

GreenFORCE

Foster Research Excellence for Green Transition in the Western Balkans

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List of project partners

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	Co-PLAN	CO-PLAN INSTITUTI PER ZHVILLIMIN EHABIITATIT	AL	941177712
1.1	AE	U_POLIS	UNIVERSITETI POLIS SHPK	AL	954870232
2	BEN	POLITO	POLITECNICO DI TORINO	IT	999977754
3	BEN	NORDREGIO	NORDREGIO	SE	999536792
4	BEN	UB-GEF	UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE - FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY	RS	933015744
5	BEN	CEA	CENTER FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSES	MK	912445536



Executive Summary

D3.6 Supervisor's Report on Thesis Co-supervision presents the outcomes of the GreenFORCE co-supervision programme, supporting MSc and PhD students across partner institutions in the Western Balkans and the EU. It highlights the transformative impact of international, interdisciplinary supervision on student research and institutional learning. The report includes: an overview of the supervision model and collaboration dynamics; student profiles and thesis abstracts covering topics such as green transitions, territorial cohesion, and climate adaptation; and insights from academic mobility and conference participation. It also showcases scientific outputs, including contributions to peer-reviewed journals and the Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions. As a project output, the co-supervision model effectively enhanced research quality, fostered transnational networks, and supported capacity building. It is presented as a scalable approach to promoting academic excellence and innovation in regions undergoing socio-economic and environmental transitions.

Project Overview

GreenFORCE aims at fostering excellence in the "Western Balkans' green transition" scientific research and innovation of Co-PLAN (Albania), CEA (North Macedonia), and UB-GEF (Serbia) as a means to enhancing their research profile, strengthening research and management capacities of their staff, and contributing to convergence between Western Balkans (WB) and EU research capacities, as well as to broader policy initiatives for the WB region. To achieve this objective, a twinning partnership of five organisations will work closely to produce territorial knowledge through exploratory research and institutional learning; transferring and exchanging knowledge among partner organisations through applying the knowledge management cycle, engaging in networking for sharing, cross-fertilizing and amplifying knowledge at the societal level. Ultimately, the ambition is to transcend from individual learning to enabling institutional learning, ensuring that scientific research and its management practices become institutionalised within the recipient organisations. GreenFORCE will contribute to the impacts of the destination "Improved access to excellence" by enabling pathways of cooperation, exchange, co-design, and co-creation with academia, civil society and policymakers at the regional level. The five partner organisations are Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development in Albania as the coordinating partner; University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography (UB-GEF) in Serbia and the Center for Economic Analysis Association (CEA) in North Macedonia as the two regional partners; and Nordregio, a pan-Nordic research organisation based in Sweden, together with Politecnico di Torino, Italy (POLITO), as the leading EU research institutions. POLIS University in Albania is the affiliate partner of Co-PLAN.



1. Introduction

In the context of growing global urgency around climate change, social equity, and territorial development, the GreenFORCE project has emerged as a dynamic platform for academic collaboration and capacity building in the Western Balkans and beyond. Central to this initiative is a commitment to nurturing the next generation of researchers through an innovative model of international co-supervision. By bringing together diverse academic traditions, institutional experiences, and disciplinary approaches, the project has created an enabling environment that allows students to tackle complex challenges, such as the Just Green Transition, Territorial Cohesion, and Disaster Resilience, through rigorous and impactful research. This report examines the transformative impact of co-supervision on a cohort of MSc and PhD candidates participating in the GreenFORCE project. Far from being a purely administrative arrangement, the co-supervision model adopted here acts as a catalyst for intellectual growth and academic excellence. Through tailored guidance from multidisciplinary supervisory teams, students benefit not only from technical and methodological support, but also from exposure to international research cultures and policy networks. Their learning journeys are enriched through participation in conferences, summer schools, research visits, and opportunities for publication, all of which contribute to deepening their expertise and expanding their professional horizons.

