**, CEO of Ivicom Holding GmbH and Member of Board of Ivicom Consulting d.o.o.

 Watch the full panel discussion here.

Social licence to operate – getting all stakeholders on board


The panel discussion “**Social licence to operate – getting all stakeholders on board**”, explored strategies for stakeholder engagement, emphasising the importance of social aspects of ESG, the significance of building trust with governments, communities, and civil society, and showcasing best practices and their implementation in the region.



Moderator: **Agim Selami**, Founder and Executive Director of the ZIP Institute

Panellists:

- » **Goran Đurović**, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro
- » **Jelena Ristić**, Country Manager Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina of Mastercard
- » **Rikard Scoufias**, Chairman of Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company
- » **Jelena Trninić**, Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Director, The Coca-Cola Company
- » **Milan Antonijević**, Advisor for Program Development, National Alliance for Economic Development - NALED

 Watch the full panel discussion here.

Gender equality & diversity – the business case for women leadership


The panel discussion “**Gender equality & diversity – the business case for women leadership**” highlighted the strong impact of gender inequality on company performance in the Western Balkans region, emphasising the business case for women's leadership, including best practices and benefits for companies that promote diversity at senior levels.



Moderator: **Larisa Halilović**, Leadership Development Expert

Panellists:

- » **Slavica Grkovska**, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Good Governance Policies, Republic of North Macedonia
- » **Lada Buševac**, Head of the IFC office for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro
- » **Irena Radović**, Executive Director of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro
- » **Marijanti Babić**, Country Head Serbia of Rio Tinto
- » **Marko Čadež**, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS)

 Watch the full panel discussion here.

Sustainable infrastructure – building a net zero future


The panel discussion “**Sustainable infrastructure – building a net zero future**” emphasised that the future sustainable and smart cities will entail both new development and comprehensive refurbishment of existing infrastructure and buildings, highlighting the crucial role of the real estate sector in achieving carbon neutrality, given its responsibility for a significant portion of energy consumption and carbon emissions.



Moderator: [Aleksandra Njagulj](#), Founding Partner at Sustineri Partners

Panellists:

- » [Ana Novaković Đurović](#), Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro
- » [David Margason](#), Managing Director of Porto Montenegro
- » [Leons Tuda](#), Investment Advisor to the CEO of Balfin Group
- » [Đorđe Popović](#), Managing Director of Resalta Serbia
- » [Remon Zakaria](#), Head of Montenegro for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

 [Watch the full panel discussion here.](#)

Green innovation – developing future-proof technologies


The panel discussion “**Green innovation – developing future-proof technologies**” highlighted that achieving a sustainable future requires embracing ESG principles embedded in regulatory and financial instruments, emphasising the need for innovation across all aspects of life and work to provide solutions and noted the importance of providing support from the public or private sector to tap into the region’s pool of experts.



Moderator: [Aleksandar Mastilović](#), Expert in Telecommunications and Digital Transformation

Panellists:

- » [Nina Drakić](#), President of the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro
- » [Uranik Begu](#), Director for Western Balkans, Plug and Play Tech Center
- » [Vesna Bengin](#), Co-founder of the BioSense Institute
- » [Ernest Vlačić](#), Ph.D., MBA, University and College professor

 [Watch the full panel discussion here.](#)

Presentations

The first day of the Western Balkans ESG Summit focused on the importance of a strategic approach and opportunities for implementing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards in the region.

Keynote presentation of the Summit was delivered by [Robert Spano](#), Partner at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP and former President of the European Court of Human Rights on the “**Evolution of ESG – from voluntary to mandatory due diligence**”. He highlighted the shifting landscape of ESG regulations and the growing importance of integrating ESG considerations into business practices.

 [Watch the full presentation here.](#)

[Jorn Eugene Gjelstad](#), Ambassador of Norway to Serbia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, and [Gunn Vik](#), Director for Global Hydropower & Solar Energy at Norwegian Energy Partners, presented their “**Vision on sustainability for the region**”. They discussed Norway’s perspective on sustainability and the potential for hydropower and solar energy in the Western Balkans.

 [Watch the full presentation here.](#)

Second keynote presentation of the Summit, was delivered by [Tamás Kamarási](#), Chairperson of Management Board of the CKB Bank and President of the Montenegrin Foreign Investors Council and [Gergely Pókos](#), Executive Director of OTP Bank’s Green Program Directorate, on the topic of “**Sustainable Finance**”. They shared insights on the role of banks in driving sustainable finance initiatives and their efforts towards promoting ESG practices in the Western Balkans region.

 [Watch the full presentation here.](#)

[Aleksandra Njagulj](#), Founding Partner of Sustineri Partners, [Branko Kecman](#), CEO of Advantis Broker and President of Business Club Banja Luka, [Adeliada Mehmetaj](#), Co-founder and Head of Research of the ConsciESG, and [Nancy Mancilla](#), Founder of the ISOS Group, shared insights on “**Integrating ESG into sustainability reporting: ESG materiality assessment & strategy development**”. They discussed best practices for incorporating ESG considerations into sustainability reporting and strategy development.

 [Watch the full presentation here.](#)



Innovation pitches

On the second day of the Western Balkans ESG Summit, presentations focused on innovative solutions that can contribute to a better future.

