2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

Fostering Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Growth

REA

Prishtina REA

Executive Overview

The **Prishtina REA Annual Report 2025** highlights a year of strong performance, strategic growth, and expanding regional and international impact. Throughout 2025, Prishtina REA advanced its position as a leading innovation and development actor in Kosovo and the Western Balkans, delivering measurable results across innovation support, SME competitiveness, digital transformation, skills development, sustainability and internationalisation.

The Agency successfully implemented a diverse portfolio of E**U-funded and donor-supported programmes**, including Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), EEN2EIC, EENergy, Erasmus+ initiatives, EU Single Market Programme actions, cross-border cooperation projects and major communication and visibility campaigns. Through these initiatives, Prishtina REA supported **hundreds of SMEs, start-ups, VET institutions, professionals and young people**, strengthening their capacity to innovate, scale, and integrate into European and global markets.

A defining milestone of 2025 was the **Balkonnect Festival Prishtina (1st edition)**, which emerged as a flagship regional platform for innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship. Bringing together participants from 37 countries, the festival facilitated extensive B2B matchmaking, investment discussions and sectoral dialogue, reinforcing the Western Balkans' position as an emerging, connected innovation ecosystem.

Across the year, Prishtina REA delivered **47 major events and structured activities**, engaged over **2,600 participants and beneficiaries**, facilitated international study visits, strengthened cleantech and green transition initiatives, supported digital and ICT skills development and advanced inclusive and sustainable tourism. The organisation also deepened cooperation with international partners, including EU institutions, regional networks and global actors such as France, Taiwan, further expanding opportunities for Kosovo's businesses and innovators.

Overall, 2025 demonstrated Prishtina REA's ability to combine **strategic vision with operational excellence**, delivering tangible economic, social and environmental impact while contributing to Kosovo's European integration, regional cooperation and long-term sustainable development.

Director's New Year –
Closing 2025 and Opening 2026

Prishtina REA Innovation, Ecosystem Leadership, Internationalisation & Regional Transformation

As we conclude 2025, we reflect on a year in which Prishtina REA strengthened its role as a leading innovation development actor, catalyst of digital transformation and trusted partner in Kosovo, the Western Balkans and Europe. This has been a year defined by measurable achievements, ecosystem growth, international partnerships and

forward-looking initiatives that positioned our region more confidently on the global map of transformation and opportunity.

2025, A Year of Milestones, Impact and Strategic Progress

Throughout 2025, Prishtina REA successfully advanced multiple strategic priorities,including:

o Innovation and Digital Advancement, empowering youth, professionals, institutions and enterprises with future skills, technological readiness and innovation capacity.

o Ecosystem Strengthening, connecting private sector, academia, civil society, institutions, start-ups and innovators into collaborative frameworks that generate value, knowledge exchange, and sustainable development.

o Internationalisation and European Integration, deepening cooperation with EU institutions, development partners, regional mechanisms and global stakeholders to enable mobility, financing, partnership building and shared progress.

o Economic, Social and Sustainable Development, supporting entrepreneurship, sector competitiveness, green transition, responsible tourism, agriculture advancement and labour market resilience.

o Excellence in Programme Delivery, accountability, measurable results, stakeholder trust and impactful implementation across EU and donor-funded initiatives.

A landmark of 2025 was the successful preparation and momentum toward the Balkonnect Festival Prishtina 2025 (1st edition), which stands as a defining symbol of innovation, financing, matchmaking and networking.Balkonnect Festival represents not only an event, but a powerful identity of regional transformation, bringing together investors, innovators, institutions and international partners to unlock opportunities and shape new horizons.

Acknowledgment and Gratitude

These achievements would not have been possible without the commitment, professionalism and collaboration of our:

o Dedicated Prishtina REA staff distinguished associates and experts institutional partners and municipalities private sector, SMEs and industry

o Stakeholders, academic and vocational partners

o Civil society actors and developmentnetworks

o European Union institutions and international donors

o Regional and European collaborating organisations to each of you, I extend my sincere appreciation for your trust, resilience, partnership and belief in our shared mission.

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2026 - A Vision of Innovation, Ecosystem Maturity and Global Connection

As we enter 2026, Prishtina REA moves forward with strengthened ambition, clarity of purpose anda bold vision. The coming year will build upon our achievements while opening new pathways in innovation leadership, ecosystem strengthening, sustainability and deeper international engagement.

In 2026, we expect to:

-Advance innovation ecosystems and future technologies, fostering environments where creativity, research, entrepreneurship and technology converge to power growth.

-Accelerate digital skills, AI readiness and workforce competitiveness, preparing citizens and businesses for the evolving global economy.

-Strengthen Western Balkan regional cooperation and integration, enhancing collaboration, knowledge transfer, mobility and shared development initiatives.

-Promote sustainable growth, green transition and responsible development, aligning regional priorities with European and global standards.

o Ensure inclusiveness and opportunity, empowering youth, women and communitiesto participate equally in development, innovation and economic progress.

o Lead with reliability and excellence, upholding our commitment to high standards, impact, transparency and strategic leadership. A defining milestone ahead will be the Balkonnect Festival Tirana 2026 (2nd edition), designed to further elevate the Western Balkans as a globally connected, competitive, and innovation-driven region, bridging local strength with international opportunity.

Looking Forward with Confidence

2026 will be a year of transformation, new opportunities, stronger ecosystems and global positioning. Prishtina REA will continue to serve as a bridge between local ambition and international potential, driving innovation, collaboration, knowledge and sustainable impact for our society, economy, and future generations.

On behalf of Prishtina REA, I wish everyone a successful, prosperous and inspiring 2026. Together, we will continue to shape a smarter, more innovative, interconnected and forward-looking Western Balkans, bridging it globally.

Warm regards,
Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti
Director - Prishtina REA

Key Projects in 2025

- **Readiness Scorecard (IRS)-EEN2EIC / APRE 5**
- **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Kosovo** – COSME / SMP (2022-2025)
- **EEN KosInn** (2025–2028)
- **ENTAIL** – Erasmus+
- **STRUCTUVET** – Erasmus+
- **CASSINI Hackathon** – 10th Edition (Space Technology)
- **Design and Development of Four Single Market Programme Video Guides for Albanian SMEs** – EBRD Albania
- **Resilient Ecosystem for Empowering Tourism SMEs (PHOENIX)** – SMP-COSME-2023-Tourism
- **EU4Innovation – Kosovo eID**
- **EIC Communities Project**
- **EEN2EIC**
- **EENergy**
- **EU Support to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications in Kosovo** – Communication and Visibility Campaign (WEglobal / EU)
- **Awareness and Information Campaign on Dog Registration, Microchipping, Animal Welfare, and Non-Abandonment –** Communication and Visibility Campaign (WEglobal / EU)
- **Developing Capacity for VET Systems in the Western Balkans**
- **Tourism for Future** – CBC Kosovo–Montenegro
- **Balkonnect Festival 2025**
- **Web Application Development & Cloud Computing in Prishtina & Mitrovica**
- **Taiwan–Kosovo Business Cooperation Initiative**
- **Etc.**

Annual Activities Snapshot

Events & Activities

- **47** total events and structured activities
- **20** international B2B & matchmaking events
- **3** international study visits (Finland, Spain, Italy)
- **4** major flagship events (Balkonnect Festival, Phoenix 4.0, ICT Training, CASSINI Hackathon)
- **20 trainings, workshops, info sessions, certification ceremonies.**

Participants & Beneficiaries

- **2,600+** total participants, beneficiaries, students, and staff reached
- **450** participants – Balkonnect Festival
- **480** participants – international B2B events
- **258** participants – Phoenix 4.0 trainings
- **378** participants – ICT & digital skills trainings
- **246** students and **46** VET staff – Work-Based Learning activities
- **11** VET schools involved in study visits
- **25** participants – social inclusion seminar (Helsinki)

Innovation, Cleantech & EU Programmes

- **29** participants – EIC Cleantech Portfolio Day
- **40** participants, **4** teams – CASSINI Hackathon (EU Space)
- **30** beneficiaries – EENergy Project
- **20** SMEs supported – EEN2EIC (EIC Accelerator guidance)
- **2** applications – EIC Accelerator
- **1** application – EIC Pre-Accelerator

SME Support & Business Results

- **968** EEN regular clients
- **131** SMEs received advisory services
- **21** SMEs received Investment Readiness support
- **21** business agreements signed

Sustainability & Tourism

- **20** tourism SMEs certified with ECO LABEL
- **15** local professionals trained and certified as ECO LABEL auditors
- **30** participants – Eco Trails Peja–Kolašin

Employment & Skills Development

- **21** internships facilitated
- **81** participants – Web Application Development & Cloud Computing
- **297** participants – ICT Training (10th Semester)

The Investment Readiness Support (IRS) activities

Following the signing of the agreement on **21 November 2025** between APRE – Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea and Prishtina REA, acting as an accredited Investment Readiness Support (IRS) Organization within the Enterprise Europe Network, Prishtina REA successfully organized the EU/EIC Investor Readiness ScoreCard (IRS) Platform Workshop on **10 December 2025** at Europe House, Prishtina.

The workshop brought together 40 representatives of innovative SMEs from a wide range of sectors, with a strong focus on women-led enterprises and companies from Widening Countries. The event aimed to help SMEs better understand investor expectations and to strengthen their investment readiness for attracting private investment and preparing for potential participation in the EIC Accelerator.

Participants were introduced to the EU/EIC Investor Readiness ScoreCard (IRS) Platform, a structured tool designed to assess investment readiness across key areas such as business model, market potential, technology, team, and financial planning. Through practical presentations and a live walk-through of the platform, SMEs gained hands-on insights into how the IRS supports fundraising strategies and investor communication.

The workshop was followed by individual advisory sessions delivered by Prishtina REA experts. During these one-to-one meetings, SMEs received tailored guidance to complete the IRS self-assessment and to further refine their business propositions. As a result, 21 innovative SMEs successfully completed the IRS assessment, benefiting from personalized mentoring and practical support.