The outcomes of this co-supervision process are tangible and multifaceted. Students have advanced ambitious research agendas, contributed to significant academic publications - including the Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions in the Western Balkans and Beyond - and presented their work at leading international conferences. Each case reflects a unique trajectory, shaped by personal interests and institutional support, yet united by a shared commitment to addressing urgent societal issues through critical, policy-relevant scholarship. Moreover, the GreenFORCE project has demonstrated how strategic co-supervision can serve not only individual educational goals but also broader institutional and policy ambitions. The initiative strengthens academic cooperation across borders, fosters interdisciplinary research networks, and enhances the visibility and impact of emerging scholars. In doing so, it provides a compelling model for promoting academic excellence and innovation in transnational settings, particularly in regions undergoing socio-economic and environmental transitions. This report highlights the achievements of the co-supervised students, showcases their research contributions, and reflects on the broader lessons learned for academic supervision, international collaboration, and capacity building in higher education. Meanwhile, in the project website section dedicated to PhD and MSc theses supervision, we have presented a summary of the students involved, main thesis topics, and links (when available).

2. Supervision and Collaboration

This shared theme emerges from these stories: supervision is not just about guidance - it is about transformation. Each of these students entered their research journey with curiosity and a set of ideas. Still, through rigorous supervision, critical feedback, and international exposure, their work evolved into something more impactful (Table 1). The Twinning Western Balkans program has proven to catalyse academic excellence, fostering cross-border collaborations and enriching research through diverse perspectives. The emphasis on co-supervision has allowed students to benefit from multiple viewpoints, making their research more robust and interdisciplinary. Furthermore, their strong participation in conferences and academic publishing has ensured that their work reaches beyond university corridors and broader policy debates. Whether through contributions to handbooks, journal articles, or conference proceedings, these students are actively shaping the discourse on Green Transitions, Territorial Cohesion, and Disaster Resilience.



Table 1. List of Phd and MSc students involved in the co-supervision task

Candidate	Thesis Title	Level	Institution	Supervisors	Title of the MSc degrees and Ph.D. programme	Defense Date
Aida Shaneh	Towards a Just and Green Transition: The Making and Implementation of Just Transition Plans in Sweden and What Can We Learn from It	MSc	Politecnico di Torino	Giancarlo Cotella, Maurizio Tiepolo, Carlos Tapia, Alberto Giacometti	Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning Curriculum: Planning for the Global Urban Agenda	February 2023
Ketevan Katcharava	Green Transition in Eastern Partnership - Under the Framework of the European Green Deal and Lessons from the Western Balkans	MSc	Politecnico di Torino	Giancarlo Cotella, Erblin Berisha, Kejt Dhrami	Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning Curriculum: Planning for the Global Urban Agenda	September 2024
Andrija Planić	The Impact of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes on Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning	MSc	University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography	Zora Živanović, Erblin Berisha, Giancarlo Cotella		September 2024
Ogerta Gjikhuri	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Financing	PhD	University of Ferrara (Double Degree with POLIS University)	Merita Toska, Piaia Emanuele, Ombretta Caldarice	Architecture and Urban Planning Programme	2028
Rea Muka	Multi-scale assessment of Urban Heat Island: how to integrate nature-based solutions in local land development	PhD	University of Ferrara (Double Degree with POLIS University)	Rudina Toto, Gastone Ave, Ombretta Caldarice	Architecture and Urban Planning Programme	TBC



	practices through micro-climate modelling					
Yahya Shaker	The Multi-level Meta-Governance of the Just Green Transitions of the European Union	PhD	Politecnico di Torino	Giancarlo Cotella, John Moodie, Zora Živanović	Urban and Regional Development	2026

Source: authors' own elaboration

3. Students Bio



Aida Shaneh is a Ph.D. researcher at Politecnico di Torino (Italy), specializing in spatial planning, territorial governance, and strategies for a just transition. Her doctoral research focuses on just urban mobility paradigms and spatial governance frameworks, with particular attention to active mobility in child-friendly cities from a justice perspective. Through her interdisciplinary approach, she aims to bridge policy, planning, and practice to contribute to safer and more inclusive urban mobility solutions.

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Ketevan Katcharava is an architect, urban planner, and landscape designer with a Master of Science in Territorial, Urban, Environmental, and Landscape Planning from Politecnico di Torino, graduating with highest honors (110 cum laude). Her academic and professional interests focus on green transition, urban regeneration, and regional planning. Her thesis examined climate policies in the Eastern Partnership within the framework of the European Green Deal. Ketevan has contributed to international projects and workshops—including Cities in Just Green Transitions and the Turin Net-Zero City initiative—while integrating a multidisciplinary perspective across architecture, planning, and landscape design. Her diverse experience spans both large-scale and community-based projects, with a commitment to equitable and sustainable urban development.