Maša Njegovan, ESG Senior Manager at Deloitte Risk Advisory, delivered an insightful presentation on “**Mission-oriented innovation: Tackling climate change with green technologies**”.

Watch the full presentation here.

Prince Nikola Petrović Njegoš, Chairman of the Petrović Njegoš Foundation, discussed “**Innovative clean technologies and sustainable architecture: Practical recommendations for initiating an ecological transition in Montenegro**”.

Watch the full presentation here.

Gábor Jandácsik, Chief Risk Officer of the OTP Bank Albania, talked about “**Renewable electricity - reducing carbon footprint and protecting against rising prices**”.

Watch the full presentation here.

Milena Argirović, Country Head Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo of the Takeda, shared insights on “**Telemedicine - protecting healthcare system, patients, and planet**”, showcasing how technology can drive sustainable healthcare solutions.

Watch the full presentation here.

Representatives of **Plug and Play Tech Center**, **Nicolas Chow**, Director of Sustainability for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and **Uranik Begu**, Director for Western Balkans presented on how innovation can drive sustainability, sharing their insights on the intersection of technology and sustainability.

Watch the full presentation here.

Martin Leberle, President of the Management Board, NLB Banka AD Podgorica, and **Aleksandar Radulović**, CEO, Montex Elektronika, discussed “**Wildfire protection - reducing risks and damages through early detection and timely response**”, showcasing innovative solutions to address the growing challenge of wildfires.

Watch the full presentation here.

Tijana Koprivica, Chief Business Sustainability Officer of Delta Holding and **Milica Trajković**, presented on “**Digital village - revitalising rural areas through digital transformation**”, discussing how technology can drive sustainable development in rural areas.

Watch the full presentation here.

Andreas Wiele, Co-founder of OakTreePower, leading climate tech innovator, which is pioneering Sustainable Energy Management Systems, shared insights on “**AI-Enabled solutions for the reduction of energy consumption of buildings**”, showcasing OakTree Power’s Green Flexibility solution, pilot projects and announced the launch of the first project in the region in cooperation with the Serbian Metalfer Group.

Watch the full presentation here.

Women on Boards Adria

Initiative **Women on Boards Adria (WOBA)** was **launched** under the auspices of the Western Balkans ESG Summit. This initiative is set to support and **drive greater inclusion of women** in the boardrooms of companies in the Adria region. The Initiative will strive to break down entry barriers to boardrooms and speed up the pace of women joining boards and senior management positions.

It will operate with the goals to:

- » Unite women leaders, dedicated government officials, civil society representatives, and business experts to **promote gender equality at decision-making levels**.
- » Act as an umbrella association for gender equality, focusing on identifying and **eliminating the root causes of gender gaps in business leadership**.
- » Work closely with businesses and governments in the Adria region to **promote greater gender diversity and inclusion at all levels of business** and align gender policies in the region with the European Union.

All the companies present at the Summit showed strong support for this exciting new Initiative and readiness to contribute to greater gender equality in the Adria region!

The consensus was reached that businesses benefit of having more women on a board of directors, including:

- » Better financial returns
- » Better strategy development
- » Better social responsibility governance
- » Better Board cohesiveness

WOBA initiative will focus on the following types of action:

- 1. Capacity building:** Provide training to businesses and individuals designed to accommodate higher representation of women on board and executive positions.
- 2. Leadership Network:** Build a talent pool of women leaders from the Western Balkans and empower them for the next steps in their careers through training and mentoring.
- 3. Research:** Analyse the impact of gender diversity on business performance and monitor the state of gender diversity at the decision-making level in the Western Balkans.



4. Policy advocacy: Work with national governments and gender associations in the Western Balkans to address the market failure reflected in the underrepresentation of women at the decision-making level.

“We believe that gender diversity is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do. Research shows that companies with more diverse boards perform better and are more innovative. We want to help companies in the Adria region realise these benefits by increasing the number of women on their boards”, said **Biljana Braithwaite**, Founder and CEO of Sustineri Partners.

“This is a moment of joy, and intense expectations. Women are underrepresented in boardrooms all over the world. Change does not come easy, and that is why this Initiative is so important. Together, we can make a difference”, said **Hedwige Nuyens**, chair of European Women on Boards.

“Research shows us that having more balanced boards brings businesses different perspectives, lived experiences, disciplinary expertise, and produces more balanced, stronger, future facing decisions, that help the triple bottom line”, **Caitlin Kraft-Buchman**, CEO and founder of Women at the Table.

“Without active participation of women in decision-making, there can be no true prosperity or stability. The education, skills, and experiences that women possess differ from those of men, and it is precisely in the synergy of different perspectives that good results are achieved and a more favourable social climate is created”, said **Brankica Janković**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of Serbia.

“Focus on the shift to gender inclusive corporate culture is of vital importance for Western Balkans economies. Integrating female talent in economic leadership positions is vital for stronger, more inclusive and resilient economic growth. It requires a synchronised action and must be our common goal”, noted **Irena Radović**, Executive Director of the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro.

For more details on the Initiative, connect with us on our social media!