The CleanTech Community of Practice Portfolio Days 2025

The CleanTech Community of Practice Portfolio Days took place in November and *December 2025 as part of the EIC Communities Project funded by Horizon Europe, coordinated by EBN* and implemented by Prishtina REA, which served as the thematic expert organization for CleanTech. The activities were structured over two main events: the thematic workshops on 12 November 2025, held online from 13:30 to 17:00 CET, and the Portfolio Day on 9 December 2025, held online from 09:30 to 12:40 CET. These events brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including EIC-funded innovators, regional ecosystem actors, investors, policymakers, SMEs, and research and technology centers from Europe and the Western Balkans. A total of fifty-four participants attended the thematic workshops, with thirty participants in the first workshop and twenty-four in the second, while twenty-nine participants attended the Portfolio Day, demonstrating strong engagement from regional and European actors in advancing cleantech innovation and investment-readiness.

The first workshop, "Renewable and Green – A Transformed and Automated Growth Ecosystem," was moderated by Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti from Prishtina REA, a recognized expert in energy efficiency, digital solutions, and cleantech ecosystem development. Panelists included Benjamin Barthelemy from the Data Green Center in France, who shared insights on how AI and edge computing can improve energy efficiency, resilience, and the prioritization of renewable energy resources in real-world infrastructure projects; Driton Hetemi from the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund, who presented on smart systems, digital solutions, and energy efficiency measures accelerating the building cleantech landscape; and Er Aashish Gupta from the Global Chamber of Commerce & Industry, who highlighted strategies for cross-border collaboration, sustainable investments, and green technology adoption. The workshop examined how automation, digital platforms, and technological innovation can transform renewable energy ecosystems, providing practical guidance for SMEs and regional actors seeking to implement scalable, energy-efficient solutions.

The second workshop, "Financing and Investment Challenges in Cleantech," also moderated by Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti, focused on strategies for overcoming financial and investment barriers in cleantech adoption. Panelists included Dr. Christine Lemaitre from DGNB, Germany,

who shared expertise on sustainable building certification, innovation, and internationally recognized business practices; Fahrush Azemi from the Kosovo Green Building Council, who provided insights on sustainable construction and renewable energy solutions; and Nastasija Stojanovikj from RECONOMY / HELVETAS, who brought expertise in circular economy initiatives, cross-border collaboration, and regional capacity-building. The discussions highlighted the importance of certification, standardized performance metrics, digital tools, and public-private partnerships in de-risking investments, supporting innovation uptake, and scaling energy-efficient solutions across emerging and established markets.

The Portfolio Day on 9 December 2025 gathered twenty-nine participants, providing a platform for EIC-funded project teams to present, discuss, and evaluate cleantech innovations across multiple domains, including renewable energy, environmental preservation, energy solutions, and circular construction materials. Opening remarks were delivered by Joanna Abi Abdallah from EBN, Stefania De Santi from APRE, and Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti from Prishtina REA. The sessions included a panel discussion on innovation, technology, and efficiency in cleantech, moderated by Rexhep Ilazi, focusing on translational approaches in cleantech technologies, hybrid construction methodologies, modular design, and advanced digital solutions. Keynote presentations highlighted innovation in building materials and modular construction by Besart Hajrizi from the InstaBuilt Innovation Centre and Vasilis Rokos from Roka Refractories, demonstrating how advanced materials and R&D-driven approaches can enhance efficiency, sustainability, and performance in construction projects.

Six EIC-funded projects were showcased during the Portfolio Day, reflecting a wide spectrum of cleantech innovation. The events facilitated cross-sector collaboration, knowledge exchange, and networking, emphasizing the importance of translating R&D into practical, scalable solutions, integrating circular economy principles, and strengthening regional participation in EU CleanTech networks. The workshops and portfolio presentations collectively demonstrated how technological innovation, strategic investment, and multi-stakeholder collaboration can accelerate the green and renewable transition, providing actionable insights, replicable best practices, and a framework for long-term impact across Europe and the Western Balkans.

EEN Kosovo and EU Single Market Programme Opportunities Presented in Prishtina

On 18 September 2025, the German-Kosovar Business Association (OEGJK) hosted an information session at Hotel Garden in Prishtina, introducing local businesses to the services of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Kosovo and opportunities available through the EU Single Market Programme (SMP) 2021–2027.

The session featured a presentation by Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti, Country Coordinator of EEN Kosovo at Prishtina REA, who highlighted how EEN Kosovo supports SMEs in areas such as innovation, sustainability, resilience, digitalisation, and internationalisation. These advisory services are designed to help businesses scale, identify international partners, and navigate EU regulations and markets.

Mr. Jetullahu-Meti also presented the EU Single Market Programme, a €4.2 billion initiative aimed at strengthening the internal market, supporting SMEs, and enhancing long-term competitiveness. Since 2023, Kosovo has been included in the programme, enabling local enterprises to access funding for SME competitiveness, market surveillance, consumer protection, and the development of goods and services markets.

Participants received practical guidance on engaging with the programme, including registering on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal, obtaining a Participant Identification Code, and submitting proposals for open calls. Emphasizing the importance of strong partnerships and alignment with EU priorities, Jetullahu-Meti encouraged businesses to fully leverage EEN Kosovo's advisory services.

The session also featured discussions with representatives from EU institutions, international financial organisations, and national agencies, providing valuable insights into additional grants and support mechanisms. This interaction offered a platform for dialogue and knowledge-sharing, reinforcing the ability of Kosovo SMEs to access European funding and enhance competitiveness.

Enterprise Europe Network Kosovo

(2022 -2025)

Throughout 2025, Prishtina REA, as coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Kosovo Consortium, continued to provide high-impact B2B support to SMEs across Kosovo. The consortium successfully facilitated international cooperation, matchmaking, and business partnering activities, contributing to the growth, innovation, and internationalization of local enterprises.

Over the year, the consortium engaged a total of 968 SMEs, with 145 unique clients actively participating in EEN services. A total of 131 achievements were recorded, including 113 advisory services covering areas such as digital transformation, sustainability, EU market readiness, and access to finance. In terms of partnering support, 18 achievements were delivered, with a focus on business and technology partnerships, enabling SMEs to explore cross-border collaborations and international market opportunities. Twelve unique clients reported measurable impacts, including increased innovation capacity, operational efficiency, and market expansion.
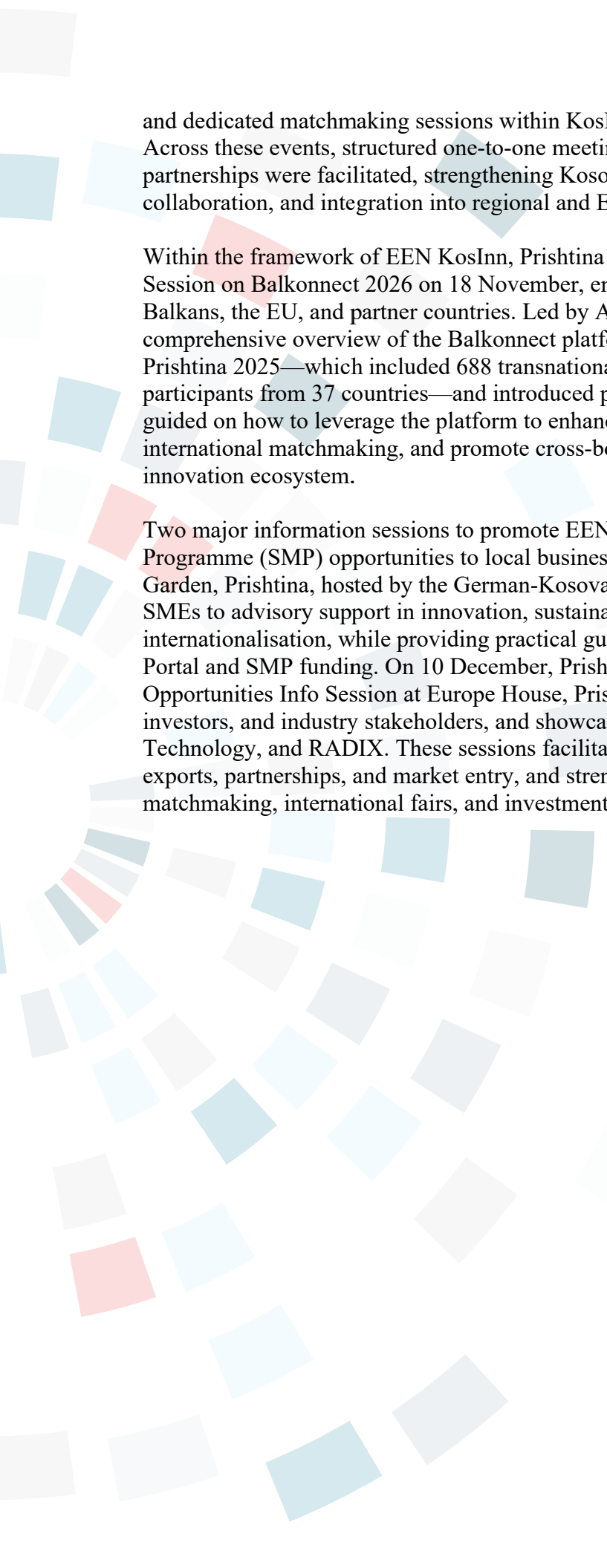
Prishtina REA supported and organized 13 major B2B events in 2025, both online and in-person, across Kosovo, Greece, Turkey, France, Austria, Albania, and Luxembourg. The flagship Balkonnect Festival 2025 in Prishtina hosted 450 participants and facilitated 839 B2B meetings, demonstrating the consortium's strong ability to connect local SMEs with international partners. Overall, 2025 saw the EEN Kosovo Consortium excel in delivering high-quality B2B services, fostering partnerships, and strengthening the international presence of Kosovo SMEs, meeting and in many cases exceeding key performance indicators.

EEN KosInn (2025–2028)

In 2025, Prishtina REA, as coordinator of the EEN Kosovo Consortium 2025-2028, actively guided SMEs through the Network client journey and facilitated cross-border cooperation. During this period, 20 unique clients were engaged in the Network client journey, benefiting from tailored advisory and partnering support.

