

# Building knowledge across borders

Trainings on sustainable agriculture and rural development reaches nearly 400 participants across the Western Balkans



From Albania to Serbia, a regional effort to strengthen sustainable farming knowledge is making a real impact. Through a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions and national-level courses, the Farm to Fork (F2F) Academy project has equipped civil society organisations (CSOs) and rural stakeholders across all six Western Balkans countries with practical skills in sustainable agriculture and rural development.

## Regional Trainings of Trainers

Between February and September 2024, four regional ToT sessions were held across Albania, in Tirana, Durres, Shkodra, and Vlora, bringing together representatives from National Rural Development Networks (NRDNs) in the WB-6 countries. Each NRDN nominated two CSO representatives working in agriculture and rural development to take part.

### The four modules covered throughout the ToT series were:

- Organic farming
- Sustainable horticulture
- Agroecology
- Circular economy

In total, 55 participants completed the regional training series — 58% of them women and 38% young people (aged 18-40). All participants received a certificate and were then tasked with delivering training at the national level in their home countries.

### Summary of Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) Sessions

Edition	Date	Venue	Total	Women	Youth
First	February 2024	Tirana, Albania	16	11	5
Second	April 2024	Durres, Albania	15	7	6
Third	June 2024	Shkodra, Albania	13	7	5
Fourth	September 2024	Vlora, Albania	11	7	5



<b>Total</b>	4 sessions	Albania	55	32	21
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## *National Trainings: knowledge reaches the grassroots*

Building on the regional ToTs, trained participants went on to deliver 24 national training courses across the WB-6, reaching 392 participants in total. Participants were selected through open calls and, due to high demand, numbers frequently exceeded the original target of 15 per session. All participants received certification upon completing the two-day training.

### National training participants by country

Country	Participants	Women	Youth (18–40)
Bosnia & Herzegovina	74	57%	49%
Albania	67	48%	40%
Montenegro	65	46%	66%
North Macedonia	65	51%	22%
Serbia	65	51%	22%
Kosovo	61	67%	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>40%</b>

## *Participant satisfaction*

Evaluation results across both regional and national trainings showed overwhelmingly strong satisfaction. Every participant stated that the training met their expectations, and nearly all rated the organisation and content as excellent.

Evaluation indicator	Score
Training fulfilled expectations	100%
Found training extremely/very beneficial	89%
Felt highly engaged throughout	94%
Rated overall organisation as excellent/good	92%

## *Top training modules*

Participants across all sessions consistently highlighted three modules as their favourites, reflecting a strong interest in practical and circular approaches to sustainable agriculture.





### *A growing regional movement*

The success of these trainings reflects a growing commitment to sustainable agriculture knowledge-sharing across the Western Balkans. Hundreds of CSO representatives and rural stakeholders are now equipped to act as agents of change in their communities, spreading the principles of sustainable, green, and resilient food systems to farmers, local organisations, and beyond.

The F2F Academy also maintained a strong online presence throughout this period, reaching over 300,000 people through social media and digital campaigns across the F2F and NRDN channels.