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Ogerta Gjikhuri is a senior expert in financial management and risk with over 20 years of experience across sectors including construction, insurance, not-for-profit, and urban economy. She holds advanced qualifications in finance and financial risk management and has a strong track record in designing and monitoring grant schemes in line with EU requirements. Her expertise intersects with urban economic development and disaster risk reduction, contributing to strategies that enhance community resilience. Since 2024, she has been pursuing a Ph.D. at POLIS University, focusing on disaster risk reduction. Alongside her professional work, she has served for over a decade as a lecturer at POLIS University in business analysis, project management, and urban economic planning.

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Andrija Planić holds a Master's degree in Spatial Planning from the Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade, where he completed both undergraduate and graduate studies with high distinction. His research interests include cross-border cooperation, European territorial cohesion, and spatial planning, as reflected in his theses on Serbia's cooperation with neighboring countries and the impact of EU programs on territorial development. He has actively participated in international academic programs and won recognition at the 31st International Urbanism Salon in Čačak. In addition to academic achievements, Andrija has led numerous student initiatives and currently works at the Ministry of European Integration in Serbia as assistant coordinator for cross-border cooperation programmes and contact point for the ESPON programme.

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Rea Muka is a Ph.D. candidate in Architecture and Urban Planning, jointly enrolled at Polis University and Ferrara University. She is a GIS and Spatial Planning Expert at Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development. Her work spans territorial planning, disaster risk reduction, circular economy, and urban biodiversity, with a strong focus on sustainable and inclusive development. Rea has contributed to national and local planning processes, including Social Housing Plans, village-level territorial strategies, and ecosystem service assessments in the Kune-Vain Lagoon under Horizon Europe. Her research and practice emphasize innovative, community-informed approaches to spatial and environmental planning.



Yahya Shaker is a Ph.D. candidate in Urban and Regional Development at the Interuniversity Department of Regional & Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), Politecnico di Torino. His doctoral project, titled *"The Multi-level Meta-Governance of Just Green Transitions of the European Union"*, is funded by the HORIZON Europe GreenFORCE Western Balkans Twinning initiative. His research examines governance frameworks that support the EU's green transition, with a focus on the Western Balkans, and contributes to the knowledge on multi-level policy integration for sustainable and just territorial development.

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4. Thesis Abstract

Aida Shaneh: Navigating Just Transitions Through a Spatial Lens

A Just Transition Plan is a framework for ensuring that the shift to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy is carried out in a fair and equitable way. However, the design and implementation of Just Transition plans can be complex and challenging, requiring close collaboration between diverse stakeholders and careful consideration of trade-offs and potential unintended consequences. The research aimed to investigate the Just Transition planning process in Sweden and extract the transferable lessons to Italy. The research delves into the value and the consequences of the Territorial Just Transition Plans and examines how the governance dynamics can play a significant role in the Just Green Transition planning processes. The ESPON TANGO project provided an appropriate ground to investigate the planning process and stakeholder involvement procedures leading to Just Green Transition Plans in three counties of Sweden - Gotland, Norrbotten, and Västerbotten - as well as one county of Italy, Sardinia. The analysis is primarily based on a desk review of policy documents, governance impact analysis, and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders. The thematic interpretation technique is implemented to evaluate to what extent Territorial Governance indicators contribute to the Territorial Just Transition planning process. Findings reveal that Just Transition Plans seek to extend the discourse of sustainability beyond the environmental and economic concepts towards social and equity concerns, though they face serious challenges like partially exclusivity, uncertainty, slow progress, and a top-down approach. Furthermore, the study underscores the relevance of Territorial Governance's place-based approach to evaluate the power dynamics at different levels, competing interests among involved actors, the manner of coordination of actors, and the potential obstacles that might hinder the implementation.