A total of 21 achievements were delivered, comprising 18 advisory achievements, focused on innovation, EU programme participation, and business development, and 3 partnering achievements, all classified as business partnering. These efforts reflect Prishtina REA's commitment to connecting Kosovo SMEs with international opportunities and fostering strategic collaborations. In addition to direct SME support, Prishtina REA contributed significantly to the wider EEN ecosystem. The consortium supported 50 instances within other Network partners' client journeys, was listed as a spoke in three achievements, and linked 47 clients of other partners to partnering events, thereby reinforcing regional and international cooperation.

Prishtina REA also co-organized 7 major B2B, brokerage, and investment events across Europe and Türkiye, significantly enhancing cross-border cooperation, market access, and investment opportunities for Kosovo SMEs. Key activities included Co-Matching 2025 (Kocaeli, Türkiye), Match4Industry 2025 (İzmit/Kocaeli, Türkiye), the MADtech Brokerage Event (Madrid, Spain), the Energy, Construction & Green Economy Fair (Tirana, Albania), the EU–WB6 Investment Forum (Tirana, Albania), ICEBERG Demo Day 2025 (Düzce, Turkey),

and dedicated matchmaking sessions within KosICT 2025 and the Balkonnect Festival 2025. Across these events, structured one-to-one meetings, investment discussions, and technology partnerships were facilitated, strengthening Kosovo SMEs' international visibility, cross-border collaboration, and integration into regional and European value chains.

Within the framework of EEN KosInn, Prishtina REA also hosted a Decentralised Online Info Session on Balkonnect 2026 on 18 November, engaging over 60 EEN Advisors from the Western Balkans, the EU, and partner countries. Led by Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti, the session provided a comprehensive overview of the Balkonnect platform, reviewed the achievements of Balkonnect Prishtina 2025—which included 688 transnational meetings and 151 national meetings with participants from 37 countries—and introduced plans for Balkonnect Tirana 2026. Advisors were guided on how to leverage the platform to enhance the visibility of regional SMEs, facilitate international matchmaking, and promote cross-border cooperation within the evolving regional innovation ecosystem.

Two major information sessions to promote EEN Kosovo services and EU Single Market Programme (SMP) opportunities to local businesses. On 18 September, an info session at Hotel Garden, Prishtina, hosted by the German-Kosovar Business Association (OEGJK), introduced SMEs to advisory support in innovation, sustainability, resilience, digitalisation, and internationalisation, while providing practical guidance on accessing the EU Funding and Tenders Portal and SMP funding. On 10 December, Prishtina REA hosted a Kosovo–Taiwan Business Opportunities Info Session at Europe House, Prishtina, engaging 40 participants including SMEs, investors, and industry stakeholders, and showcasing company visits to Viprint, GET, Sigma Technology, and RADIX. These sessions facilitated knowledge-sharing, practical advice on exports, partnerships, and market entry, and strengthened Kosovo SMEs' capacity to leverage B2B matchmaking, international fairs, and investment opportunities.

Prishtina REA Strengthens Innovation Support through EEN2EIC

On 11 September 2025, Prishtina REA signed an extension of its contract with APRE to serve as the local node and consortium leader for the EEN2EIC project, reinforcing its pivotal role in supporting innovation and scaling up companies across the region. The project is designed to strengthen the cooperation between the EuropeanInnovation Council (EIC) and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), enabling EEN offices to guide potential EIC applicants and increase the number of high-quality proposals to EIC calls.

The initiative focuses on widening countries—including all Horizon Europe associated countries with comparable research and innovation performance such as Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine, Faroe Islands, and the Outermost Regions defined in Art. 349 TFEU—as well as women-led innovative companies and projects that have received a Seal of Excellence. Targeted support helps these focus groups access alternative funding sources while facilitating the exchange of best practices within the EEN network.

Throughout 2025, Prishtina REA advisors worked consistently with 20 innovative SMEs, providing tailored guidance on investment readiness, internationalization, and innovation management. Their efforts resulted in two successful applications to the EIC Accelerator and one to the EIC Pre-Accelerator, demonstrating the tangible impact of strategic advisory support under the EEN2EIC framework.

By combining personalised mentoring, practical guidance, and integration with the broader EEN ecosystem, Prishtina REA continues to strengthen the innovation capacity of Kosovo's SMEs, ensuring they are well-prepared to scale, secure funding, and engage confidently with European and global markets.

Empowering SMEs for a Greener Future: Impact through the EENergy Project

Prishtina REA continued to advance Kosovo's transition towards sustainable and energy-efficient business practices through its active participation in the EU-funded EENergy project. The initiative empowers small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to implement energy-saving measures, reduce operational costs, and strengthen long-term resilience against fluctuations in energy prices. Building on the achievements of the first EENergy call, the second call in 2025 saw a significant increase in participation, with eight SMEs successfully receiving funding and an additional 21 selected as non-funded regular beneficiaries.

Through the EENergy project, Prishtina REA guided SMEs step by step, helping them navigate the application process, align their energy performance objectives with EU standards, and access tailored consultancy and technical support. This comprehensive advisory approach ensured that businesses were not only able to secure financial support but also to implement practical, sustainable solutions that deliver measurable energy efficiency improvements. The funded projects included upgrades to energy-saving technologies, optimisation of operational processes, and consultancy services aimed at embedding long-term sustainability practices within participating companies.

The benefits of this engagement extend beyond immediate financial assistance. By enhancing energy efficiency, the initiative contributes to greater corporate resilience, operational cost reduction, and strengthened competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. SMEs participating in the program also gained knowledge, tools, and strategies that can be replicated across the sector, fostering a culture of sustainability within Kosovo's private sector.

Prishtina REA, through its role in the EENergy project and within the broader framework of EEN Kosovo, continues to provide hands-on, EU-aligned support that accelerates the green transition. By combining targeted advisory services with access to financial resources, the project exemplifies how strategic engagement with European initiatives can generate tangible outcomes for SMEs, promote environmentally responsible business practices, and contribute to Kosovo's sustainable economic development.

ENTAIL (Erasmus +) EntrepreNeurship and digiTal leArning for VET centres In Albania and Kosovo

The ENTAIL project brings together seven partners from four countries, North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, and Cyprus-to support the entrepreneurial and digital transformation of VET centres in Albania and Kosovo, in line with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans and the ETF Torino Process 2023 recommendations. The project focuses on strengthening the capacities of VET leaders, administrators, and teachers to implement systemic change aligned with national and EU priorities.

ENTAIL promotes the concept of the entrepreneurial VET centre as an institution that embeds entrepreneurship and innovation across its organisation, teaching and learning processes, and engagement with its ecosystem, supported by effective digital learning. Through a dual approach - empowering leadership to drive organisational transformation and equipping teachers to deliver entrepreneurship and digital competences—the project aims to better align VET programmes with labour market needs, reduce skills mismatches, and enhance the innovation capacity and attractiveness of the VET sector in Albania and Kosovo.

StructuVet (Erasmus +)

The **STRUCTUVET** project aims to modernize veterinary education by developing a comprehensive **e-learning ecosystem** that supports hybrid syllabus delivery, online communities of practice, and continuous professional development across the veterinary sector. The initiative contributes to enhancing the digital capacity, accessibility, and quality of veterinary training in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and partner countries.

Objectives
- **Develop an eLearning space** to support hybrid syllabus delivery and foster online communities of practice for students, teaching staff, practitioners, and researchers.
- **Design and sustain digital learning resources** that remain available beyond the project lifecycle.
- **Create an e-module** for online registration, profile management, and tracking learning progress for all stakeholders.
- **Train master trainers** to ensure effective implementation of the new syllabus under Work Package 3.

- Pilot the syllabus with coaching and peer-learning mechanisms to enhance engagement, knowledge sharing, and continuous improvement.
- **Develop a satisfaction and evaluation app** to collect user feedback and generate actionable insights for ongoing platform enhancement.

By combining digital learning tools, train-the-trainer programs, and pilot testing, STRUCTUVET will strengthen the adoption of modern, interactive, and practical veterinary education. The project also includes a promotional campaign to ensure broad visibility, usability, and uptake of the e-learning platform, positioning it as a sustainable resource for the veterinary education community in the Western Balkans and beyond.

10th CASSINI Hackathon – EU Space

The CASSINI initiative (2021–2027), launched by the European Commission, aims to support entrepreneurs, start-ups, and SMEs in the space sector through funding, hackathons, mentoring, prizes, and business acceleration programs. Kosovo was one of only ten European countries selected to host this prestigious competition, with Prishtina REA coordinating the local implementation and ensuring strong engagement with the national innovation ecosystem.
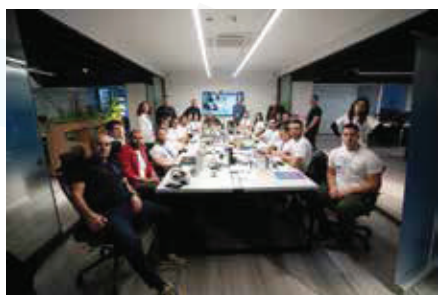
The Cassini Hackathon Kosovo Hub 2025 brought together young innovators to develop creative solutions leveraging Copernicus, Galileo, and KIN data across three thematic areas: Redefining Travel, Transforming Sports, and Immersive Gameplay. The event provided participants with a unique opportunity to combine technological innovation with entrepreneurial thinking, fostering a dynamic environment for experimentation and collaboration.

The hackathon attracted 40 on-site participants, organized into teams guided by 18 experienced mentors who provided expertise in technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Through intensive workshops and coaching sessions, the participants developed solutions addressing real-world challenges while honing their technical and business skills. Five teams advanced to the final pitching session, where their ideas were evaluated by a jury of four experts from the tech sector, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the broader innovation ecosystem.

