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KOSOVO
GREEN BUILDING
COUNCIL

Forum "From Linear to Circular, Rethinking for Construction" – Summary Report

On May 15, 2026, the Faculty of Civil Engineering (FCE) of the University of Prishtina, in cooperation with the Kosovo Green Building Council (KGBC), successfully organized the forum titled "From Linear to Circular – Rethinking Construction in Kosovo." The forum served as an important platform for discussing the transformation of the construction sector towards more sustainable and circular practices.

The main objective of the forum was to promote the principles of the circular economy in construction, encourage collaboration between academia, industry, and public institutions, and create a space for knowledge exchange and dialogue on innovative and sustainable approaches in the built environment. The event emphasized the need to move from traditional linear models of resource use towards circular and regenerative systems that enhance efficiency, reduce waste, and improve environmental performance.

The forum gathered over 120 participants, including academics, industry professionals, institutional representatives, international experts, and stakeholders from various sectors. This diverse participation demonstrated the growing interest and relevance of circular economy principles in Kosovo's construction sector and beyond.

The program of the forum was structured as a full-day event, consisting of opening remarks, keynote speeches, panel discussions, case studies, and networking sessions. The opening session included welcome addresses from the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Executive Director of KGBC, and international partners from University of Cirily and Methody, from North Macedonia Prof. Elena Dumova Jovanoska and Natasa Stojanovikj from Helvetas. These remarks set the strategic context of the forum and highlighted its importance in advancing sustainability in the construction sector.

A key component of the forum was the delivery of two keynote speeches by distinguished international experts. Mr. Harald Friedl presented on how the circular economy can drive systemic change from linear to regenerative models, emphasizing leadership, collaboration, and practical approaches needed to implement circularity across industries.



His presentation focused on the shift from linear models towards regenerative systems, emphasizing that circularity is not only a technical transition but also a systemic change requiring leadership, collaboration, and innovation. He highlighted the importance of redesigning value chains, extending material lifecycles, and reducing waste through smarter resource management.

Mr. Friedl also stressed that achieving circularity in practice requires coordinated action across industries, institutions, and communities, supported by clear strategies and measurable impacts.

Overall, the keynote provided a strong conceptual and strategic framework for understanding how circular economy principles can drive long-term sustainability and resilience in the built environment.

Additionally, Prof. Dr. Bruno Dal Lago, who joined the forum online, addressed innovation and structural design in sustainable construction, offering insights into advanced engineering solutions and international practices.



Architect Barbara Miranda, representing the DGNB German Sustainable Building Council brings valuable expertise in sustainable architecture, regenerative construction materials, and circular design approaches. As part of DGNB – an internationally recognized platform advancing sustainability in the built environment – she contributes to shaping innovative, climate-positive solutions through research, certification systems, and knowledge exchange.

Her presence adds significant value to the discussion on: From Linear to Circular: Rethinking Construction in Kosovo.

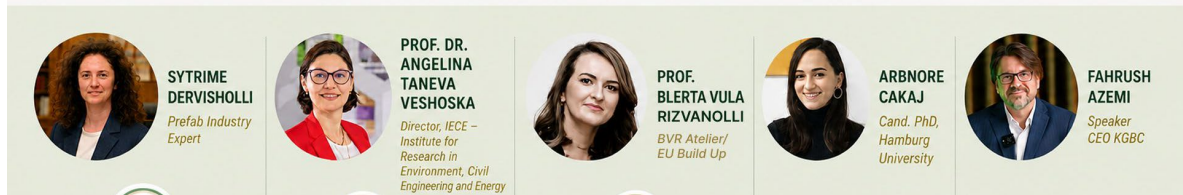


The forum also featured two panel discussions that explored the practical implementation of circular economy principles.

The first panel focused on engineering and implementation challenges, bringing together experts from academia and industry to discuss how circularity can be translated into real-world applications.

PANEL 1 PARTICIPANTS

15 MAY 2026



The second panel included representatives from financial institutions, government bodies, municipalities, and the private sector, and addressed the role of policy, governance, and cross-sector collaboration in supporting sustainable construction.

PANEL 2 PARTICIPANTS



In addition to discussions, the forum included presentations of case studies and industry experiences, showcasing real examples such as LEED-certified facilities, circular material reuse practices, and international projects. These examples demonstrated how theoretical concepts can be effectively applied in practice and provided valuable lessons for local stakeholders.

