

THE KOSOVO GREEN CHALLENGE

PROGRAMME REPORT

2022-2023



Boost.
KOSOVO



**All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).*



The BOOST was a unique program which offered young entrepreneurs in Kosovo not only business training but also mentorship and grant. Through BOOST, innovative and problem-solving business ideas for climate action were nurtured and flourished. In addition, we were delighted to the opportunities to introduce Japanese companies and NGO's efforts for climate change mitigation and adaptation as a part of BOOST training.

Mr. Keisuke Yamanaka

Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan to Kosovo

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Programme SNAPSHOT

For a greener future - green recovery in the private sector
by fostering an enabling environment, with a people-centred approach.



INNOVATION CHALLENGE

In the aftermath of COVID-19, Kosovo is experiencing one of the most challenging societal and economic crises in the last two decades. A green and just recovery path can put Kosovo's private sector back on track – creating new jobs, reducing greenhouse emissions and boosting competitiveness, while on route to a climate resilient future.



AGENTS OF CHANGE

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that seek to build resilience, but lack knowledge and funding to apply with an innovative solution in response to these compounding environmental, economic, social, and health crises that can put us on a just and inclusive green recovery.

5

PARTNERS

UNDP Kosovo
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan
The European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD)
Raiffeisen Bank in Kosovo (RBKO)
Innovation Centre Kosovo (ICK)



72 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED from which **50** SELECTED



15 GRANTS AWARDED



\$225.000 GRANT FUNDING



\$ 75.000 of CO-FINANCING



17 MOTIVATION GRANTS AWARDED



\$17.000 GRANT FUNDING

PROGRAMME

5 WEEKS

4 MODULES

60+ hours of training sessions & workshops



- ✓ **10 FACILITATORS & TRAINERS**
- ✓ **4 TOKYO TALKS**
- ✓ **100+ MENTORING HOURS**
- ✓ **10+ MENTORS**
- ✓ **32 GRADUATES**

WHAT'S BOOST?

Reimagining our future through innovation!

BOOST is a regional impact acceleration programme, powered by UNDP Europe and Central Asia. Its mission is to tackle complex development challenges and create a more sustainable future. Through BOOST, innovation partners come together to co-design and launch open innovation calls.

BOOST is built to scout, support and scale innovations that could lead to transformational change and systemic impact at a global, regional or country level. By applying systems thinking and bringing together actors from different parts of society, BOOST strengthens innovation ecosystems and enables co-creation of innovative development solutions. Moreover, by making sense of what emerges within and among programme cohorts, BOOST can test and learn from innovators to inform policy-making and UNDP's own programming with the ultimate objective to boost the impact of our interventions, working with complexities.



BOOST is:

- ✓ **a programme for impact acceleration**
- ✓ **a platform to run innovation challenges**
- ✓ **a learning mechanism for complex development challenges**



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The strategic intent of BOOST

BOOST is rooted in **UNDP's Strategic Plan 2022-25**, which aims to support governments and communities to rebound from COVID-19 and build forward better. Together with our growing network of changemakers and partners, we are working towards building resilience and igniting structural transformation, making sure that **no one is left behind**. To do this, BOOST operates at the intersection between **UNDP's three enablers**:

DIGITALIZATION

Supporting countries to build inclusive, ethical and sustainable digital societies



STRATEGIC INNOVATION

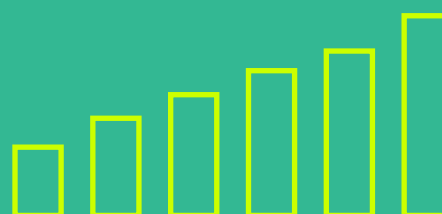
Empowering governments and communities to enhance the performance of entire systems, making them adaptive and resilient



DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

Partnering with governments and the private sector to align public and private capital flows with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mobilise finance at scale

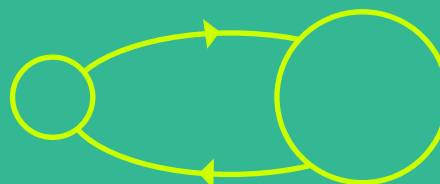
Our ultimate goals are to:



AMPLIFY the number, diversity, reach and impact of innovations in the region that contribute to sustainable development.



BOOST innovators by providing access to a groundbreaking training programme, equity-free grants, and a pool of international mentors.