The jury awarded a total of €3,000 in prizes, fully funded by Prishtina REA, reflecting a strong commitment to youth development and innovation in Kosovo:

- **1st place:** €1,500
- **2nd place:** €1,000
- **3rd place:** €500

By hosting the CASSINI Hackathon, Prishtina REA reinforced Kosovo's position within the European space innovation landscape, providing a platform for young innovators to showcase talent, develop entrepreneurial skills, and engage with the broader European space ecosystem. The event not only stimulated creativity and collaboration among participants but also strengthened local capacities in space-related technologies and innovation-driven entrepreneurship, supporting Kosovo's ambitions to become an active contributor to Europe's growing space economy.

Through this event, Prishtina REA reinforced Kosovo's role in the European space innovation landscape, providing a platform for young innovators to showcase talent, develop entrepreneurial skills, and engage with the broader European space ecosystem.

Designing and Developing 4 Single Market Program Video Guides for Albania SMEs targets/ EBRD Albania

In 2025, Prishtina REA successfully implemented a project under Contract No. 2025.013342 with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), aimed at strengthening the capacity of Albanian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access and benefit from the EU Single Market Programme (SMP). The assignment focused on developing practical, user-friendly instructional videos and complementary materials to guide SMEs in navigating the SMP and applying for funding opportunities.

The project sought to increase SME awareness of SMP opportunities, improve application readiness, and build capacity for engaging with European programmes. By providing visual and textual resources, the initiative addressed knowledge gaps identified during consultations with Albanian businesses, offering clear guidance on accessing and utilising the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

Implementation followed a structured approach. In the first phase, concepts and scripts for four instructional videos were developed and reviewed by the EBRD. The videos covered an introduction to the SMP, the process of creating an EU Login and registering an organisation, methods for searching open calls, and approaches for analysing and interpreting call guidelines. Each video was produced in Albanian and enriched with practical examples to ensure ease of use.

In the second phase, the videos were recorded, edited, and finalized, accompanied by two sets of complementary materials. The first, a Frequently Asked Questions document, addressed common SME inquiries regarding the SMP and the Funding & Tenders Portal. The second, detailed User Guides, provided step-by-step instructions for each video, allowing SMEs to apply the knowledge gained directly to their operations. Both sets of materials were carefully prepared in Albanian and approved by the EBRD.

Throughout the assignment, Prishtina REA maintained close communication with the EBRD and consulted national stakeholders to ensure relevance and quality. Feedback was incorporated promptly, resulting in accurate and practical instructional resources that fully reflect SME needs. No major challenges were encountered, and the project progressed smoothly, with all outputs delivered on time and to the satisfaction of the EBRD.

The results of the project are substantial. The four instructional videos, along with the FAQs and User Guides, provide Albanian SMEs with a comprehensive toolkit to understand and apply for SMP funding. These resources are designed to remain relevant for future programme cycles, ensuring long-term utility. Beyond the contractual deliverables, the project has instilled greater confidence among SMEs to engage with EU-level opportunities, reduced informational barriers, and fostered alignment between international funding frameworks and the practical needs of Albanian enterprises.

By creating a friendly, easy-to-use, and practical resource base, Prishtina REA has contributed to building a culture of internationalisation, innovation, and proactive engagement with EU programmes among Albanian SMEs. The project's outputs not only address immediate informational needs but also lay the foundation for enhanced competitiveness and long-term integration into European markets. With the submission of the final report, the assignment has been formally concluded, delivering both the expected outputs and lasting strategic value to Albania's SME ecosystem.

Phoenix 4.0 - Resilient Ecosystem for Empowering Tourism SMEs

The Phoenix 4.0 project is designed to enhance the resilience, digitalisation, and sustainability of the European tourism sector. It supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing targeted training, practical tools, and access to collaborative networks, enabling them to better navigate challenges such as climate change, economic volatility, and health-related crises. By promoting digital transformation and sustainable business practices, the initiative fosters innovation and eco-friendly business models that contribute to the long-term competitiveness of tourism enterprises while prioritising local communities and environmental preservation.

Phoenix 4.0 strengthens the European tourism ecosystem by focusing on four interconnected objectives: enhancing SME resilience to socio-economic and environmental challenges; accelerating digital adoption to improve operational efficiency and market competitiveness; promoting sustainable innovation to embed responsible and eco-friendly practices; and fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange across the tourism sector.

Key activities under the project demonstrated strong engagement and tangible results. A Train the Trainers session, held online on 18 June 2025, brought together 79 participants, who were introduced to the Phoenix 4.0 Toolkit through six thematic breakout sessions. More than 90% of participating trainers assessed the session as highly relevant, and the structured feedback collected was directly integrated into the refinement of training materials for subsequent SME-focused sessions.

Building on this foundation, SME training sessions were delivered online in October 2025. A total of six training sessions were conducted by 22 trainers, with 210 SMEs registered, 179 enrolled, and 140 SMEs actively participating. Engagement levels were particularly strong during case-based discussions, highlighting the practical relevance of the content. The recruitment and coordination process relied on centralised registration management, which proved effective in ensuring smooth implementation and high participation rates.

Looking ahead, the project will finalise the first training cycle, conduct a comprehensive analysis of participant feedback, and further refine the training approach. Preparations are underway for the second training round, scheduled for April–May 2026. Through its integrated andforward-looking approach, Phoenix 4.0 continues to empower tourism SMEs to adapt, innovate, and thrive, contributing to a more resilient, digitally enabled, and sustainable European tourism ecosystem.

Preparation for the implementation of e-IDAS in Kosovo - Development of the E-ID System for Kosovo

The preparation for the implementation of e-IDAS (Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Administration), funded by the European Union, marks a significant milestone in the ongoing modernisation and digital transformation of Kosovo's public administration and digital infrastructure. The initiative is designed to establish an advanced electronic identification system that is fully aligned with international standards and responsive to the needs of citizens, businesses, and public institutions. By introducing a robust, secure, and interoperable e-ID framework, Kosovo aims to significantly enhance the accessibility, efficiency, and reliability of digital public services while fostering trust and accountability in government-citizen interactions.

The envisioned e-ID system will enable users to access a wide range of digital services through a single, secure login, streamlining processes that previously required multiple verifications and in-person interactions. This is expected to reduce administrative burdens for both users and institutions, while promoting greater transparency and improving overall service quality. By facilitating seamless authentication and secure online interactions, the system will empower citizens and businesses to engage more actively with public services, strengthening their confidence in digital transactions and enhancing the efficiency of administrative processes.

Beyond improving day-to-day service delivery, the integration of electronic identification technology into Kosovo's public sector represents a broader transformation of the country's digital ecosystem. It will serve as a cornerstone for the development of digital governance, enabling more efficient workflow management, better data security, and enhanced interoperability among various government systems. This will not only improve internal administrative operations but also support the delivery of innovative e-services that are responsive to the evolving needs of citizens and enterprises alike.

The project also positions Kosovo within the wider European ICT landscape, reflecting the country's commitment to adopting EU digital standards and participating actively in transnational initiatives aimed at harmonising digital services across borders. By implementing e-IDAS in line with European frameworks, Kosovo ensures compatibility with the European digital economy, enabling cross-border recognition of electronic identification and facilitating the free movement of people, services, and information.

Furthermore, the initiative contributes to the creation of a secure and trustworthy environment for digital interactions, addressing key challenges related to cybersecurity, data protection, and user authentication. This is essential for fostering public trust and encouraging wider adoption of digital services, which in turn drives broader societal benefits, including increased efficiency, economic growth, and improved public sector performance.

In conclusion, the preparation and forthcoming implementation of the e-IDAS project represent a strategic investment in Kosovo's digital future. It not only enhances the delivery and accessibility of public services but also reinforces the country's commitment to European integration, digital innovation, and citizen-centred governance. By establishing a modern, interoperable, and secure electronic identification system, Kosovo is laying the foundation for a resilient, efficient, and fully connected digital ecosystem that meets the expectations of a 21st-century society while promoting transparency, trust, and inclusivity in public administration.

Support to Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The Support to Recognition of Professional Qualifications (RPQ) project aims to align Kosovo's professional qualifications recognition system with European Union standards, thereby enhancing transparency, efficiency, and labour mobility. The initiative supports Kosovo's efforts to modernise its institutional and legal framework by facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications obtained abroad, contributing to improved access to skills and the smoother integration of professionals into the labour market.

The project placed strong emphasis on a comprehensive assessment of the existing legislative and institutional framework governing RPQ in Kosovo. This assessment examined the degree of alignment with EU Directive 2005/36/EC, which regulates the recognition of professional qualifications across EU Member States. The analysis identified several legislative and procedural gaps, including fragmentation of responsibilities, limited standardisation of procedures, and challenges related to transparency and predictability for applicants.

In parallel, the project conducted a comparative analysis of RPQ systems in five EU Member States and two EU candidate countries. This review provided valuable insights into different governance structures, procedural approaches, and institutional arrangements used across Europe. The findings demonstrated that while each system reflects national specificities, no single model could be directly replicated in the Kosovo context. Instead, the analysis underscored the need for a tailored approach that combines EU best practices with Kosovo's legal, administrative, and labour market realities.

Based on these findings, the project developed a set of strategic recommendations aimed at strengthening the RPQ system. These include the establishment of a robust and coherent legal framework to clearly regulate recognition processes, define institutional responsibilities, and ensure legal certainty for applicants. A key recommendation is the creation of a central recognition authority responsible for overseeing, coordinating, and standardising evaluation procedures across regulated professions, thereby reducing fragmentation and inconsistencies.

The project also emphasises the importance of streamlining recognition procedures to improve efficiency, transparency, and predictability. Simplified processes, clear timelines, and standardised criteria are expected to reduce administrative burdens for both applicants and institutions, while increasing trust in the system.

Furthermore, the proposed model advocates a collaborative and coordinated approach, involving relevant ministries, a specialised RPQ council, and the strategic use of digital solutions, including the eKosova platform. Digitalisation is seen as a key enabler for improving accessibility, reducing processing times, and ensuring effective information sharing among institutions.

Overall, the project proposes a balanced and context-sensitive RPQ model that aligns Kosovo's system with EU requirements while remaining responsive to national needs. By promoting a modernised, transparent, and accessible recognition framework, the initiative supports increased labour mobility, facilitates the integration of foreign professionals, and contributes to Kosovo's broader European integration and workforce development objectives.

