
REGIONAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP 2023, KOSOVO CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS (15 JUNE / 5-6 SEPTEMBER 2023)

Climate change has led to an increased level of uncertainty regarding our future. Its effects are felt locally, in urbanized areas, and in rural and coastal communities. The impacts of climate change, leading to reduced productivity, food shortages, overall economic instability, security issues, and increasing social inequalities, are intensifying over time, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable members of society.

On the other hand, a shift to a green economy can create millions of sustainable jobs, especially for younger generations who are at the most significant risk of suffering from the negative impacts of climate change. Local governments have a critical role in this transition, as they can work collaboratively with national and international organisations, grassroots organisations, the private sector, and the communities they represent to mitigate the effects of climate change and help people adapt to its impacts.

The Helvetas Regional Advocacy Network <http://regionaladvocacynetwork.com/> calls for a response and action to climate change and environmental degradation. We recognize the role of citizens, the private sector, local and national government, civil society organizations, and international development in ecological matters and guarantee participative democracy in adopting climate-related policy change. Policy changes, while not the only tool, can help spur large-scale change.

Our projects and partners (network members) advocate and align their interventions with **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the **Paris Climate Agreement**, and **EU Green Deal**, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which call for **urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**.

However, we have observed that the knowledge and commitment of policymakers and groups of interest still need to be improved to influence decision-makers to make significant changes in the climate change transition.

Through the Climate Change Matters Workshop, we want to expand our know-how about relevant policy frameworks, create space for positive influence, promote ourselves and our policy achievements, align and network with other initiatives, and exchange and build synergies with other partners on Climate Change issues.

Methodology:

Following an **integrated and systems approach** in our advocacy and policy work, the Regional Advocacy Workshop 2023 will bring together Helvetas project teams with partners and counterparts from civil society, governments, the private sector, research, and academia. The workshop thus provides a platform for **multi-stakeholder debate** about policy framework and **advocacy entry points**. It exposes participants to good practices and challenges that civil society, public and private sectors face in exercising their **policy-making roles** and responsibilities regarding climate actions.

The **2023 Regional Advocacy Workshop** will be held in two sessions:

- *Advocacy Talks Online Webinar: Policy Solutions for Climate Change Actions* (June 15)
- *Climate Change Matters Kosovo f2f WSH* (September 5-6)

The presence in the Online webinar is an *essential condition* for the participants in the f2f WSH. Both the Online webinar and f2f WSh will lead participants in answering 3 questions:

- Why do Policy and Advocacy for Climate Change Matter to Me/Us?
- How does the policy framework provide solutions for my/our work (good practices from experienced policy players and change-makers)?
- What are the entry points for policy improvements and advocacy in my/our work?
- So what's next, and what do I need to make it work?

Advocacy Talks Online Webinar: Policy Solutions for Climate Change Actions (June 15) will be focused on global climate policy framed by the UNFCCC (United National Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the Paris Agreement and manifested at the regional (EU Green Deal) and national levels (with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions outlining their efforts in decarbonization and adaptation to climate change).

The key invited speaker was Rupa Mukerji, Senior Advisor on adaptation to climate change in Helvetas, and Climate and Environment Advisors from GIZ, IFC, Government Representatives, Researchers from Bern University, Helvetas, etc. The experts build the understanding of participants on policy architecture and shared field policy/advocacy actions that have worked on climate change action. Please, consult the link of the webinar and Blog on our webpgae <http://regionaladvocacynetwork.com/>

Climate Change Matters Kosovo f2f WSH (September 5-6) will be focused on the *EU Green Deal* impacts on the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership and advocacy efforts for decarbonization and adaptation strategies and plans at all levels of governance (incl. the private and academia/research sector) and institutional set-ups (incl. coalitions and networks contributing to advocacy work).