Twitter: [@WOBAdria](https://twitter.com/WOBAdria)

Instagram: [@wobadria](https://www.instagram.com/wobadria)

LinkedIn: [Women on Boards Adria](https://www.linkedin.com/company/women-on-boards-adria)

You cannot be it if you don't see it!

This statement, true for young girls navigating through the social and educational systems, as well for women, climbing up the corporate ladders inspired us to Initiate first WOBA Initiative: **Women on Boards Adria Pledge Gender Diverse Panels for Inclusive Discussions**

To ensure well-deserved seat(s) for women at the academic/expert tables, it is necessary to actively promote and implement gender inclusive practices, starting with panel composition. “All men panels” or “manels” are not rare thus excluding the voices of women who are experts in the field.

By signing this pledge men are showing strong commitment to pluralism of perspectives, viewpoints and experiences. They are showing their understanding of what underrepresentation means, and solidarity with their colleagues, partners, daughters.

On behalf of the Women on Boards Adria, we invite you to join us in taking this Pledge and saying no to one-sided panels.

WOBA
Women on Boards Adria

Women on Boards Adria Pledge
Gender Diverse Panels for Inclusive Discussions
A Strong Commitment to Pluralism of Perspectives, Viewpoints and Experiences

“All men panels” or “manels” refer to panels, discussions and other professional and/or academic events where only men partake as speakers, thus excluding the voices of women who are experts in the field.

Panel parity is vital for ensuring diverse perspectives are represented in important public discussions. When considering traditionally male dominated business sectors or academic fields, not only do women enrich the debate by bringing unique insights, experiences, and expertise to the table, their inclusion is crucial for ensuring more effective and well-rounded findings and conclusions. In fact, excluding them from panels or discussions can result in a narrow and biased representation of ideas and can perpetuate discrimination. To ensure well-deserved seat(s) for women at the academic/expert tables, it is necessary to actively promote and implement gender inclusive practices, starting with panel composition.

On behalf of the **Women on Boards Adria**, we invite you to join us in taking this Pledge and saying no to one-sided panels.

We pledge to actively work towards achieving gender balance in all panels and discussions, by strongly advocating for the representation of women and striving for inclusive discussions in every professional and/or academic event we organise or partake in.

To honour this Pledge, we will:

1. Strongly advocate for gender-diverse compositions on panels before accepting an invitation to speak and to actively suggest the inclusion of women experts when recommending speakers for panels.
2. Explain the importance of gender inclusion when deciding whether to accept invitations to speak on panels.
3. Amplify the voices of women by promoting their research and accomplishments.
4. Hold organisers accountable by providing feedback or suggestions for improvement when needed.
5. Use influence and networks to encourage and support the participation of women in important discussions and decision-making processes.

If you want to sign the pledge, please contact Amina Hujdur at amina@sustineri-partners.com

A New Chapter in Our Sustainability Story

We are expanding and becoming ESG Summit Adria

With closing remarks from **Biljana Braithwaite**, CEO of Sustineri Partners, and **Dritan Abazović**, Prime Minister of Montenegro, the event was a resounding success. We would like to express our gratitude to all the participants for their attendance and engagement, partners for their support, and experts for driving the conversation and providing resolutions for crucial environmental and human rights issues.

Watch the closing of the Summit here.

During the Summit, participants had an opportunity to hear from industry leaders, experts, government officials and academics on topics including sustainable finance, mission-oriented innovation, integrating ESG into sustainability reporting, reducing carbon footprint through renewable electricity, supporting diversity and gender balance at leadership positions and rethinking future cities. We are proud to have hosted a diverse group of leaders, experts and other stakeholders in the field to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by ESG in the Western Balkans. We look forward to continuing this conversation and working towards a more sustainable future in the region, and beyond.

A new chapter on the path to sustainable development has been opened for the Western Balkans region. The journey towards more responsible and greener business operations has started with the Western Balkans ESG Summit, the first major regional event devoted to sustainable development and dialogue on greater responsibility of the business sector regarding ESG standards in practice.



This summit has created momentum. So much so, that the enthusiasm and interest went beyond the borders of Western Balkans. One of our themes is inclusivity, and we would like to welcome this, in practice and in name, so we are delighted to announce we will expand and become ESG Summit Adria.

See you next year, at ESG Summit Adria.

Meet Our Key Sponsors and Western Balkans ESG Summit Supporters

OTP Group

OTP Group is the fastest growing banking group in Central and Eastern Europe, with unique knowledge of the region, a lasting commitment to it and 70 years of history. We serve nearly 16 million customers in eleven countries with modern tools and a wide range of financial products. With integrity and determination OTP Group is working towards helping the development of the Central and Eastern European region to become the continent's growth engine. We strive to provide excellent financial services through digital innovation, AI, and data-driven insights.

The main objective of OTP Group's environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) strategy is to play a regional leading role in financing the gradual transition to a low-carbon economy and building a sustainable future. One of our priorities is to increase our green loan portfolio, we have set out ambitious KPI-s to track progress. In addition to the business goals, we also defined social and corporate governance commitments, on the basis of which we strive for net carbon neutrality from 2022.