Awareness and Information Campaign on dog registration, microchipping, animal welfare and non-abandonment- Communication and Visibility Campaign/ WEglobal- EU

The Awareness and Information Campaign, implemented under the WEglobal EU Communication and Visibility framework, was designed to raise public awareness and strengthen community understanding of responsible dog ownership and animal welfare in Kosovo. The campaign responded to ongoing challenges related to unregistered dogs, lack of microchipping, and animal abandonment, addressing these issues through clear, accessible, and widely disseminated information. By focusing on both preventive and educational measures, the initiative sought to encourage responsible behaviour among dog owners while promoting broader societal responsibility for animal welfare.

A central focus of the campaign was to inform dog owners about the importance of dog registration and microchipping as essential tools for ensuring animal traceability, improving public safety, and reducing the number of stray animals. In parallel, the campaign promoted responsible ownership practices, including long-term commitment to pets, proper care, and compliance with animal welfare standards, with the overarching aim of preventing animal abandonment and neglect.

To ensure strong visibility and message consistency, the campaign developed a distinct and recognisable branded identity, aligned with EU communication guidelines. A comprehensive set of communication materials was produced, including flyers, brochures, and posters, which were distributed through multiple channels and locations to reach both urban and rural audiences.

These materials conveyed key messages in a clear and practical manner, making complex information easily understandable for the general public.The outreach strategy was further enhanced through the production of a radio jingle and a video advertisement, designed to capture public attention and reinforce campaign messages through audio-visual storytelling. These products were broadcast through relevant media outlets, ensuring repeated exposure and wider audience reach. In addition, the campaign engaged proactively with television and radio media through interviews and feature segments, providing opportunities for experts and campaign representatives to discuss animal welfare issues in greater depth and respond to public questions.

Social media platforms played a central role in extending the campaign's reach and sustaining engagement over time. Dedicated content was developed and promoted to encourage interaction, raise awareness among younger audiences, and amplify key messages beyond traditional media channels. The coordinated use of digital and traditional communication tools allowed the campaign to maintain a strong and continuous presence throughout its implementation period.

Through its integrated, multi-channel approach, the Awareness and Information Campaign successfully reached a broad and diverse audience, increased public knowledge on animal welfare responsibilities, and promoted responsible dog ownership as a shared societal value. By combining information, visibility, and engagement, the campaign contributed to fostering long-term behavioural change, supporting improved animal welfare outcomes, and strengthening community responsibility across Kosovo.

Developing Capacity for VET Systems in the Western Balkans (DC-VET WB)

The Developing Capacity for VET Systems in the Western Balkans (DC-VET WB) project is a regional initiative focused on modernising and innovating Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems across the Western Balkans. Building on the achievements of the INTERVET WB project, DC-VET WB is coordinated by Uniser in collaboration with partner organisations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Montenegro, with funding from the European Commission. The initiative aims to strengthen the responsiveness of VET institutions to labour market demands, promote social inclusion, and enhance international cooperation and exchange of best practices.

The project is structured around three strategic objectives. The first objective focuses on enhancing Work-Based Learning (WBL) by increasing both the quantity and quality of WBL opportunities. This involves closer cooperation between VET schools and companies to ensure stronger alignment between educational outcomes and labour market needs. The second objective seeks to promote social inclusion, providing VET schools with tools and strategies to support learners with fewer opportunities, including those with special educational needs, cultural barriers, or gender-related challenges. The third objective addresses the internationalisation of VET schools, fostering cross-border cooperation, peer learning, and exposure to European best practices.
A range of activities has been implemented to achieve these objectives, yielding tangible results. In the area of Work-Based Learning, the project conducted a comparative analysis of WBL frameworks across partner countries and organised three international study visits to Finland, Spain, and Italy, engaging 12 participants from 11 VET schools. These visits facilitated the piloting of WBL activities involving 246 students and 46 VET staff members. Tested practices were documented and made available in an online repository in English and four regional languages, while an online video gallery and an infographic video were produced to showcase European WBL models for classroom use.

The project's social inclusion efforts included a skills gap analysis, collecting 80 responses from VET schools across the region, which informed the development of a comprehensive Social Inclusion Toolkit. A seminar on social inclusion held in Helsinki engaged 25 VET staff members, and the toolkit was pilot-tested in Western Balkan VET schools between late 2024 and 2025, providing practical guidance to strengthen staff competences in inclusive education practices.

In terms of internationalisation, the project developed an e-learning course to support institutional capacity building and created step-by-step guidelines for planning and implementing blended mobility projects. Physical mobility activities were implemented in Tirana, Albania, from 15 to 19 September 2025, offering both students and teachers hands-on international experience and strengthening cross-border collaboration and exposure to European best practices.

Overall, the DC-VET WB project has successfully contributed to the modernisation of VET systems, improved the quality and relevance of work-based learning, strengthened inclusive practices, and fostered international cooperation across the Western Balkans, setting a strong foundation for sustained regional development and alignment with European educational standards.

The Multiplier Event of the Erasmus+ funded project "DC VET WB – Developing Capacity for VET Systems in the Western Balkans" was successfully held on 20 October 2025 at Europe House in Prishtina. The event brought together representatives from vocational education and training (VET) institutions, ministries, international organizations, and project partners from across the Western Balkans, as well as the EU Office in Pristina. It served as a platform to present the activities, achievements, and results of the project, while reflecting on its impact on VET modernization, inclusion, and international cooperation in the region.
Through DC-VET WB, participating VET schools are better equipped to deliver high-quality, inclusive, and internationally oriented VET programmes, contributing to workforce development and long-term socio-economic growth in the Western Balkans.

Tourism for Future – CBC Program Montenegro-Kosovo

The Tourism for Future project, implemented by Prishtina REA and partner organisations with support from the European Union, was designed to advance sustainable tourism in Peja (Kosovo) and Kolašin (Montenegro). The core objective of the initiative was to enhance the competitiveness of local tourism by promoting environmentally responsible practices in line with EU Ecolabel standards, thereby fostering a more sustainable and resilient tourism sector in the region.

The project provided targeted support to local tourism SMEs, assisting them in adopting green criteria, improving service quality, and increasing visibility through sustainable tourism models. Activities included awareness campaigns, professional training, and initiatives to foster cross-border cooperation, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and regional collaboration. Key achievements of the project include the EU Ecolabel certification of 20 tourism accommodations—16 in Peja and 4 in Kolašin—demonstrating concrete progress in promoting environmentally responsible business practices.

In parallel, the project strengthened regional capacity by training 15 local professionals as EU Ecolabel auditors, ensuring the long-term sustainability and quality assurance of eco-tourism initiatives.

The project also supported the development of eco-trails, creating two interconnected routes linking Peja and Kolašin, which were promoted as part of the region's sustainable tourism offer. Public engagement was further reinforced through festival events, including the Peja Outdoor Tourism Festival and the Kolašin Open Fest, which showcased eco-tourism activities and certified businesses to residents and visitors alike. A strong communication and visibility strategy complemented these efforts, using print materials, social media, and public events to raise awareness and promote the principles of sustainable tourism.

In line with its inclusive approach, the project integrated gender balance, provided support for rural entrepreneurs, and ensured accessibility for persons with disabilities, reinforcing the commitment to socially responsible tourism.

By strengthening collaboration among municipalities, tourism operators, NGOs, and environmental experts, the project laid a robust foundation for future tourism growth in the region. Its cross-border approach not only enhanced regional cooperation but also ensured the scalability and sustainability of eco-tourism practices, positioning Peja and Kolašin as emerging destinations for environmentally conscious tourism.

EU support for the competitiveness of Kosovo's ICT sector

The EU Support for the Competitiveness of Kosovo's ICT Sector project, financed by the European Union, has been implemented in Kosovo from January 2020 to August 2025. The initiative aims to strengthen the competitiveness of Kosovo's ICT sector, fostering growth, innovation, and job creation while supporting digital transformation across both ICT and traditional businesses. The primary beneficiaries of the project include the Ministry of Economy and Development, the Employment Agency of Kosovo (EARK), the ICT Association of Kosovo (STIKK), and the Innovation Center in Kosovo (ICK). Direct beneficiaries comprise ICT companies, managers, ICT professionals, recent graduates, and other companies seeking digital solutions and capacity building.

The project has been implemented by WEglobal, an international consulting firm, in consortium with European Projects Management Ltd from Latvia and Prishtina REA from Kosovo. Its overarching objective is to increase sector competitiveness, facilitate the growth of ICT enterprises, and support the creation of new employment opportunities in the digital economy.

In 2025, the project achieved significant milestones in training, practical experience, and international exposure. The ICT Training – 10th Semester attracted 2,358 applications, from which 562 candidates were selected. Training was delivered across 11 online groups covering Cyber Security, Web Application Development, Enterprise Java, Mobile Application Development, Python, Big Data Analytics / Cloud Computing, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence. A total of 297 participants completed the training, with 240 participants certified, including 44% male and 56% female, marking the second consecutive semester in which female certification rates exceeded male rates.

The project's Internship Scheme provided 21 internships in 2025, offering ICT graduates valuable practical work experience to enhance their employability and professional skills.

Furthermore, the B2B Export Promotion Service conducted in France in February 2025 enabled 8 ICT company managers and the Director of the ICT Department of the Ministry of Economy to engage in international business development. The initiative facilitated 49 B2B meetings, alongside visits to key innovation hubs such as INRIA – the French National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology at Sophia Antipolis Techpark and participation in the World AI Cannes Festival 2025, enhancing international exposure and partnership opportunities for Kosovo's ICT companies.

Overall, the project continues to play a critical role in strengthening Kosovo's ICT ecosystem, promoting digital skills development, international networking, and business growth, contributing to a more competitive and resilient digital economy.

Through these activities, the project **strengthened Kosovo's ICT ecosystem**, enhanced professional skills, promoted international exposure for ICT companies, and supported gender-balanced workforce development. The successful completion of the 10th and final semester marks the **culmination of the project's impactful contribution** to the growth and competitiveness of Kosovo's ICT sector.

