

ECO-CHAMPIONS

For Household and Public Spaces Sustainable Waste Management

Why Eco Champions?

Europe faces increasing environmental and climate pressures. Waste management is one of the biggest challenges—and also one of the best opportunities for change.

Eco Champions brings people together to act locally, think European. By taking part in creative eco-activities, citizens can shape solutions that matter for their homes, neighborhoods, and communities.



What We Do

Over two years, Eco Champions will:

- Run workshops and eco-challenges in 5 European cities.
- Involve youth, adults, and older generations working side by side.
- Reward the most inspiring “eco-citizens”.
- Share results widely so that good practices spread across Europe.

Our Method

The project follows a simple, citizen-first approach:

1. **Listen & Learn** – understand local waste management needs.
 2. **Co-Create** – design eco-challenges with community input.
 3. **Act Together** – host engaging activities where citizens take the lead.
- Celebrate & Share** – highlight success stories and spread ideas across borders.

The Bigger Picture

Eco Champions is more than a project—it's a **movement** for **civic engagement** and **sustainability**. Together, we aim to reach 2,000+ direct participants and inspire thousands more across Europe.



What We Learned So Far

Our **Needs Analysis** showed that citizens across partner countries want **clearer information, better recycling options**, and **more chances** to get involved in local sustainability actions.

Communities also highlighted a big opportunity: bringing **young people** and **older generations** together to share ideas and lead change. Local authorities confirmed the need for more resources and coordination.

These insights are now shaping our next steps — from hands-on workshops to community eco-challenges — making sure the project responds directly to real needs on the ground.

You can access the Gap Identification and Needs Analysis [here](#).

Kick-off Meeting in Pristina, Kosovo

Partners gathered on **December 9–10, 2024** in **Pristina, Kosovo**, for the Kick-off Meeting (KOM) and Opening Event hosted by **Balkan Forum**.

This first gathering was a key moment for the consortium to come together, exchange perspectives, and plan the road ahead. The Opening Event brought **experts, stakeholders**, and **community representatives** into the conversation, highlighting the importance of sustainable waste management and the role of citizens in shaping a greener future.

With clear goals and strong collaboration, the Eco-Champions team is ready to turn ideas into action across Europe!





Partnership :

P1. Connect Brussels P2. Cohesion Network 2gether P3. The Balkan Forum P4. Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen P5. Asociacion La Bien Paga P6. Crhack Lab Foligno P7. European Grants International Academy – EGINA (Associated Partner) P8. INSTITUTO PARA EL FOMENTO DEL DESARROLLO Y LA FORMACION – INFODEF (Associated Partner)

Open Online Workshop on the Needs of Waste Management (D2.1)

Building Active and Inclusive Communities for a Greener Future

Overview

As part of Deliverable 2.1, the project consortium successfully organized the **Open Online Workshop on the Needs of Waste Management** on 3–4 April 2025. The event brought together **159 participants from five partner countries** — Belgium, Kosovo, Italy, Greece, and Spain — to exchange experiences, share good practices, and identify key challenges in the field of household and public waste management.

The workshop served as an important milestone in assessing current waste management habits, identifying educational gaps, and developing inclusive approaches that engage diverse community members in sustainable practices.



WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The **Eco Champions project** invites you to participate in the **international online workshop** on household waste management

April 30 2025

11:00 – 12:30 AM CEST

Time will be translated according to national time zones

Program

- Presentation of the results of national researchers
- Discussion on sustainable waste management

REGISTRATION

Register for the event via the link that will be provided ten minutes before the event.