Our key achievements in green finance were: the adoption and rollout of the Green Loan Framework establishing the guiding principles of green lending within OTP Group; the adoption of the Sustainable Finance Framework and its introduction to the bond market; laying the foundations for ESG risk management. Stakeholders seem to recognize our efforts: OTP Bank's ESG ratings continue to improve, our rating at Sustainalytics was upgraded from medium into the low ESG risk category in 2022.

OTP Group's ESG Success Story: Diversified steps for a greener tomorrow. Read the full article [here](#).



A complex issue and immediate opportunity



The effects of climate change can be felt in our environment, in economic life and at the social level as well, posing significant challenges to the financial sector. We talked about the increasing importance of ESG and environmental sustainability with Gergely Pókos, managing director of OTP Bank's Green Program Directorate.

How can a bank contribute to the green transition of the economy?

Gergely Pókos: Although there is no agreement on whether the effects of the climate change can be reversed, the political decision has been made: we need to make changes to mitigate these effects, to adopt and to work towards a low-carbon, more sustainable economy. Regulators are placing an increasing responsibility on banks to be enablers, or what is more, leaders of the sustainability transition. To achieve net zero, significant investments - approximately 28 trillion EUR in the EU - need to be financed in the coming decades. Banks need to be prepared for this. They need to develop and provide appropriate products and services to their clients. As a prudent bank, OTP needs to comply with all these requirements at the highest level, but for us sustainability is not just an external obligation imposed on us by law. It is something inherent to our strategy and stemming from our responsibility as a leading bank in the region.

What are the OTP Group's achievements in this field in recent years?

Gergely Pókos: In the first half of 2021, our ESG strategy has been formulated - OTP Group's mission towards sustainability is to be the regional leader in financing a fair and gradual transition to a low-carbon economy and building a sustainable future through our responsible solutions. To show our commitment, OTP Bank signed the UN Principles for Responsible Banking - a single framework for a sustainable banking industry developed through a partnership between banks worldwide and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI).

After having set up proper organizational framework in 2021 for the management of all ESG related issues, adopting the ESG strategy and setting goals and KPI-s, 2022 and onwards is about implementation. During 2022, we broadened and deepened ESG activities in both business development and risk management, at OTP Group headquarter and in our subsidiary banks as well. We are constantly developing the tools and processes that bring us closer to our ESG goals.

Our highest priority is to increase our green loan portfolio, which is steadily growing: the on-balance sheet green exposure at OTP Group level was more than HUF 260 billion HUF by the end of 4Q 2022, thus we have been on track to successfully achieve our 2022 goal and to reach our HUF 1,500 billion target for 2025.

What are the plans of OTP Group for the coming years in terms of financing corporate or individual investments and savings for sustainability?

Gergely Pókos: In the coming years, we aim to significantly increase our green lending activities in both the corporate and retail segments. We want to offer our clients standard green products and help them with individual, customized solutions and advisory, providing the right financing solution which serves sustainability objectives in addition to their financing needs.

As one of the leading banks in the Central European region, present in 11 countries with its headquarter in Hungary, we are mainstreaming ESG in a challenging environment: managing the varying maturity of local markets, raising the relatively low ESG awareness of our clients and responding to rapidly changing regulatory changes that are not necessarily harmonized across the Group's countries. Along with these, ESG efforts of OTP are consistent across the Group, thus both the opportunity and the responsibility of OTP are significant: with the right will, coherent tools and approach, a high level of professionalism and ambition combined with a deep knowledge of local markets and trends, OTP can be a catalyst for the region's green transition.

We express our gratitude to OTP Group for being the platinum sponsor of the Western Balkans ESG Summit.

AIK Banka

AIK Banka is the bank of innovative banking products and services, open 24/7, which consistently monitors all its clients' needs, as well as its employees' job satisfaction through achievement of the targeted financial result on a long-term basis. We firmly believe in our employees and the value system we have built for years on the following principles: client dedication, innovative products and services on offer, teamwork and competitive spirit, awareness and social responsibility, operational speed and flexibility.

For over 40 years we have been building a modern, responsible and innovative Bank according to the standards of the developed world by employing domestic resources. Our success is recognised and awarded at the international level. We are also the Bank for the whole family. Welcome to the family of successful people so that we can build a better future together!

AIK Banka is, and will continue to be dedicated to the green agenda and bringing the Western Balkans region closer to European standards in financing projects based on sustainable principles.

AIK Banka's ESG Success Story: The banking sector in Serbia is changing the way the entire region thinks about sustainability. Read the full article [here](#).



The banking sector in Serbia is changing the way the entire region thinks about sustainability

AIK Banka is, and will continue to be dedicated to the green agenda and bringing the Western Balkans region closer to European standards in financing projects based on sustainable principles. This is the message from AIK Banka ahead of the first ESG summit in the Western Balkans.

From April 26 to 28, Porto Montenegro will host the first major regional conference dedicated to ESG standards, with AIK Banka as the gold sponsor of the event. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss topics related to building sustainable business standards, the role of the business sector in the green transition, potentials and limitations in approaching standards, and establishing sustainable economic principles.



"AIK Banka has recognized its role in the green transition primarily through systematic work with small and medium-sized enterprises. The sector of small and medium-sized enterprises represents a vital part of the Serbian economy, making up 99 percent of the total number of registered companies in Serbia. However, according to the MSME Finance Gap Report, the total missing funds in financing this sector in Serbia are estimated at \$7.59 billion," says **Jelena Galić**, Chairperson of the Board of Directors at AIK Banka.