Participants will be provided access to policy documents, advocacy cases, and policy networks such as the *European Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*, *Climate Action Network* etc. They will have the space to present and improve their ongoing advocacy/policy efforts, receive mentorship and advice to develop solutions for their challenges from their peers and experienced change makers, get exposure to the last policy trends, experience the implications of climate change and co-design ideas for making change happen.

A thematic and advocacy/policy team will back up the WSH. The participants will be able to process benefiting from the reach experience of Rupa Mukerji, Senior Advisor on adaptation to climate change; Anastasia Bekish, Environment and Climate Change Advisor for Eastern Europe; Bernd Steimann, Development and Policy Coordinator and a panel of donors/projects with experience on Climate Change.

Time	Workshop Objectives	Expected results	Participants
June 15 th September 5-6	(i) Build the understanding of projects and partners on policy and advocacy for climate change. (ii) Capitalise, learn, promote, and improve our advocacy actions on climate change.	Ideas for advancing with advocacy for climate change are generated, improved, documented, and disseminated at and across the project, country, and regional levels.	Regional Advocacy Network Members Project teams and Partners from Eastern Europe/Western Balkan

Regional Advocacy Workshop Kosovo, 5-6 September 2023



Decentralisation and Municipal Support



Enhancing Youth Employment



Revitalize Reconnect Reshape



..... Input Group Work Excursion Panel Discussion

DAY ONE (Tue Sep 5) Exploring Context, Mainstreaming, Learning from Others		
Objective	Build an understanding of projects and partners about <i>Advocacy/Policy for Climate Change</i>	
Method	<i>Presentations, Discussions, Exposure, Field Visit, Best Practices, Networking, Reading in Advance</i>	
Time	Content	Lead / Notes
08.45-09.00	Regional Advocacy Network and Regional Strategy: What happened so far? Workshop Agenda (announce voluntary coaching slots and assign yourself to the Field visit Group, collaborative space)	Snezana, Valbona, Bernd
09:00-09:20	Official Workshop Opening from Country Office and Kosovo Authorities: Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), Deputy Mayor of the City of Prishtina	Kosovo Authorities and Helvetas Country Office (DEMOS, EYE, RECONOMY)
09:20-10:10	Input: Climate Change – The Political and institutional context from the global to the local level (with a focus on the EU Green Deal and sectorial policies relevant to the region) <i>Note: All participants are asked before the workshop to watch (again) the Advocacy Webinar on Climate Advocacy and read our Blog (with a focus on global climate policy architecture).</i> <i>Followed by Q&A and Discussion</i>	Anastasia Bekish, Rupa Mukerji
10:10	Group Work A: Climate change context analysis by country Country teams investigate the policy, legal, and institutional framework of climate politics in their country and their respective thematic area. <i>Selected brief presentations/feedback from groups (only if time allows)</i> <i>Note: Participants are advised in advance to familiarise themselves with the policy framework on climate change in their country. Take at least one laptop per country with You (our intention is to use as little as possible paper)</i>	Rupa, Anastasia supported by Bernd
11:15-11:30	Coffee break is served during Group Work (if times allows afterwards selected Group Presentations)	
11:30-12:30	Group Work B: Assess and improve your project's climate sensitivity Introduction of the new Helvetas <i>Cross-cutting Themes Navigation Tool</i> – with a focus on climate advocacy. <i>Selected brief presentations/feedback from groups</i> <i>Note: Participants are advised to have the project log frame as a reference for their group work. Share your work in the collaborative space.</i>	Bernd, Rupa supported by Anastasia and Valbona