CONNECT diverse actors of change and their networks to leverage and benefit from diverse capabilities, resources, and knowledge.



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How BOOST works?

BOOST engages a wide range of public and private, local and international partners to co-design and jointly launch open calls for innovations that tackle specific development challenges related to inequality and poverty, governance, energy, environment, resilience and gender equality. Our calls and programmes are open to private sector entities, non-profits and academic institutions.

From each call, we select a group of innovators to take part in the BOOST impact acceleration programme that incubates and accelerates innovations. We collaborate with our partners on crafting trainings and mentorship and tailoring them to the needs of the participants. During the programme, the selected participants follow a series of modules that help them rethink, develop and scale their innovations.

At the end of the programme, participants showcase their innovations during our BOOST Graduation or Demo Days. Together with our partners, we select and award equity-free grants to the most promising innovations, to enable their further scaling and sustainability.

Read more about how BOOST works [here](#).

OUR STORY

[Read BOOST's story](#) and how we launched in 2020.

Find out more about what we've achieved in our [2021 Programme Report](#).



BOOST x Kosovo represents a pioneering initiative introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its collaboration with the Government of Japan, the Innovation Centre Kosovo (ICK), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Its primary objective is to provide assistance to the private sector, with a particular focus on empowering young entrepreneurs, in their endeavors to cultivate novel business models that prioritize innovation, circularity, and zero-emissions. By inaugurating BOOST, our intention is to address these existing disparities and uphold our commitment to nurturing sustainable and robust business models within the private sector.

Maria Suokko
RR, UNDP Kosovo

BOOST x Kosovo

The Kosovo Green Challenge 2022-2023

Programme overview

BOOST's unique 5-week acceleration program was conducted in a hybrid format (offline & online) from November 8 to December 12, 2022. It consisted of individual and group mentoring sessions for entrepreneurship, coaching, and technical advice aimed at advancing impact-driven capabilities, improving business skills, investment readiness, and soft skills, including networking and pitching skills. The program provided a learning and capability development journey that consisted of four core modules and three boosters.

Programme modules

MODULE 1: Impact Measurement and Management

Module 1 focused on equipping SMEs with a better understanding of the concept and principles of impact, and how it relates to sustainability and scalability. SMEs learned how to develop SDG-aligned impact visions and theories of change, with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) indicators for proper impact monitoring and management.

MODULE 2: Tech and Digital Transformation

Module 2 consisted of a self-paced online training course focused on the principles of digital development and how they can be applied to drive social impact.

The course introduced nine digital principles, contextualised them in a case study, and showcased tools and resources that can be applied to all stages of a project life cycle.

MODULE 3: Entrepreneurship Business Acceleration

Module 3 focused on developing SMEs' business, organisational, and management skills and capabilities. Participants had access to a step-by-step roadmap and approaches to build enduring business models to further develop and scale their projects and solutions. Topics covered in this module included Design thinking, Understanding your Target Group and Value Proposition, Prototyping, Building and Testing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), Business Model Innovation, Financial Resilience, Innovative Finance, Design and Branding Strategies, Storytelling, Preparing and Presenting a Pitch Deck.

MODULE 4: Green Transformation

Module 4 introduced the green economy concept, environmental challenges, and circular economy. During the sessions, participants explored ways to promote an inclusive green economy and integrate innovation and green transition into their business models (enhancing energy management in the commercial and industrial domains, main risks and their mitigation, financing possibilities, market trends, etc.).

Programme boosters



TOKYO TALKS

Throughout the programme, participants accessed four inspirational talks with successful entrepreneurs, philanthropists, global leaders, and experts from Japan. The objective was to shed light on specific topics relevant for the participating SMEs, inspire and share learnings. The four talks were delivered by representatives of Toyota Adria, Mitsubishi Cooperation, Parson and the Biomass, Research and Development Company.



MENTORSHIP AND PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

To ensure the best outcome of the learning journey, participants were matched with mentors with whom they had meetings to discuss and evaluate their organisation's progress. These focal points and mentors were also matched with relevant individuals, organisations and investors in their respective networks as well as facilitated peer-to-peer learning by connecting SMEs working in similar fields and/or using similar technologies or business models.



ALUMNI NETWORK

At the end of the programme, the graduates were offered to join the BOOST Alumni network, facilitated by UNDP's Innovation team at the Istanbul Regional Hub. Through this network, the graduates will have access to information about capacity development, networking and funding opportunities and will have the opportunity to connect with previous and future BOOST graduates.