The aim is to provide greater opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to obtain credit and to develop new financing options for climate change projects. AIK Banka not only provides funds for green solutions, but also offers advisory roles to companies, and the bank's experts convey the best solutions from Europe and the world to the Western Balkans market.

"Approximately three-quarters of small and medium-sized enterprises are willing to invest in green projects to improve business and mitigate the effects of climate change, while the biggest challenges they face are the lack of capital, as well as insufficient knowledge about green technologies and financing options available on the market," **Galić** notes.

Through a long-term partnership between AIK Banka and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a new chapter has been opened in further development in terms of environmental protection, social responsibility, and conscientious corporate governance.

"In addition to providing funds and dedication to climate change, AIK Banka has also established a framework for environmental protection, social responsibility, and conscientious corporate governance (ESG). That is why we are the natural partner for the first ESG Summit in the Western Balkans. We believe that this story should be spread further. The banking sector in Serbia and the region can change the way the entire community thinks about sustainable business," concludes **Jelena Galić**.

We express our gratitude to AIK Banka for being the gold sponsor of the Western Balkans ESG Summit.

Meet our Silver Sponsors and check their ESG Success Stories

We express our gratitude to all Western Balkans ESG Summit all silver sponsors, for being key supporters and providing generous support on our regional ESG journey.

The Coca-Cola Company and Coca-Cola HBC



The Coca-Cola Company is a total beverage company, offering over 500 brands in more than 200 countries and territories. **Coca-Cola HBC** (Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company) bottles and sells the beverages of The Coca-Cola Company exclusively in 28 markets and partners with other beverage businesses to also sell their brands.

From the procurement of materials, all the way to limiting packaging waste and educating consumers – for company Coca-Cola HBC, sustainability is a well-rounded process whose aim is to ensure a better world for employees, partners, and the whole community. Innovations concerning environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices are key to the success of this company's responsible business in the Western Balkans. Coca-Cola HBC Serbia is the first company in Serbia, but also the only one out of 29 countries of the Coca-Cola HBC Group, which has formed an ESG Advisory Board that provides an expert review of existing initiatives and proposals for new activities.

As a part of the Coca-Cola system, the Coca-Cola Company and Coca-Cola HBC are thinking about every detail of their products in order to respond to environmental challenges. For instance, one of their latest innovations solves the problem of environmental

pollution with bottle caps. On the packaging of Next juices they have introduced tethered caps, which makes it easier for the bottle and cap to be recycled together, and this innovation will soon be added to the bottles of their carbonated drinks and water as well. In addition, they care about saving resources, through positive changes in the production, procurement, and packaging of products, and actively participates in discussions on solving important environmental challenges.

Coca-Cola's ESG Success Story: How to win customer trust through responsible business. Read the full article [here](#).

Comtrade



Comtrade is a dynamic and well established group of technology companies, with a 30-year track record of innovation and development of some of the world's most advanced software. Founded as a software engineering and services company, Comtrade has evolved into a software product business, a services company and a systems integrator. With world-class infrastructure and campuses in 10 countries, Comtrade operates as a holding company for vibrant businesses, as well as an incubator for new and exciting technologies on the cutting edge.

As a part of Comtrade Group the **Green Energy 360** has incorporated a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing their environmental footprint and promoting social responsibility. Green Energy 360 is a company dedicated to the process of energy transformation through the use of solar energy. They focus on research and development, production, and marketing of solar products. The company is focused on contributing to the goals of solar transition by implementing ground and roof projects for business entities. Company is founded on a sustainable business model taking the holistic approach that is considering the impact of their operations on the environment, their employees, and the communities in which they operate. They have implemented a number of initiatives aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace, as well as supporting local communities through partnerships with schools, charities, and other organisations.

Comtrade's ESG Success Story: Empowering a Sustainable Future: Green Energy 360 Leading the Way in Solar Energy Solutions. Read the full article [here](#).

CWP Global



CWP is an innovator and leading renewable energy developer in Southeast Europe, bringing international expertise to local projects with the aim of providing energy solutions that contribute to a sustainable future. Currently, this company is developing a portfolio of wind and solar projects with a capacity of 6 GW in Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and Ukraine and it has already successfully developed the largest wind farms in Serbia (the 158 MW Čibuk project) and Romania (the 600 MW Fântânele-Cogealac project).

The work of CWP in Western Balkans has proven to be a major catalyst in the green energy movement, as significant investments in renewable energy are crucial for decarbonisation of the region that is highly dependent on coal, which makes about 70% of its electricity production.

CWP's ESG Success Story: Leading the Way: How CWP is Pioneering Sustainable Development and Green Energy in Southeast Europe. Read the full article [here](#).

Erste Bank



Erste Bank, as one of the leading banks on the market, has been present in Montenegro since July 2009, and is part of the Austrian Erste Group, the largest banking group in Central Europe with around 16.1 million clients. Erste Bank is one of the largest banks on the market, recognized for the quality of its operations and the application of the best banking practices. Erste Bank uses the synergy of knowledge, technology, tradition and innovation to encourage positive changes and create new value for clients, employees, shareholders and the community.