- A notable part of the forum was the case study presented by Ms. Sabina Gustof, who introduced the *Sara Kulturhus* project in Sweden as a leading example of sustainable and circular construction. The project, one of the tallest timber buildings in the world, demonstrates the effective use of mass timber systems, high levels of prefabrication, and advanced digital tools such as BIM to optimize design and construction processes.



The presentation highlighted how the building achieves a climate-positive lifecycle, primarily through the use of wood as a carbon-storing material and the integration of

renewable energy systems. Additionally, innovative façade solutions and energy optimization technologies contribute to high environmental performance.

Overall, this case study provided a clear and practical example of how circular economy principles and sustainable design can be successfully applied in modern construction.

- Another valuable presentation was delivered by Mr. Gëzim Paçarizi, who focused on the practical application of sustainable construction principles within the local context. His presentation highlighted the importance of resource efficiency, responsible material use, and the adoption of sustainable construction practices in improving the overall performance of the built environment. Particular attention was given to the challenges faced by the construction sector in Kosovo, including the need for modernization, better planning, and alignment with international standards.

Mr. Paçarizi emphasized that the transition towards circular construction requires not only technological improvements but also stronger institutional support, regulatory frameworks, and increased awareness among stakeholders.

Overall, the presentation provided a grounded and context-based perspective, underlining the opportunities and necessary steps for integrating sustainability and circular economy principles into the construction sector in Kosovo.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT
ARCH.
**GËZIM
PAÇARIZI**
IS COMING TO KOSOVO!
ARCHITECT, FOUNDER OF PAÇARIZI STUDIO
GENEVA / PRISTINA

4 PIKAT ME TË FORTA
TË ARK. GËZIM PAÇARIZI

- ARKITECTURË E BAZUAR NË KONTEKST DHE IDENTITET LOKAL**
Projekti e tij reflekton lidhjen e thellë me vendin, kulturën dhe peizazhin, duke sjellë zgjidhje që respektojnë identitetin dhe komunitetin.
- QASJE E FORTË NË QENDRUESHMËRI**
Përdor materiale lokale, strategji pasive klimatike dhe teknika me efikasitet të lartë energjetik për të krijuar arkitekturë me ndikim të ulët mjedisor dhe performancë afatgjatë.
- CIRCULARITY DHE EKONOMI CIRCULARE NË NDËRTIM**
Inkorporon parimet e circular building economy përmes përdorimit të materialeve natyrore e lokale, reduktimit të mbetjeve dhe teknologjive të përshtatshme, duke ndërtuar në harmoni me natyrën.
- EKSPIERIENCË AKADEMIKE DHE NDERKOMBËTARE**
Ligjërues, kurator dhe gjykmarrës aktiv në Bienalen e Venecias, me përvojë në universitete dhe konferenca ndërkombëtare, duke ndikuar në edukimin dhe diskutimin e arkitektures bashkëkohore.

Ark. Gëzim Paçarizi është arkitekt me përvojë mbi 30-vjeçare në Zvicër dhe Kosovë. I diplomuar në Universitetin e Gjenevës, ai ka realizuar projekte rezidenciale, urbane dhe kulturore të vlerësuar, duke kombinuar theksuesisht formale me përgjegjësinë mjedisore dhe identitetin lokal.

Puna e tij karakterizohet nga përdorimi i materialeve lokale, strategjitë pasive klimatike dhe parimet e circularity në procesin e projektimit dhe ndërtimit. Ai ka qenë kurator i **Panelit të Kosovës në Bienalen e Venecias** dhe ligjërues në universitete e konferenca ndërkombëtare.

Në Forumin **"From Linear to Circular: Rethinking Construction in Kosovo"**, Ark. Gëzim Paçarizi do të ndajë përvojën e tij mbi transformimin e praktikës arkitekturore drejt modeleve cirkulare dhe të qëndrueshme, duke ofruar perspektiva të vlefshme nga teoria dhe praktika bashkëkohore.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT
THE FORUM

FROM LINEAR TO CIRCULAR:
RETHINKING CONSTRUCTION
IN KOSOVO

- Another important presentation was delivered by Mr. Besart Hajrizi, who addressed the challenges and opportunities of integrating sustainability into the construction sector through innovative and economically viable approaches.

His presentation emphasized the transition from a linear to a regenerative economy, highlighting the urgent need to move beyond the traditional “take–make–use–lose” model towards a system based on reuse, efficiency, and long-term value creation. A key focus was placed on the global housing demand and the environmental impact of the construction sector, particularly in terms of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.