12:30-13:00	<p>Input: Climate Youth Negotiator Programme (CYNP) - Opportunities for the Western Balkans (hybrid session) CYNP trains connects, and empowers youth negotiators to participate in the UNFCCC negotiations as part of their country's official delegation – and is currently looking for suitable candidates from Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.</p> <p><i>Note: Participants are asked to mobilize youth negotiators once they are back</i></p>	Rupa Mukerji, Marie-Claire Graf
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 16:45	<p>Field Visit: Learn from inspiring climate advocacy initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable mobility (E-taxi) - (Re)skilling for Smart Buildings - Governance (visit at the City of Prishtina – Air Quality Action Plan and Waste Management) <p><i>Note: Participants are asked to join one of the groups for field visits along with their interests</i> <i>Note: Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothes</i></p>	Kosovo Office E-taxi Company ArchiEDU Prishtina Municipality
16:45-17:15	<p>Takeaways from Day One</p> <p>Share your experience with other groups and exchange with the Advisor to the Minister of MESPI</p>	Field visit reporters, Facilitators, Agim Mazreku (Advisor MESPI)
17:15-18:00	<p>Open Space for bilateral coaching (on demand) Participants can exchange with their peers bilaterally or with selected experts on specific issues of concern (based on demand)</p> <p>Visit Kosovo National Museum¹</p> <p><i>Note: Interested participants are asked to express their interest in advance</i></p>	Experts and Kosovo Office
19:00	Joint Dinner in town	

DAY TWO (Wed, Sep 6) | Learn and Act for Climate Change

Objective	Capitalise, learn, promote, initiate and improve our Advocacy/Policy Actions on Climate Change.	
Method	<i>Case studies-Market of Ideas-Panel with Questions and Reflections-Act for Change-Coaching</i>	
09:00-09:20	<p>Opening & Energizer Quick summary of main takeaways of Day 1 (2-3 volunteers) Present Workshop Agenda Day 2</p>	Volunteers, Facilitators
09:20-10:50	<p>Input: Advocacy in Action (hybrid) Selected changemakers from the region (online or in the room) share their experiences and present their initiatives, stories of success and failure around climate advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Going GREEN at the city level (ii) Climate Awareness and Education (CAA) 	Valbona and Participants Julinda Dhame (CMCE, Tirana) Ben Dida (CAA, Kosovo)

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_Museum

	(iii) Climate Change and Security (OSCE)	Esra Buttanri and Elton Qendro (OSCE)
	(iv) Mainstreaming circular economy in the private sector action (GIZ)	Genc Demiraj (GIZ)
10:50-11:20	Coffee break with guest speakers	
11:20-12:30	Group Work C: Dream big – design your next ‘climate transformative’ project (next phase of your project or new project) along the Global Green Initiatives <i>Working in thematic groups (e.g. vocational education, private sector development, civil society support) designing integrated interventions</i> <i>Selected brief presentations / feedback from groups</i> <i>Note: Every project/Team is asked to share the results of Group Work with us in the collaborative space.</i>	Bernd, Rupa Supported by Anastasia and Valbona
12:30-12:45	Explain potential funding opportunity with Strategic Acceleration Fund (SAF)	Rupa
12:45-14:00	Lunch (with guest speakers and panel members)	
14:00-15:30	Panel & Fishbowl Discussion Opportunities and Challenges for Advocacy and Policy Action on Climate Change Discuss Helvetas Learnings with representatives of EU Delegation, German Embassy, Swiss and Swedish Development Cooperation	Facilitation: Snezana and Ertan Guest Speaker
15:30-16:00	Coffee break (with panellists)	
16:00-16:15	Joint reflection on the panel discussion – collect key takeaway messages	Valbona and Bernd supported by Anastasia, Rupa, Valbona, Bernd
16:15-17:15	Next steps – Regional Network and # DevPolHack • Introduce #DevPolHack and Network Webpage • Launch a call for expression of interest for the next Hack	Valbona, Bernd
17:15-17:30	Wrap-up & brief evaluation (Questionnaire) https://forms.office.com/e/espsSDcUxE	Valbona, Bernd
17.30-18:30	Open Space: bilateral coaching session “on demand”	Like Day One
19:00	Joint Dinner (for those who stay)	

September 7 (09-13.30): Internal follow-up workshop of the Regional Advocacy Network with a focus on the annual planning 2024. Separate invitations is shared with those who should participate.

Collaborative Platform: You'll be granted access to a collaborative platform where you can network, access documents, and upload your Group Work.