Balkonnect Festival 2025: Driving Innovation, Investment, and Entrepreneurship Across the Western Balkans

The Balkonnect Festival 2025, proudly powered by Prishtina REA with strategic support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Enterprise Europe Network Kosovo, has firmly established itself as a flagship platform uniting innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans. Held on 23–24 May 2025 at Hotel Emerald in Prishtina, the festival brought together over 450 participants representing 37 countries across four continents, creating an unparalleled opportunity for knowledge exchange, networking, and business development. With its ambitious agenda, Balkonnect showcased the region's potential as a connected, competitive, and innovation-driven hub, while celebrating 24 years of Prishtina REA's contribution to regional innovation ecosystems and integrating its legacy with the forward-looking DeepTechcamp Finance & Investment model.

The festival's 2025 edition focused on the pressing challenges and opportunities of the digital and green transitions, covering a wide array of topics including Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics, e-Platforms and Digital Identity, and Renewable Energy and Sustainable Finance. Over the course of two days, participants engaged in an intensive program of thematic sessions, B2B matchmaking, investor pitching, sector-specific panels, and networking activities, highlighting successful startups, SMEs, investors, and institutional leaders. This comprehensive program emphasized practical impact, enabling participants to develop actionable strategies, build investment readiness, explore cross-border collaboration, and accelerate internationalization.

One of the festival's most significant outcomes was the facilitation of 839 B2B meetings, which allowed local and international participants to establish concrete business partnerships and explorenew markets. Additionally, six investment agreements were formally confirmed between startups and VC or angel investors, reflecting the festival's role as a catalyst for tangible economic impact. The seven thematic sessions spanned critical sectors, including Wood and Metal Construction, Tourism and Agri-Food, ICT and Digital Technologies, Renewable and Green Energy, Banking and Finance, Social Enterprise and Women Entrepreneurship, and the Outsourcing Industry.These sessions provided participants with both sector-specific insights and practical guidance for scaling their businesses, attracting investment, and leveraging emerging market trends.

Balkonnect 2025 was not only a platform for business and investment but also a celebration of knowledge sharing and cross-border cooperation. The event highlighted innovative solutions from startups and SMEs, promoted exchanges of best practices, and created opportunities for institutions, investors, and entrepreneurs to explore collaborative projects aligned with EU and regional priorities. Through its carefully curated program, the festival reinforced the Western Balkans as a vibrant innovation ecosystem, capable of competing on the global stage while fostering sustainable and inclusive growth.

By combining strategic vision with practical action, Balkonnect Festival 2025 has set a new benchmark for regional collaboration. It successfully established a vibrant identity for the Western Balkans as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment, laying the foundation for future editions that will continue rotating among regional capitals. With a clear commitment to driving economic development, fostering cross-border partnerships, and supporting SMEs and startups in their growth journeys, the festival represents a tangible step forward in connecting local talent to global markets, attracting international investors, and advancing sustainable and technologically driven growth across the region.

Prishtina REA Builds Strong Cooperation with Taiwan Institutions to Boost Kosovo–Taiwan Business Opportunities
Kosovar SMEs Make Strides in Global Markets at Taiwan Select 2025

On 4 November 2025, five dynamic Kosovar SMEs made a remarkable mark on the international stage by participating in Taiwan Select 2025, held in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan. Recognized as one of Asia's leading international sourcing and industrial cooperation events, Taiwan Select provides a unique blend of business matchmaking and in-depth industrial insight. The participation of the Kosovar delegation was co-organized by Prishtina REA and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Kosovo, in collaboration with the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), Taiwan's premier trade-promotion organisation jointly supported by the government and industry associations.

Taiwan Select is more than a traditional trade fair; it offers participants an immersive experience into Taiwan's highly advanced manufacturing ecosystem. The event showcases a wide range of sectors, including machinery and smart manufacturing, automotive parts, consumer goods, fasteners, petrochemicals, green energy, shipbuilding, and smart mobility. By engaging directly with these industries, Kosovar SMEs gained valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies, advanced production capabilities, and emerging cooperation opportunities, positioning them to strengthen their competitiveness and export potential.

The program was carefully designed to maximise both knowledge transfer and business engagement. Participants conducted one-on-one meetings with Taiwanese manufacturers and suppliers selected to match their specific business needs. They also participated in exclusive industry visits and customised site tours, offering firsthand exposure to Taiwan's innovation-driven manufacturing processes and high production standards. These activities provided Kosovo's companies with a deeper understanding of market trends, access to competitive suppliers, and opportunities to enhance their operational strategies.

The five companies representing Kosovo—BCG Group, MUQA Solar, Alliance International LLC, Furnico, and GET Group LLC—arrived with clear objectives, ranging from sourcing new technologies and production inputs to establishing long-term partnerships and assessing export potential. Their participation underscored the increasing outward-oriented approach of Kosovo's private sector and its ambition to integrate into global value chains.
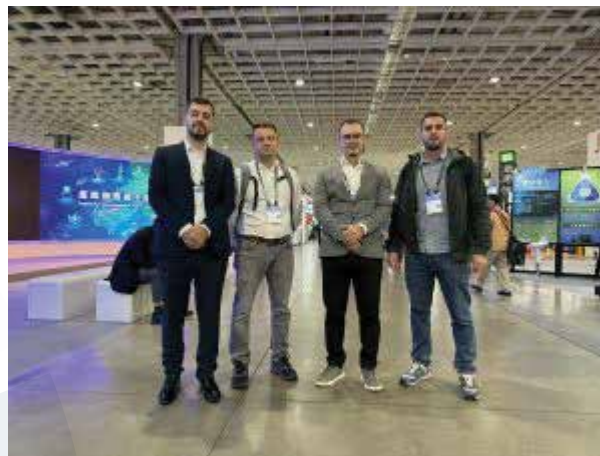
A critical factor in this success is the growing role of Enterprise Europe Network Kosovo. Membership in EEN provides SMEs with access to an extensive international ecosystem, including brokerage events, sector-specific matchmaking, market insights, technology cooperation opportunities, and advisory support on EU programs and global expansion strategies. For emerging economies like Kosovo, participation in EEN Kosovo equips SMEs with the tools, visibility, and strategic support needed to compete effectively on an international level.

Through EEN Kosovo, the participating SMEs were able to identify potential partners, prepare for meetings, and showcase their capabilities to a global audience, demonstrating how EEN functions as a strategic gateway for companies seeking to expand their technological capacity, improve competitiveness, and enter new markets.

Kosovo's presence at Taiwan Select 2025 reflects a growing commitment to global engagement and industrial advancement. By immersing themselves in one of Asia's most innovative business environments, Kosovar SMEs expanded their international networks, initiated new collaborations, and laid the foundation for long-term partnerships. The support of EEN Kosovo and Prishtina REA continues to play a vital role in enabling local companies to connect with international partners, integrate new technologies, and build sustainable business relationships.

The knowledge gained, business opportunities identified, and partnerships initiated during Taiwan Select 2025 are expected to drive technology transfer, market expansion, and future collaborations. Platforms like Taiwan Select serve as essential drivers of economic growth, innovation, and long-term competitiveness, strengthening Kosovo's position in the global economy and supporting the continued development of its private sector.

Connecting Kosovo's ICT Sector with Asia's Tech Frontier at TAITRONICS & AIoT 2025

Four leading ICT and technology companies from Kosovo — IT Vision, Cacttus, Frotcom, and Sigma Technology Group–AppBits — represented Kosovo at the 2025 Taipei International Electronics Show (TAITRONICS) and the Taiwan International AIoT Show (AIoT Taiwan), held from 22–24 October at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Hall 1. Their participation was facilitated and co-organized by Prishtina REA and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Kosovo, in collaboration with the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) and the Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA).

TAITRONICS & AIoT Taiwan 2025, one of Asia's most influential trade fairs for the ICT, electronics, and AIoT sectors, was themed "AInnovation Now" and focused on the integration of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things (AIoT). The exhibition covered six core topics: AIoT Applications, Robotics & Smart Automation, Smart Surveillance, Smart Data Centers, Industrial IoT Embedded Systems, and Satellite Communications. This edition also introduced Optoelectronics and Display Technology zones, highlighting how AI-driven innovations are transforming industries such as manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, and entertainment.

The event attracted hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of international visitors, including leading global technology companies such as Syscom Computer, CES, TECO Electric & Machinery, and Yuan Shan Technology. The exhibition floor served as a dynamic hub for technology demonstrations, product launches, and knowledge exchange between established industry leaders and emerging innovators. Complementing the main exhibition, the TAITRONICS & AIoT Taiwan Forums explored advanced topics including edge AI applications, space technology, and cross-industry collaboration. Special networking sessions and international procurement meetings offered targeted opportunities for connecting startups, established enterprises, and technology investors.

With the support of Prishtina REA and the EEN Kosovo framework, Kosovo's ICT companies participated in focused B2B matchmaking sessions with Taiwanese partners, technology providers, and distributors. These engagements created avenues for joint ventures, technology partnerships, and export opportunities in Asian markets.

Participation in TAITRONICS & AIoT Taiwan 2025 also provided Kosovo's ICT sector with international visibility, allowing companies to exchange knowledge on emerging digital trends, explore new business models, and foster long-term cooperation with global technology ecosystems. The event highlighted Kosovo's growing competitiveness and innovative capacity in the regional and international ICT landscape.

TAITRONICS & AIoT Taiwan 2025 exemplified Asia's leadership in AIoT while serving as a powerful international platform for European innovators, startups, and technology exporters. For Kosovo, this participation marked a significant step toward expanding global business linkages and strengthening cross-continental innovation partnerships.

Through initiatives like this, Prishtina REA and EEN Kosovo continue to support the internationalisation of Kosovo SMEs, promote innovation collaboration, and enhance the competitiveness of the national ICT ecosystem. By connecting Kosovo's technology sector with global markets, these efforts contribute to the country's sustainable growth and positioning as a hub for digital innovation and technological excellence.