BOOST Challenge was ground-breaking initiative because it marked the first-time partnership between different stakeholders that have come together to support the private sector on developing green innovative initiatives. SMEs are an important partner for achieving EBRD's mandate of transition to sustainable market economies and thus for delivering on its green objectives.

Leonora Kusari

*Regional Coordinator,
BIP, SME F&D at EBRD*

Results and impact



What BOOST x Kosovo participants are saying?

94%

of the BOOST graduates **would recommend** the BOOST programme to others.

“The BOOST x Kosovo programme was well-structured in guiding SMEs on how to become more green and sustainable. Experts in different fields helped us to clearly define our business model and align it with the SDGs.”

Beepark, Kosovo

“BOOST x Kosovo has been a great learning and sharing experience. It was a pleasure to attend workshops and presentations by experienced and professional presenters from whom we learned a lot for the current and future development of our business.”

Superexplorers, Kosovo

“When I applied, I wasn't very sure about participation, but my journey during the training process completely changed my impression. It was an intense period during which we learned many new and necessary things for our business and professional development. As a result, we are now more satisfied with our staff and associates.”

Bio 365 Kosovo, Kosovo

“As a new startup and small business, BOOST x Kosovo helped us identify our strengths and weaknesses and develop a suitable business model. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn, network, enhance our project planning, and the support we received. In particular, the Impact Measurement & Management module made a significant change in our business model approach, which should be emphasised even more.”

PNC, Kosovo

OVERALL SATISFACTION RATE

★★★★★ – 4.55 out of 5

RELEVANCE RATE

★★★★★ – 4.66 out of 5

CONTENT SESSIONS & TEACHING STYLE

★★★★★ – 4.39 out of 5

78%

RATED MENTORING

5 OUT OF 5 ★★★★★

78%

indicated that the Impact Measurement & Management and Green transformation modules were the most relevant for their organisation.

MODULE 1: Impact Measurement & Management

New skill sets and capabilities

72%

gained a better understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Following the programme, the organisations reported skills and capability development in several fields:

89%

connected with impact experts and developed an impact management and monitoring framework for their project.

83%

improved their knowledge of impact goals and indicators of development.

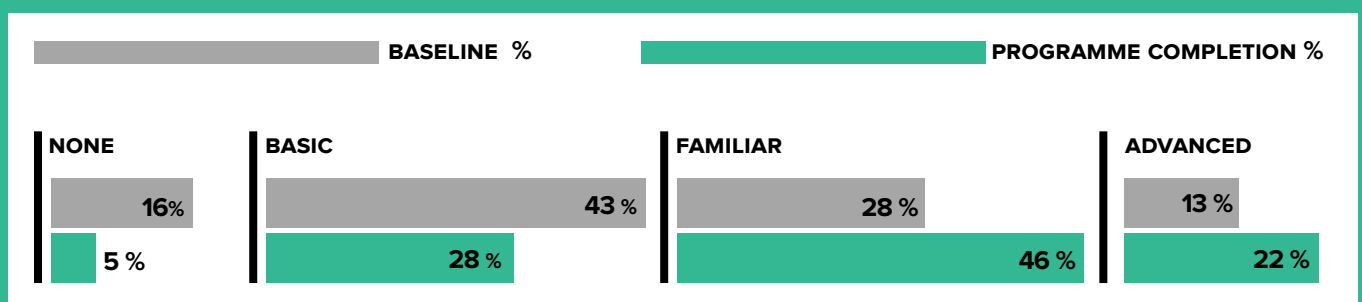
83%

improved skills and knowledge related to impact measurement.

78%

stated they are now familiar or advanced in designing problem statements.

Theory of change (ToC) in place for organisation



MODULE 2: Tech and Digital Transformation

67%

advanced their knowledge about data (generation, management, analytics, etc.), including how their organisation can leverage open source data.

56%

advanced their digital skills set and knowledge enabling them to perform more effectively and detect both opportunities and risks associated with digital transformation.

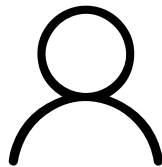
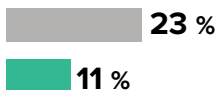
50%

gained knowledge on new and emerging technologies, digital tools, and innovative solutions

Data users: how organizations describe their relationship with data



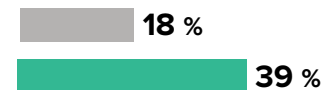
I AM A CONSUMER OF INFORMATION. I don't use data, but I consume data products.