Prosperity and sustainability are directly interlinked with the aim of ensuring a sustainable quality of life for people. Erste Bank in Montenegro, being part of Erste Group, shares the common vision and has always seen their role and primary task to help people prosper and to contribute to a future worth living. As an active and reliable partner to its clients, Erste Bank wants to support them in

overcoming social and environmental challenges and in seizing the emerging opportunities. And in the process, be a role model for our employees and the entire financial sector. That is why our promise is fairness and balance in everything we do and that everything we do has to be in line with the environment, society and the rule of law.

Erste Bank's ESG Success Story: Erste Bank Montenegro is dedicated to supporting green transition. Read the full article [here](#).

Gibson Dunn

GIBSON DUNN

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, a leading global law firm, advising clients on significant transactions and disputes. Gibson Dunn's ESG practice is a multidisciplinary, international team leveraging lawyers from across the firm practising in areas such as litigation, corporate governance, corporate transactions, finance, compensation, information security, tax, and business and human rights.

The team offers seamless and integrated advice, collaborating with ESG colleagues across the global firm. Gibson Dunn's dedicated ESG practice provides holistic advice to investors, developers and financiers in the private equity real estate sector on managing environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities.

Gibson Dunn's ESG Success Story: Beyond Sustainability - Gibson Dunn's Legal Expertise Drives ESG Practices Forward. Read the full article [here](#).

Gecić Law

GECIĆ | LAW

Gecić Law is a leading commercial law firm committed to redefining the role that a law firm plays in an emerging regional market in order to produce truly exceptional results for our clients. The firm assists international and local clientele from various industries in establishing, building, and maintaining their business presence in the region and navigating the complex legal landscape and the interplay between existing framework, European law & accession negotiations.

Gecić Law is the foremost innovative full-service law firm in South Eastern Europe which redefines the role that a law firm plays in a dynamic emerging regional market of 150 million people and winner of The Lawyer European Awards for the Law firm of the year: South Eastern

Europe 2021. Widely recognized for its EU law practice, Gecić Law is one of the few law firms in the region with extensive experience and expertise to advise the public and private sectors on ESG and sustainability topics.

Gecić Law's ESG Success Story: Kosec - ESG regulations are coming, and they will change the way we do business in Southeast Europe. Read the full article [here](#).

Mastercard



Mastercard is a global technology company in the payments industry with the mission to connect and power an inclusive, digital economy that benefits everyone, everywhere by making transactions safe, simple, smart and accessible. Mastercard, as one of the global players in the financial services sector, focuses on financial inclusion, inclusive growth, and data responsibility, doing so through a range of ambitious initiatives, from linking executives' compensation to ESG goals to creating a new card standard for sight-impaired customers.

For many years now, Mastercard, through its numerous activities in Southeast Europe, but also globally, has shown that technology and innovation are an indispensable part of good examples of sustainable and socially responsible practices. Standards related to environmental, social and good governance (ESG standards) have taken an important place in the business strategies of this global technology company. Mastercard has aligned its ESG strategy and internal policies with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, focusing on specific goals to which they can contribute with their products.

Mastercard's ESG Success Story: Technology and innovations for the common good. Read the full article [here](#).

NLB Banka



NLB Banka AD Podgorica is a member of NLB Group, the largest Slovenian financial group, which, apart from Slovenia, is also present in other markets in Southeast Europe. From the financing of green projects, the introduction of green loans and the support of innovative ideas for the sustainability of

the region, all the way to the promotion of inclusivity, sports, culture and cultural heritage - there are many reasons why NLB Group is one of the sustainability leaders in Southeast Europe. NLB Group is the leading banking and financial group with headquarters and an exclusive strategic interest in Southeast Europe.

All NLB Bank's efforts towards sustainable development and operation are visible in a whole series of steps that this banking and financial group has taken in the previous period, in order to provide green services and solutions, with a special focus on its own carbon footprint, and to support sports, culture and socially vulnerable groups. These efforts are internationally recognized and confirmed by the first ESG rating for medium exposure and strong management of significant ESG issues. received an ESG Risk Rating of 17.7 and was assessed by Sustainalytics to be at low risk of experiencing material financial impacts from ESG factors, due to its medium exposure and strong management of material ESG issues. In addition, NLB's ESG Risk Rating places it among the best 15% banks assessed by the company.

NLB's ESG Success Story: Technology and innovations for the common good. Read the full article [here](#).

■ ProCredit



ProCredit Holding is the parent company of the development-oriented group of ProCredit banks operating in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Ecuador, and Germany. The banks of the ProCredit group are dedicated to incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into all operational and business activities, ranging from their standards set for the employees' behaviour all the way to their banking operations including investment and lending practices. One of the key ways ProCredit Holding integrates ESG principles is through its Code of Conduct, which identifies positive practices for their staff and includes an Exclusion List that identifies business activities that do not align with ProCredit's values. This list covers areas such as unethical practices and labour conditions, activities detrimental to health, safety, and the environment, and those having a negative impact on the community.