Kosovo–Taiwan Economic Collaboration Boosted Through Targeted Business Engagement

Prishtina REA has built strong cooperation with Taiwan institutions, particularly the Taiwan Trade Center (TAITRA), which is dedicated to promoting Taiwanese trade and investment worldwide. This strategic partnership aims to create synergies and foster economic development between Kosovo and Taiwan by connecting local SMEs with Taiwanese investors, companies, and global business networks. On 10 December 2025, this cooperation was highlighted through the organization of an Info Session titled Raising Kosovo–Taiwan Business Opportunities, held at Europe House in Prishtina, as part of the official three-day visit of Mr. Mark Liu, Director of TAITRA Budapest. The session brought together 40 participants, including representatives of Kosovar SMEs, investors, and industry stakeholders, to explore trade, investment, and technological collaboration opportunities.

The event opened with remarks by Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti, Country Coordinator of EEN Kosovo at Prishtina REA, who welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the session, emphasizing the importance of fostering international partnerships to strengthen Kosovo's economic ecosystem. Mr. Liu presented an overview of TAITRA's global network and highlighted Taiwan's business potential, illustrating how Kosovar SMEs can benefit from trade fairs, sector-specific partnerships, and joint investment initiatives. He also shared the 2026 trade fair calendar and opportunities for SMEs in technology, green energy, and industrial solutions, encouraging participants to leverage Taiwan's international market access.

During the interactive session, Kosovo companies shared their experiences participating in Taiwanese trade fairs, discussing success stories, challenges, and lessons learned in entering new markets. A Q&A segment offered practical advice on exports, partnership development, and market entry strategies, equipping Kosovar SMEs with concrete tools for international business expansion.

As part of the visit, Mr. Liu conducted company visits across Kosovo, engaging with enterprises such as Viprint, Green Energy Technology (GET), Sigma Technology, and RADIX. These visits allowed Kosovar businesses to showcase their production capabilities, innovative solutions, and export-ready products. Discussions explored potential collaborations in ICT, digital solutions, green energy, solar technology, battery manufacturing, and advanced production systems, demonstrating the complementarity of Kosovar innovation with Taiwanese expertise.

The visits and interactions highlighted Kosovo's growing business potential and the increasing interest from Taiwan in establishing strategic partnerships. Participating companies expressed strong enthusiasm for expanding cooperation, leveraging B2B matchmaking opportunities, and exploring trade fairs and investment platforms in 2026. This initiative illustrates Prishtina REA's role as a key facilitator of international partnerships, enabling local SMEs to access global markets and strengthening Kosovo's position in regional and international trade networks.

By fostering structured dialogue, providing strategic guidance, and enabling hands-on business engagement, Prishtina REA and TAITRA demonstrate the potential for sustained bilateralcooperation. This partnership not only creates new economic opportunities but also supports innovation, capacity building, and competitiveness for Kosovar SMEs. The collaboration reinforces the strategic importance of international networking, matchmaking, and targeted advisory services in promoting economic development and integration with global value chains, further solidifying Kosovo's role as a dynamic participant in the international business landscape.

Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference 2025: Prishtina REA Strengthens Kosovo's SME Support

Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti, director of Prishtina REA and Country Coordinator of EEN Kosovo, actively participated in the Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference 2025, held from 26– 28 November 2025 at the Aalborg Kongres & Kultur Center in Denmark. The conference convened partners, policymakers, and stakeholders from the global EEN network to exchange best practices, foster collaborations, and reinforce the support system for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Europe and beyond.

Themed "Driving innovation, decarbonisation and security for SMEs: a stronger Network in action," the conference marked a pivotal gathering of EEN partners following the launch of the new programme period in July 2025. Over two and a half days, participants engaged in interactive sessions, workshops, networking activities, and matchmaking events designed to enhance the visibility, quality, and impact of EEN services. The programme emphasized practical approaches to support SMEs in navigating innovation, green transitions, digitalisation, and internationalisation, reflecting the strategic priorities of the European Union.

Key discussions during the conference revolved around four strategic areas aligned with EU and EEN objectives: fostering innovation and competitiveness among SMEs, accelerating the green and digital transition, ensuring sustainable economic resilience, and reinforcing cross-border collaboration and partnerships. The event also showcased dedicated networking zones, exhibition stands, and one-to-one matchmaking sessions, which collectively generated over 740 scheduled interactions. These interactions enabled EEN partners to identify new collaboration opportunities, share successful case studies, and explore potential joint initiatives to strengthen support services for SMEs in their respective regions.

EEN Kosovo's active involvement highlighted its commitment to supporting local SMEs by connecting them to international networks, investment opportunities, and innovation ecosystems.Through participation in workshops and thematic discussions, Prishtina REA gained insights into emerging trends in decarbonisation, digitalisation, and sustainable finance, which can be adapted to Kosovo's SME landscape. Moreover, the conference facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices with European and international partners, enhancing Kosovo's capacity to provide tailored advisory services and foster competitiveness among its enterprises.

The conference also offered a platform for strategic dialogue on improving the effectiveness and outreach of the EEN, ensuring that SMEs in widening countries, such as Kosovo, benefit from enhanced access to international markets, funding opportunities, and innovation support. By participating in this key global event, Prishtina REA reinforced its position as a leading facilitator of SME development in Kosovo, bridging the local business community with international innovation networks and investment ecosystems.

Through this engagement, Prishtina REA continues to demonstrate its commitment to empowering SMEs, fostering economic resilience, and contributing to Kosovo's integration into European value chains. The knowledge gained and partnerships established at the conference are expected to strengthen EEN Kosovo's services, enabling more SMEs to innovate, expand internationally, and adopt sustainable business practices, ultimately enhancing the country's economic growth and competitiveness.

Prishtina REA Highlights Kosovo's Cross-Border Tourism Success at CBC Montenegro-Albania-Kosovo Capitalisation Event

Director of Prishtina REA, Ahmet Jetullahu-Meti, contributed as a speaker at the CBC Kosovo-Montenegro Capitalisation Event, held on 16 December 2025 in Podgorica. The event brought together a broad spectrum of institutional representatives, project partners, and tourism stakeholders to review best practices, share project achievements, and reflect on the long-term impact of cross-border cooperation in the region. This high-level forum provided a platform for exchanging knowledge, evaluating lessons learned, and identifying strategies to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the tourism sector in Kosovo, Montenegro, and Albania.

A key highlight of the event was Mr. Jetullahu-Meti's participation as a panelist in the session dedicated to Tourism and Cultural Heritage, with a particular focus on Outdoor Tourism success stories. Drawing on his extensive experience as Country Coordinator of EEN Kosovo, he shared practical insights from ongoing projects and underscored the importance of digitalisation, internationalisation, and capacity building as essential drivers for scaling impact in cross-border tourism initiatives. His presentation emphasized EU-aligned approaches as a framework for achieving measurable and sustainable results, illustrating how structured collaboration can transform local heritage and tourism assets into significant economic and social value.

During his intervention, Mr. Jetullahu-Meti showcased concrete examples of projects that successfully leveraged Kosovo's rich natural and cultural resources to generate tangible outcomes. He highlighted initiatives in outdoor tourism, cultural heritage, and sustainability, demonstrating how well-designed interventions can produce cross-border benefits, enhance regional visibility, and foster resilient local economies. His remarks stressed that effective capitalisation of projects goes beyond completion, turning achievements into scalable, long-term solutions, and establishing robust systems, policies, and frameworks to sustain growth.

The event reinforced the concept that capitalisation is not merely a reflection on past successes, but a proactive process to transform proven initiatives into replicable models and lasting structures that continue to benefit the wider tourism ecosystem. By sharing Kosovo's experiences and strategies, Prishtina REA highlighted its ongoing commitment to fostering innovation, promoting sustainable tourism practices, and strengthening cross-border cooperation. The organization's work demonstrates how targeted support, strategic partnerships, and knowledge transfer can enhance competitiveness, create economic opportunities, and contribute to socioeconomic development across the Western Balkans.

Prishtina REA's engagement at the CBC Capitalisation Event showcased the tangible impact of Kosovo's tourism initiatives and reinforced the importance of regional collaboration in achieving sustainable, EU-aligned development. Through continuous efforts to support innovation, build institutional capacity, and promote international cooperation, Prishtina REA plays a pivotal role in positioning Kosovo as a dynamic and resilient tourism destination within the regional and European context.

Web Application Development & Cloud Computing Training in Prishtina and Mitrovica

In 2025, the Web Application Development & Cloud Computing Training held in Prishtina and Mitrovica successfully provided youth, students, and jobseekers aged 16 and above with critical digital skills, significantly enhancing their employability in Kosovo's fast-growing IT sector as well as on global freelancing platforms. The program was designed to address the increasing demand for technology competencies, bridging the gap between formal education and practical industry requirements while supporting Kosovo's digital economy.

The training focused on two main modules: Web Application Development and Cloud Computing. Each module combined theoretical instruction with hands-on, project-based exercises, allowing participants to gain practical experience in designing responsive web applications, developing dynamic user interfaces, and implementing cloud-based solutions using modern tools and technologies. This approach ensured that learners not only understood technical concepts but also acquired the practical skills necessary to apply them in real-world projects, thereby improving their readiness for employment or entrepreneurial initiatives.

The program attracted strong interest, receiving 710 applications from individuals eager to develop their digital competencies. After a competitive selection process, 81 participants successfully completed the training and received formal certifications through two dedicated certification ceremonies, recognizing their achievements and reinforcing their professional profiles. The participants' engagement throughout the program demonstrated a high level of motivation and commitment to leveraging digital skills for career advancement.

Beyond technical skill development, the training program aimed to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and project management skills, enabling participants to approach challenges in web and cloud-based projects with confidence. By exposing participants to real-world scenarios and practical applications, the initiative strengthened their ability to contribute meaningfully to local IT companies, start-ups, and international digital marketplaces. Many graduates are now better positioned to participate in freelance opportunities, contribute to software development projects, or support digital transformation initiatives within enterprises.