I AM A DATA INTERMEDIARY. I take data and turn it into actionable information.



I AM A PRODUCER OF DATA. I create data on a regular basis.



BASELINE %

FINAL SURVEY %

MODULE 3: Entrepreneurship Business Acceleration

89 %

OF ORGANISATIONS FURTHER DEVELOPED THEIR BUSINESS MODELS AND PLANS DURING THE PROGRAMME

83 %

IMPROVED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THEIR CUSTOMERS AND/OR TARGET GROUPS, ULTIMATELY INFLUENCING THEIR STRATEGIES AND GROWTH PLANS

Overall organisational capacity/knowledge in the following areas:

	Business development	Project management	Team management	Tech. skills in your field	Marketing & Branding
BASELINE	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	ADVANCED	BASIC
PROGRAMME COMPLETION	ADVANCED	ADVANCED	ADVANCED	ADVANCED	FAMILIAR

32

PITCH DECKS WERE DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED, AND TESTED ON INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND THE BOOST X KOSOVO EVALUATION PANEL.



MODULE 4: Green Transformation



Overall organisational capacity/knowledge in the following areas:

	Green (Inclusive) Economy Concept	Environmental Challenges	Circular Economy	Transformational Leadership	Green Solutions
BASELINE	FAMILIAR	ADVANCED	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR
PROGRAMME COMPLETION	ADVANCED	ADVANCED	ADVANCED	FAMILIAR	ADVANCED

IMPACT STORIES

Green Solutions Portfolio



FightorFlight

Sector: Fashion/textiles
Stage: Growth

FightorFlight produces streetwear for all genders, using deadstock fabrics and technical textiles that are engineered to provide functionality and durability.

FightorFlight website 



Masar Tocani

Sector: Veterinary
Stage: Prototype

Animal waste management for pollution reduction.



Behamics

Sector: ICT
Stage: Early-stage

Behamics works on integrating AI software in eCommerce online stores to analyze user behaviour for key insights on why consumers return items after purchase, thereby reducing product returns. This aims to lower CO2 emissions from delivery trucks and the number of products that end up in landfills. beneficial aspect of the BOOST programme for Olena.

Behamics website 



Superexplorers

Sector: Tourism
Stage: Scaling

New eco-tourism packages for mountain biking & long-distance hiking along the High Scardus Trail, a transnational hiking trail with a total length of 495 km covering the border area of Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo.

Superexplorers website 

IMPACT STORIES



Gobeyond

Sector: Agriculture
Stage: Early-stage

Gobeyond converts organic side and waste-streams into high-quality protein for animal feed and natural fertilizer using the power of insects. The project intends to contribute to re-think food & waste systems and to develop effective alternatives to managing waste.

Gobeyond website 



Botanic

Sector: Agriculture
Stage: Market extension

Botanic is working to introduce regenerative agriculture practices in Kosovo with a focus on the food processing sector. It seeks to provide healthy and safe products by reducing the carbon footprint in agriculture and food consumption.

Botanic website 



Enchele

Sector: Climate Tech
Stage: Pilot

Enchele is developing a system to automate heating in homes and buildings without human interaction based on the preferences and needs of the occupants. It saves up to 35% of energy by only heating specific areas frequented by the users. Additionally, all data generated is shared with grid operators for improved energy predictions and energy transition purposes.

Enchele website 



Beepark

Sector: Agriculture
Stage: -

Beepark is working to protect bees from extinction. It is developing API inhalation therapy as well as raising awareness among new generations about the role of beekeeping for the environment.

Beepark website 

IMPACT STORIES



Kosovo Glass Recycling

Sector: Recycling
Stage: Validation

Given that glass waste is the only thing that is not being recycled in Kosovo, Kosovo Glass Recycling deals with glass waste, including: terazzo tiles, glass cullet, pool filtration glass media, interior and exterior elements, artisan handmade products.

Kosovo Glass Recycling website 



Greenergy

Sector: Production
Stage: Early-stage

Greenergy produces affordable, organic-certified, and sustainable-produced spices, using agricultural waste and circular economy.