REGISTER BY APRIL 28

Coordinator: Partners:



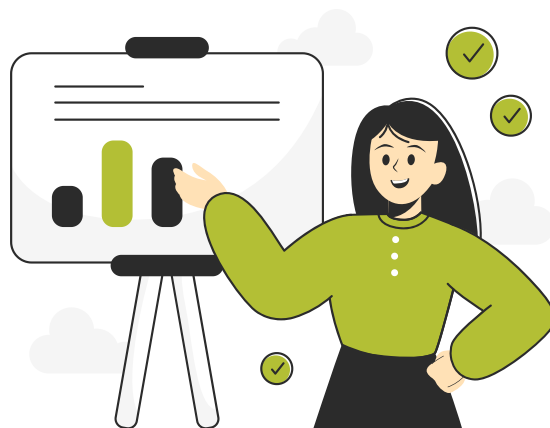
What Happened During the Workshop



Participants joined the workshop to discuss household and public waste management challenges, share experiences, and explore solutions.

The event featured:

- National **presentations** of survey findings on local waste habits.
- Intergenerational **discussions** with young people, seniors, and families.
- **Storytelling** approaches for engagement, particularly focused on young women.
- Exchange of **best practices**, including digital tools for tracking and reducing waste.



Participation Highlights



 **Belgium**

22 participants

 **Kosovo**

35 participants

 **Italy**

23 participants

 **Greece**

63 participants

 **Spain**

16 participants

Total participants: 159 (98 women, 61 men)

Key Takeaways

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Facilitators Online Workshop for Active Citizens' Engagement (D3.1)

Overview

In **May 2025**, facilitators from the partner countries gathered online for the **Facilitators Online Workshop for Active Citizens' Engagement** (Deliverable D3.1).

The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of community leaders to design and implement inclusive **ECO-CHALLENGES**, engaging citizens from all walks of life — particularly those often underrepresented in community initiatives, such as older adults, women, people with disabilities, and residents of rural areas.



FORMAZIONE PER FACILITATORI

Il progetto **Eco Champions** vi invita a partecipare alla formazione internazionale online per **facilitatori**, dedicata alla **teoria della democrazia sperimentale** e all'utilizzo dell'approccio di **Ecosystem Community Based Management**.

21 Maggio 2025 **Ore 11:00**

Programma

- Introduzione alla teoria della democrazia sperimentale
- Formazione sull'approccio di Gestione Ecosistemica Basata sulla Comunità
- Discussione aperta e sessione di domande e risposte

REGISTRAZIONE

Partecipa all'evento tramite il link che sarà fornito dieci minuti prima dell'inizio.

REGISTRATI ENTRO IL 19/05

Coordinator: **CONNECT BRUSSELS** Partners: **CO-GETHER** **THE BALKAN FORUM** **BOND BETTER MILLENI** **labien paga** **CHACKI AR EAT** **egina** **Info def**



What Happened During the Workshop



Facilitators from all partner countries came together to learn **how to organize** inclusive **ECO-CHALLENGES events** and engage vulnerable groups such as older adults, women, people with disabilities, and residents of rural areas. Key activities included:

- Training on **Experimentalist Democracy** and community-based management.
- Practical strategies for inclusive **citizen engagement**.
- Exchange of ideas for upcoming **national ECO-CHALLENGES events**, tailored to local contexts.



Participation Highlights

 **Belgium**

42 participants

 **Kosovo**

20 participants

 **Italy**

32 participants

 **Greece**

37 participants

 **Spain**

22 participants

Total participants: 153 (94 women, 59 men)

Key Takeaways

- Facilitators showed high confidence in coordinating eco-challenges and engaging diverse participants.
- Cross-country sharing strengthened peer learning and ideas for more inclusive, participatory events.
- Training provided a solid foundation for upcoming ECO-CHALLENGES, ensuring inclusive and accessible practices.



Next Steps

The ECO CHAMPIONS project continues to work with local partners to implement national ECO-CHALLENGES events:

- Kosovo: National Eco Festival in Prishtina
- Greece: Intergenerational Zero-Waste Challenge near Patras
- Spain: ECO-Art Festival in Valladolid

These events will further engage citizens in sustainable waste management, promote environmental awareness, and foster intergenerational cooperation.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



www.clf4d.eu
www.bondbeterleefmilieu.be.eu
thebalkanforum.org
co2gether.gr
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