The green agenda has been strongly embedded in their business practices for more than a decade. For instance, in 2022 they had over 20% green loans in their portfolio. They also support green investments and facilitate the development of local infrastructures related to waste management, energy efficiency, renewable energy and other environmentally friendly practices

at external events among other initiatives. ProCredit Holding has taken on many sustainability projects and initiatives, such as a regional network consisting of 272 publicly available e-charging stations in the countries where the banks operate. Furthermore, they are investing in renewable energy, and have already made tangible steps with investments in their own solar energy farm with 3MW capacity in Kosovo. They have also financed multiple solar installations by their small and medium enterprise clients in the region.

ProCredit's ESG Success Story: ProCredit Ensures Their Values Are Reflected Through Their Investments. Read the full article [here](#).

■ Resalta

Resalta™

Resalta, one of the leading energy service companies in Central and Eastern Europe, is actively leading the charge towards sustainability of this region, by applying good environmental, social, and governance practices in their projects. Resalta is an accredited CDP partner for emission reduction services for Serbia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Romania. With a focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy in public and private projects alike, Resalta is one of the key contributors to the decarbonisation of our region.

Resalta works closely with companies and public institutions in the region to identify and implement energy-saving opportunities. Through comprehensive energy audits, Resalta identifies areas where energy can be optimised, and implements tailor-made solutions to reduce energy consumption and lower carbon emissions. Resalta's business model offers clients a complete takeover of investment, project design, and implementation, with a fixed fee for service, technological process improvement, and long-term management and maintenance. The project risk is entirely on Resalta's side during the entire contractual period, allowing clients to focus entirely on their core business, whether it's biomass, heat pumps, or combined production of electric and thermal energy. It is equally applicable to solar power plants, efficient LED lighting, energy refurbishment of buildings, reactive power compensation, or complex decarbonization processes for large systems

Resalta's ESG Success Story: Solar energy will be one of the main components of the green energy transition in Western Balkans. Read the full article [here](#).

■ Regent Porto Montenegro

Regent

PORTO MONTENEGRO

Regent Porto Montenegro has set a high standard for the hospitality industry in Montenegro by successfully integrating sustainable practices into its operations. This dedication to sustainability has been exemplified by the hotel's acquisition of the Green Key certification, which stands for the commitment to guests that by staying with Regent, they are helping to make a difference at an environmental and social sustainability level. The hotel takes great care in minimising its ecological footprint, while simultaneously prioritising the well-being of its staff and the surrounding community.

By championing sustainability and continuously striving for better, Regent Porto Montenegro is making a commendable impact ensuring a better tomorrow for present and future generations. The hotel's sustainability policy has been developed in partnership with international stakeholders and the local community, guided by a strong culture of governance, transparent policies, and a comprehensive set of aspirations outlined in IHG's Journey to Tomorrow plan and 2030 Responsible Business Plan. Regent's commitment to sustainability is further demonstrated by its community engagement initiatives, which include supporting the public healthcare and education system in Montenegro through various donations, providing internships, scholarships, and donations to support local sensitive groups, including children's athletic clubs, associations for people and children with disabilities, local foster home, and a local fire department.

Regent's ESG Success Story: Regent Porto Montenegro Leads the Way as a Pioneer of Sustainability in Montenegro's Hospitality Industry. Read the full article [here](#).

■ Rio Tinto

RioTinto

Rio Tinto, a leading global mining group that focuses on finding, mining and processing the Earth's mineral resources, also recognizes the importance of gender diversity and its positive impact on business. Rio Tinto has made significant strides in improving its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in renewable energy.

Additionally, the company has taken steps to improve working conditions for its employees and support the communities where it operates. This is why the company supported honest discussion about challenges and opportunities in Western Balkans region, through a silver partnership with Western Balkans ESG Summit.

Rio Tinto's ESG Success Story: Gender diversity is crucial for fostering successful dialogue with the community. Read the full article [here](#).

■ Saga

SAGA CG

A NOVENTIQ Company

Saga is one of the biggest IT system integrators in Montenegro and the first company in our region to acquire the Cisco Environmental Sustainability specialisation. This specialisation refers to the circular economy and the Green agenda and allows companies to use the vendor's Trade-In program, which entails the return of old equipment that has not yet reached the end of service date with an additional discount for the purchase of new equipment.

Saga is also part of the company Noventiq, which is a leading supplier of solutions and services for digital transformation and cyber security for developing markets. Information technology is changing the world we live, study, work and have fun in. We see ourselves as a company that is the best partner to global leaders in IT development, and business systems in our area alike. Saga is not only dedicated to the implementation of the most advanced technologies but also to finding the sustainable innovations that will move green economic transition further.

Saga's ESG Success Story: Innovative solutions for better business and environment. Read the full article [here](#).

Media Visibility

Game-Changing Media Coverage of the 1st ESG Summit in the region

The communication activities for the Western Balkans ESG Summit encompassed a comprehensive approach utilising both traditional and digital media channels to share the latest news and information related to the Summit. Widespread media coverage and engagement was generated, both regionally and globally, through creative and engaging content, showcasing main ESG trends, inspirational key messages from Montenegrin President and Prime Minister, followed by impressive keynote presentations, innovation pitches and panel discussions.