Greenergy website 



PNC

Sector: Veterinary
Stage: Prototype

PNC aims to reduce material waste in the wood manufacturing industry in Kosovo through software optimization. Through software solutions and further digitalization of material optimization, various types of businesses in Kosovo in the wood industry will have the chance to lower their material waste while increasing their production.



Eco Solution Research

Sector: Fashion/textiles
Stage: Growth

Eco Solution Research produces organic fertilizers and biogas.

IMPACT STORIES



Bio 365 Kosovo

Sector: Agriculture

Stage: -

Given that glass waste is the only thing that is not being recycled in Kosovo, Kosovo Glass Recycling deals with glass waste, including: terazzo tiles, glass cullet, pool filtration glass media, interior and exterior elements, artisan handmade products.

Bio 365 Kosovo website 



Boronica e sharrit

Sector: Veterinary

Stage: Prototype

Through the Cold Storage Evaporator Panel Fruit Refrigerator Chamber, Boronica e Sharrit aims to save energy and protect the environment. Power cuts will no longer affect the business, and Boronica e sharrit will be able to offer fresh blueberries all year round.

Boronica e sharrit website 



Smart Parking

Sector: Metal construction industry

Stage: Prototype

Smart Parking is working on a long-term solution for urban parking in Kosovo's major municipalities by bringing to the market an innovative product: VERTICAL ROTARY PARKING (VRP). The concept enables multilateral cooperation between local authorities, the private business sector, and citizens.

Development PARTNERS



UNDP

UNDP operates in over 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and promote sustainable development. Our experts help countries develop policies, leadership skills, partnership capabilities, institutional capacities, and resilience to ensure sustained development outcomes. As part of the UNDP Innovation Community in Europe and Central Asia, we help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by harnessing the potential of the data revolution, new technologies, innovative finance and systemic ways of working.



UNDP in Kosovo

On the ground in Kosovo since 1999, the United Nations Development Programme has earned a reputation as an independent and experienced partner in the collective effort to build and strengthen Kosovo institutions and achieve sustainable development.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan is committed to the environmental and climate change issues in Kosovo. In the past 12 years, it has implemented more than 50 projects in Kosovo. Currently, Japan is supporting countries all over the world in the transition towards net-zero carbon emissions. The people of Japan make the BOOST programme possible through the Climate Promise: Growth through Green and Just Recovery from COVID-19 project, speeding up Kosovo's efforts in moving towards a greener and more climate-resilient future.

Development PARTNERS



The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

(EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. As a multilateral developmental investment bank, the EBRD uses investment as a tool to build market economies. In Kosovo we focus on developing a more competitive and inclusive private sector, supporting green energy transition, and strengthening regional integration, connectivity, and foreign investment.

Raiffeisen Bank in Kosovo (RBKO)

UNDP Kosovo and Raiffeisen Bank in Kosovo have established a collaborative partnership through a memorandum of cooperation, with the objective of promoting green recovery within the private sector. This joint endeavor is designed to offer support to the private sector in Kosovo, specifically focusing on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in their endeavors to facilitate the green transition. The collaboration aims to achieve this by enhancing access to finance, providing capacity building programs, and fostering knowledge sharing at both regional and local levels through the BOOST x Kosovo initiative.

As part of this collaboration, Raiffeisen Bank Kosova will extend its support to five selected SMEs participating in the BOOST Program through grants. Additionally, all participants of BOOST x Kosovo will benefit from financial products that are aligned with the principles of Environment, Society, and Governance (ESG)-linked finance. These financial offerings aim to assist businesses in their transition towards a greener economy.

Implementing PARTNER



Innovation Centre Kosovo

Innovation Centre Kosovo (ICK) is a centre whose aim is to connect the research and development component of the scientific field with the business sector, focusing on creating new job opportunities oriented towards the future, based on knowledge and new technology. ICK was founded to support entrepreneurship, innovation and commercially based business development, with a focus on information and communication technology. The centre supports both start-ups and existing companies with the potential for growth.

The BOOST x Kosovo TEAM

ENISA SERHATI
Team Lead

ANDREAS NORD
Accelerator Support

RIKARD SJOSTRAND
BOOST Project Manager

ALBAN KRYEZIU,
Accelerator Support

BLIN BERDONIQI
BOOST x Kosovo Project Analyst

SVETLA BAEVA
Communications Lead

TEODOR PETRICEVIC
Accelerator Lead

RINA ABAZI
Communication Expert



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