This initiative represents a significant contribution to Kosovo's digital workforce development, addressing the skills gap in high-demand technology sectors and promoting innovation andentrepreneurial thinking among young professionals. By equipping participants with market-relevant competencies, the training enhances both individual employability and the broader competitiveness of Kosovo's IT sector.

Furthermore, the program aligns with national and regional priorities to support digital literacy, technology adoption, and economic development by fostering a generation of skilled professionals capable of contributing to Kosovo's evolving digital economy. The success of the 2025 training cycle underscores the importance of continuous investment in ICT education, practical skills development, and workforce empowerment to ensure sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

Overall, the Web Application Development & Cloud Computing Training exemplifies a holistic approach to skills development, combining technical expertise, practical experience, and career readiness to strengthen Kosovo's position in the digital and technology sectors while empowering participants to pursue meaningful and sustainable career paths.

Drafting the Civil Aviation Law Reform Marks Significant Progress

Prishtina REA, being part of the consortia with PAI, and engaged by UNOPS, worked on drafting the Kosovo Law on Civil Aviation. After several workshops organized with several key institutional stakeholders, ensuring an important platform for in-depth discussions and collaborative review of the draft law, aiming at meeting the highest standards of safety, efficiency and regulatory compliance.

During these sessions, detailed analysis of the draft law were presented, covering a wide range of critical areas, including general provisions, the roles and responsibilities of civil aviation authorities, rules of the air, aviation personnel qualifications and responsibilities, flight operations, management and regulation of aerodromes, security measures, applicable sanctions, final provisions and other relevant topics. Participants engaged in constructive dialogue to assess each section, identify potential gaps, and propose improvements, aiming to create a law that is comprehensive, practical, and in line with modern aviation practices.

The draft law ensures aligning with international aviation standards, strengthens aviation safety, and supports regulatory harmonisation with EU and global civil aviation requirements. Emphasis was placed on enhancing operational efficiency, improving oversight mechanisms and fostering a safe and secure aviation environment for both passengers and operators. It highlighted the importance of developing a legal framework that facilitates innovation in the aviation sector while maintaining strict compliance with safety and security regulations.

This activity is supported under UNOPS- nowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans, and implemented by Prishtina REA & PAI., implemented by Public Administration International (PAI) and Prishtina REA, contributing to institutional strengthening and legal alignment within the EU Neighbourhood & Enlargement framework 2025. Through such initiatives, the region continues to make strides toward harmonised aviation legislation, capacity-building, and the adoption of best practices in line with international norms.

The draft law on Civil Aviation was approved by the official working group and the final assignment report approved by the official beneficiary.

eIDAS 2.0 transposition in Law 08/L-022 under EBRD project "Kosovo: MDA - Transposition of eIDAS 2.0 into National Legislation"

Drafting the Ksoovo e-wallet law, as engaged by the EBRD-funded assignment to align the Republic of Kosovo's Law No. 08/L-022 on Electronic Identification and Trust Services in Electronic Transactions with the provisions of the European Union's updated electronic identification regulation (eIDAS 2.0), under contract Alignment of Kosovo's legal framework with eIDAS 2.0 The expert team's mandate involved drafting necessary legal amendments and regulations, developing policy frameworks, building institutional capacity, and engaging stakeholders to ensure Kosovo's legal framework for electronic identification and trust services is harmonized with the latest EU standards. The report is structured into four sections corresponding to these areas of work.

It covered: Legal and Regulatory Expertise, Policy and Framework Development, Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement.

Through a combination of in–depth legal expertise, collaborative policy development, capacity–building efforts and broad stakeholder engagement, the expert team successfully delivered an aligned set of legal instruments bringing Kosovo's electronic identification and trust services framework up to the standards of eIDAS 2.0 under contract "Alignment of Kosovo's legal framework with eIDAS 2.0 under the assignment of project "Kosovo: MDA – Transposition of eIDAS 2.0 into National Legislation". The amended Law No. 08/L–022 and the accompanying Regulation on Digital Identity Wallets crafted under this assignment not only comply with the technical and legal requirements of the EU regulation but are also tailored to Kosovo's national context and future aspirations (including EU accession). The work done ensures that Kosovo is well–prepared to implement innovative digital identity tools like the EUDI Wallet in a secure, privacy–protective, and user–friendly manner. It further strengthens the country's trust services regime by introducing new services and stricter oversight in line with European best practices. The capacity–building and guidance provided empower Kosovo's institutions to carry the effort forward – from enacting the laws to executing them on the ground – thereby translating legislative alignment into tangible digital transformation outcomes. The stakeholder consensus achieved around these reforms bodes well for their sustainability and impact, as all relevant parties have a clear understanding of and commitment to the modernized eID framework. The expert team's deliverables - including the amended law, draft regulation, explanatory notes, and training materials - are submitted herewith, positioning the EBRD and Kosovo's authorities to successfully conclude this project and proceed to the implementation phase with confidence.

Advancing Market Surveillance Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prishtina REA, being part of the consortia with PAI, and engaged by UNOPS, worked on drafting the BiH new Law on Market Surveillance of Non-Food Products. This achievement represents a significant step toward strengthening the country's regulatory framework, enhancing consumer protection and aligning national legislation with European Union market surveillance standards.

The reform was developed through a joint Working Group, led by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with technical expertise provided under the UNOPS Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans initiative. The process was implemented by Prishtina REA and PAI, in close cooperation with national institutions responsible for market surveillance and EU alignment.

The new law responds directly to the needs and priorities of key institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, the Directorate for European Integration, the Market Surveillance Agency, and the Federal Administration for Inspection Affairs. Through structured legal analysis, technical drafting support, and stakeholder coordination, the Working Group ensured that the legislation reflects the requirements of the EU acquis, particularly in the area of non-food product safety and market control.

By aligning Bosnia and Herzegovina's market surveillance framework with EU standards, the law contributes to more effective oversight of non-food products, improved enforcement mechanisms, and increased legal certainty for economic operators. It also strengthens institutional cooperation and clarifies roles and responsibilities among inspection and surveillance bodies.

The UNOPS Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans initiative aims to support evidence-based policy-making and institutional reform across the region. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this support translated into hands-on technical assistance, expert guidance, and a collaborative approach that brought together government representatives and implementing partners around a shared reform objective.

The involvement of Prishtina REA and PAI ensured a coordinated implementation process, combining regional expertise, knowledge of EU standards, and experience in regulatory reform. This partnership enabled the delivery of targeted support tailored to the institutional and legal context of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The approval of the new Market Surveillance Law demonstrates how structured technical assistance and strong institutional ownership can deliver tangible reform outcomes. It represents not only progress in a specific policy area, but also a broader contribution to strengthening governance, regulatory quality, and EU readiness.

Through continued cooperation under the UNOPS Knowledge for Reform Action in the Western Balkans, partners remain committed to supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans in advancing reforms that promote transparency, product safety, competitiveness, and alignment with European standards.

Kosovo Launches Pilot Phase for Electronic Identity (eID) Implementation

On November 18, the Ministry of Economy officially launched the first pilot phase of the process for issuing electronic identity cards (eID), marking a significant milestone within the Kosovo eID Project, financed by the European Union through the EU4Innovation program. The project aims to enhance public services and create new opportunities for both citizens and institutions in Kosovo. As the leading body responsible for the creation and coordination of the eID system, the Ministry successfully carried out the registration and issuance process during the initial pilot phase. This represents a key step toward providing secure and efficient digital services for citizens and institutions across the country.

The technical platform has been fully developed, including the citizen registration system, the official application "Kosova e-Wallet", and the electronic signature module. In the first informational session held with Ministry staff, participants were introduced to the functionalities of the Kosova e-Wallet app, now available on both Android and iOS devices. Through the app, citizens will be able to perform electronic authentication, use the electronic signature, and apply the electronic seal for signing and validating digital documents.

In the coming days, the process of issuing eID cards will continue with the involvement of state administration officials, and once the pilot phase is complete, the eID service will be expanded nationwide and made accessible to all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

The pilot implementation is carried out with the support of Prishtina REA, serving as a key partner in implementation and contributing to institutional strengthening, ensuring the seamless rollout of the eID system. This initiative represents one of many steps by the Ministry of Economy to modernize public administration and provide safer and more efficient services for all citizens.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The achievements of 2025 confirm Prishtina REA's sustained contribution to strengthening innovation capacity, SME competitiveness, and socioeconomic development in Kosovo and the Western Balkans.
Through the effective implementation of European Union programmes and donor-funded initiatives, the organisation supported alignment with key EU strategic priorities, including the European Green Deal, the Digital Decade, the Single Market Programme, and the EU Enlargement and Western Balkans Agenda. These efforts contributed to advancing the green and digital transition, strengthening skills development, fostering innovation-driven growth, and enhancing regional and cross-border cooperation.

Prishtina REA's interventions addressed structural challenges faced by SMEs, education and training providers, and public and private stake-holders by promoting internationalisation, access to finance, digital transformation, and ecosystem-based collaboration. The delivery of complex, multi-country and multi-stakeholder initiatives, together with the successful establishment of flagship platforms such as the Balkonnect Festival, demonstrates the organisation's capacity to operate at scale, ensure accountability, and generate measurable and sustainable impact. These actions directly support the objectives of the EU Indus- trial Strategy, the SME Strategy for a Sustainable and Digital Europe, and Smart Specialisation approaches across the region.

In parallel, Prishtina REA's work aligns with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing in particular to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 4 (Quality Education and Lifelong Learning), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By supporting entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, skills development, sustainable tourism, green transition, and inclusive participation, the organisation reinforces partnerships and innovation as central drivers of long-term development and economic resilience. Looking ahead to 2026, Prishtina REA will continue to build on this momentum by further strengthening innovation ecosystems, supporting inclusive and sustainable growth, and deepening integration into

European value chains and knowledge networks. Particular emphasis will be placed on future technologies, digital and AI readiness, green transition, SME scaling, and regional cooperation, in line with evolving EU policy frameworks and global sustainability commitments. The organisation remains committed to professionalism, transparency, and results-oriented implementation, contributing to long-term economic resilience, societal progress, and Kosovo's European integration objectives.