Traditional media outlets, including television, newspapers, and radio, played a crucial role in promoting the Summit. Over **40 regional and international journalists participated in the event**, providing extensive coverage and generating **more than 120 media mentions**. Journalists have attended press conferences, conducted interviews with key speakers and panellists, and provided live coverage of the event. This media coverage significantly contributed to raising awareness and creating a buzz around the summit and ESG importance, both within the Western Balkans region and globally.

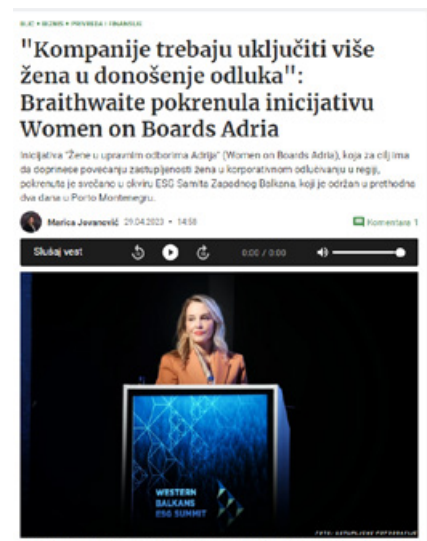
40+

Journalists Covering the Event

120+

Media Mentions Globally

Media headlines:



Digital Media Reach

The **Western Balkans ESG website** served as a central platform for sharing the latest news and updates about the Summit. A total of 32 articles were published on the website, providing valuable insights into the event, its partners, and sponsors. These articles generated over **20,000 visits**, demonstrating the audience's interest in the Summit's content.

supporters mentioning the Summit, we successfully reached over **200,000 impressions**. Additionally, on Twitter, the Summit's posts gained over 1,000 impressions.

The communication team conducted interviews with industry experts during the Summit, capturing valuable insights on sustainability in the region. These interviews were recorded for both video and website formats, providing rich and informative content for ongoing dissemination. Furthermore, the team filmed all the events taking place during the Summit, creating a library of footage that will be utilised to generate additional insightful content throughout the year.

Social media platforms played a pivotal role in promoting the news and information related to the Summit. Through active engagement on LinkedIn, including over **140 posts** from ESG Western Balkans page, and **200 posts** from our partners, sponsors, and

20.000+

Visits to Western Balkans ESG Website

200.000+

Social Media Impressions

Western Balkans ESG Summit Photo Story

ESG has become an imperative for all organisations and contributing to a better, more sustainable region is our mission. More than 450 Summit participants engaged in quality networking – exploring new business opportunities and creating new partnerships, whilst our keynote presenters and panellists showcased latest ESG trends and cutting-edge innovations.

ESG experts, business leaders, policy designers and government representatives to share best practice and innovation for business of the future. And, we believe we've done it!

One of the Summit's goals was to bring together worldwide

Western Balkans ESG Summit is so much more than pictures, videos or media highlights, but through **more than 2.400 uploaded photos in 3 days** at our Flickr account and **more than 106.000 views** we have tried to tell you our photo ESG story.

2.400+

Photos in 3 Days

106.000+

Photo Views

Organisers

Sustineri Partners

Sustineri Partners is a boutique consulting firm providing strategic advice to businesses and organisations on incorporating sustainability standards in their decisions, practices and partnerships.

Founded by a team of experts, each with over 20 years of experience in environmental sustainability, social justice and good governance, Sustineri Partners mainly focuses on countries of Southeast Europe and the Western Balkans.

The company's services include bespoke research, strategy development and implementation, stakeholder engagement and capacity building. Sustineri Partners is known for its work on modern slavery, gender equality, environmental issues, anti-bribery and anti-corruption.

The Western Balkans ESG Summit, organised in partnership with Porto Montenegro, is one of Sustineri Partner's key projects, alongside other initiatives and projects that aim to drive sustainable development in the Western Balkans. Through its work, the company is making a lasting and meaningful impact on the region and contributing to sustainable business and finance growth.



Porto Montenegro

Porto Montenegro is a real estate development located in Tivat, Montenegro. Situated in a natural bay on the Adriatic Sea, it features a state-of-the-art marina, luxury residential properties, and a wide range of amenities and services for residents and visitors.

The Porto Montenegro marina can accommodate up to 450 yachts and offers boaters a range of facilities and services. The Porto Montenegro became the first marina to receive 5 Gold Anchor Platinum accreditation from The Yacht Harbour and Marina Industries Association. The still-growing development further features luxury residential properties, varied amenities and services, including hotels and numerous sports and leisure facilities.

Porto Montenegro is home to many events and activities throughout the year, including art exhibitions, concerts, and sporting events. Known for its commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, the company partnered with Sustineri Partners to bring forward the Western Balkans ESG Summit, the first ESG-dedicated event in the region.



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ESG Summit Adria

Western Balkans ESG Summit @Flickr

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/westernbalkansegsummit2023/>

All photos from the Western Balkans ESG Summit are available here:

<https://flic.kr/ps/429pvc>

Visit our website for more information:

esgwesternbalkans.com

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 **otp** Group

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domaća i jaka



COMTRADE



Green Energy 360



Coca-Cola HBC
Serbia and Montenegro

Coca-Cola

GECIĆ | LAW

GIBSON DUNN



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HIPOTEKARNA BANKA

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