



E-workshop series: Unpacking the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

The Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB) has been selected as a framework for reviewing Switzerland's engagement to date and operationalising the Swiss International Cooperation Strategy 2025-28 in the fields of water and environment. This e-workshop series will provide a deeper understanding of the GAWB, its structure, concepts, and mechanisms, enabling participants to explore ways to leverage it for the future of Swiss international cooperation in the region.

e-workshop 1, 19.09.2024, 10.00-12.00 CEST

"Depollution" and "Sustainable food systems"

e-workshop 2, 03.10.2024, 10.00-12.00 CEST

"Decarbonisation" and "Biodiversity"

e-workshop 3, 31.10.2024, 14.00-16.00 CET

"Circular economy"



How to register

You will receive a personalised access link to the three e-workshops by registering using the link below or the QR code.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc6vrzsiE91Y5xsN7PRTf4682N9rhuTo>

Note that only the sessions' main inputs will be recorded and published on the RésEAU platform.

Your host

This e-workshop series is hosted by the thematic networks water (RésEAU) and climate, DRR and environment (CDE), and associated with economy and education (E+E) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); the Economic Cooperation and Development division of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the Embassy of Switzerland in Albania. For further questions on the initiative, please contact carmen.thoennissen@eda.admin.ch.



About this e-workshops series

At the Sofia Summit 2020, the Western Balkans Countries (WBC) ratified the Leaders' Declaration on the Green Agenda aligning the region with the ambitions of the European Green Deal for a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. The related Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB) Action Plan 2021-30 sets out to:

- i) decarbonise energy sources and protect the climate;
- ii) move to circular economy;
- iii) depollute air, water, and soil;
- iv) build sustainable agriculture and food systems;
- v) protect and restore ecosystems.

The e-workshops will discuss potential ways to leverage the GAWB, and possibilities for Swiss international cooperation to support the WBCs more prominently in their response to this developmental agenda. Renowned thematic experts will tackle the ins and outs of the individual pillars of the GAWB and its Action Plan, while experienced practitioners will display lessons learnt and perspectives from their respective portfolio of action. Ample time is allocated for reactions from the audience and joint reflections.

The e-workshops are open to staff and partners of Swiss international cooperation as well as any other interested parties working on water, environment and circular economy in the region and beyond.

Useful documents

- European Green Deal adopted by the European Commission to see [here](#)
- Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans to access [here](#)
- Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan to download [here](#)
- Swiss International Cooperation Strategy 2025-28 to be read about [here](#)



Agenda of E-workshop 2

“Decarbonization” and “Biodiversity”

03.10.2024, 10.00-12.00 CET

10:00	Welcome and introduction to the session	Daniel Maselli , Senior Policy Advisor for Water & Focal Point water network 'RésEAU', Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
10:10	Keynote: Climate proofing investments and the biodiversity portfolio in the Western Balkans Countries	Sonja Gebert , Associate Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
10:30	Q&A on keynote	<i>Plenary</i>
10:35	Short break	-
10:40	Thematic Input 1: “Innovative approaches & common challenges with focus on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the WB6 region”	Greg Gebrail , Senior Energy Specialist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
10:50	Thematic Input 2: “Ecology and environmental protection actions in the Western Balkans working towards Pillar 5 of the Green Agenda Action Plan”	Robertina Brajanoska , Executive Director, Macedonian Ecological Society
11:00	Input on “Swiss Portfolio in Decarbonization (Pillar 1) & Biodiversity (Pillar 5)”	Maria Güell i Pons , Programme Manager Infrastructure Financing, Swiss Economic Cooperation and Development SECO Carmen Thönnissen , Regional Advisor Water and Environment for the SDC Programmes in the West Balkan
11:10	Discussion: Further contributions and reflections on Pillars 1&5	<i>Breakout Groups / Plenary</i>
11:50	Conclusion and closing	Daniel Maselli , Senior Policy Advisor for Water & Focal Point water network 'RésEAU', SDC

Moderated by Delphine Magara, Backstopper of the SDC Water Network RésEAU

Register

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