Mr. Hajrizi introduced a vertically integrated platform for sustainable construction, combining smart investment, green building systems, and sustainable living concepts. He stressed that making sustainability affordable is essential for large-scale implementation and that innovation, digitalization, and integrated solutions are key drivers for achieving this goal.

Overall, the presentation provided a practical perspective on how sustainability can be embedded into real estate and construction projects, balancing environmental responsibility with economic feasibility.

- Another relevant contribution to the forum was the presentation by Mr. Getoar Bislimi, who focused on the role of modern construction practices and industry-driven solutions in advancing sustainability.

His presentation highlighted the importance of efficient construction systems, material optimization, and practical implementation approaches that align with circular economy principles. A particular emphasis was placed on bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world application in the construction sector.

Mr. Bislimi underlined the need for stronger collaboration between industry and academia, as well as the adoption of innovative construction methods that improve performance while reducing environmental impact. He also stressed that sustainable construction requires not only technological advancement but also a shift in mindset across all stakeholders.



Overall, the presentation provided a practical industry perspective, demonstrating how sustainable and circular approaches can be integrated into everyday construction processes.

Networking sessions played a significant role in the forum, offering participants opportunities to establish connections, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations. These interactions contributed to strengthening ties between academia, industry, and institutions.

The forum resulted in several key conclusions. It highlighted the urgent need to transform the construction sector towards circular and sustainable models. It emphasized that collaboration between academia and industry is essential for driving innovation and implementation. The discussions also demonstrated that Kosovo has significant potential to adopt circular economy practices, provided that adequate policies, institutional support, and investments are in place. Furthermore, innovation, digitalization, and modern engineering approaches were identified as critical drivers of this transition.

Overall, the forum was assessed as highly successful in both its organization and its content. It served as a valuable platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange and contributed to raising awareness about sustainable construction practices. The event also reinforced the position of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and the University of Prishtina as active contributors to regional and international discussions on sustainability.

Based on the outcomes of the forum, it is recommended to continue organizing similar events in the future, strengthen collaboration with public institutions and industry stakeholders, integrate circular economy principles into academic curricula, and develop joint research and innovation projects. Additionally, the creation of continuous platforms for cooperation between academia and industry is strongly encouraged.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the forum *“From Linear to Circular – Rethinking Construction in Kosovo”* represents an important step towards the modernization and sustainable transformation of the construction sector in Kosovo. It has laid a strong foundation for future initiatives, partnerships, and actions aimed at promoting circular economy principles and advancing sustainable development in the built environment.

Furthermore, the discussions and outcomes of the forum highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of academia, including both students and academic staff of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, through targeted trainings and knowledge transfer in the field of circular economy and sustainable construction.

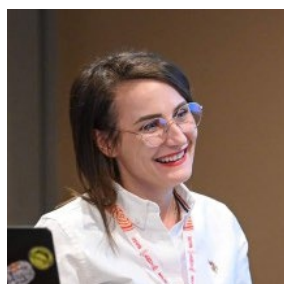
A key conclusion is the need to systematically integrate circularity principles into academic curricula, with particular emphasis on the Environmental Engineering study program, where these concepts are highly relevant and impactful.

Additionally, the forum emphasized the importance of raising awareness among public institutions and policymakers, by clearly communicating the challenges and opportunities related to circular construction. This includes promoting a better understanding of how circular economy approaches can contribute to more efficient resource use, environmental protection, and long-term economic benefits.

Overall, these conclusions underline the need for continued engagement, education, and institutional cooperation to successfully advance circularity in Kosovo’s construction sector.

Acknowledgements to the FORUM organizing Comity

The Organizing Committee of **FORUM** extends its deepest gratitude to the **Organizing comity** for their exceptional dedication, professionalism, and efficiency throughout all stages of the conference preparation and implementation.



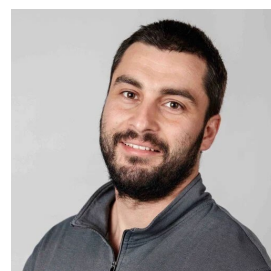
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Gjuka



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Dr.Sc. Guxim
Rrudhani



MSc Enes Krasniqi

Special appreciation is extended to Fiolla Bici for his support, coordination, and participation in various sessions and organizational activities. Their commitment, teamwork, and academic excellence played a key role in ensuring the smooth running and overall success of the conference.

Prepared by:

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University of Prishtina

May 2026