Ketevan Katcharava: Bridging Eastern and Western Green Transitions

The urgency for a Green Transition (GT) has become a global imperative. Europe, recognizing this importance, adopted the European Green Deal (EGD) with an ultimate goal to reach climate-neutrality. However, given the ambitious and the scale of the initiative, independent efforts are insufficient, thus, engaging partners becomes crucial. Academic and scientific discourse have investigated the GT across the EU and neighboring countries, yet, the knowledge and potential of the EaP (Eastern Partnership) in this



process remains relatively underexplored. The research aim is to investigate how the EaP can exchange knowledge, resources, and practices to support the transition, as well as to identify key drivers and barriers that impact the process. For this, EaP need to prepare themselves to address climate issues as part of a wider partnership of shared responsibilities. In light of this, the thesis explores the WB experience of GT, which although not EU members, have initiated their own Agenda and possess a similar contextual history to EaP. The study primarily relies on a mix of desk research, semi-structured interviews, quantitative analysis and comparative frameworks. However, there are complexities that could impede the region's transition. Among them, the highest risks are associated with diverse political alignments regarding EU integration, tensions with neighboring states, weak institutional capacities and governance models, outdated infrastructure, dependency on traditional industries, data scarcity, weak monitoring, and financial constraints. In order to eliminate those factors, the thesis aims to design a generalized GT roadmap and incorporate tailored points for the EaP context. Research concludes that the framework's applicability must be adjusted to the unique regional specificities of EaP, it should have a flexible nature that will reflect the distinct political aspirations of member states; Moreover, it's important to design a group for regional cooperation, create unified databases for improving data quality and consistency for monitoring processes, identify policy gaps, integrate cross-sectoral fields, establish partnerships and twinning programs with local and international organizations for receiving technical and capacity support, diversify financial investment plans, build local capacities, promote co-ownership initiatives for gaining public trust and, reinforce monitoring systems. This adaptive approach will enable the EaP countries to overcome the complexities of their regional dynamics and achieve tangible progress towards their GT goals.

Andrija Planić: Mapping Cooperation Across Borders

In today's world, territorial cohesion and spatial planning issues are gaining increasing importance within the framework of European integration. Global development issues such as climate change, migration flows, and economic instability demand joint responses and long-term strategies that transcend national borders. In this context, European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programs are becoming a key instrument for strengthening cooperation among EU member states and candidate countries, aiming to create sustainable and resilient territories. Spatial planning, once exclusively the domain of national governments, is increasingly acquiring a supranational dimension through initiatives such as ETC. These programs enable joint solutions to territorial challenges such as urban development, infrastructure investment, and environmental protection. Furthermore, they enhance territorial cohesion, a process that encompasses economic, social, and spatial integration, striving to balance development across different European regions.

Considering the importance of ETC and its impact on territorial cohesion and spatial planning, this thesis explores the development and impact of primarily Interreg, as the main mechanism of European Territorial Cooperation, and several other initiatives within the ETC. The first part of the paper will analyze the historical development of European Territorial Cooperation, focusing on the evolution of the Interreg program. Various forms of cooperation, including cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation, will be viewed through the lens of these programs' political and social goals and the challenges they face. Special attention will be given to cooperation within the European Union and ETC's role in candidate countries.



The subsequent sections of the paper are dedicated to territorial cohesion, its definition, an analysis of different methodologies for measuring territorial cohesion, including those developed by various authors and ESPON. It will also examine how ETC has influenced territorial cohesion and its contribution to achieving the goals of territorial cohesion. Spatial planning, as an instrument for improving territorial cohesion, also takes a central place in the paper, with a focus on how planning practices can be integrated into ETC and how ETC has influenced the development of spatial planning

Ogerta Gjijnuri: Financing Resilience in a Changing Climate

The purpose of this research proposal is to investigate disaster risk management (DRM) and its integration with climate change adaptation as essential mechanisms for sustainable development. Using Albania as a case study, the research aims to:

- Address challenges related to DRM.
- Explore the integration of climate change adaptation within DRM frameworks.
- Develop a sustainable financing mechanism tailored to country-specific needs, resources, and disaster typologies.

By examining strategic and regulatory frameworks, urban planning patterns, and governance levels, the study seeks to contribute to long-term resilience and cost-effective disaster preparedness, benefiting authorities, experts, and the general public.

Objectives:

- Analyze the existing strategic and regulatory frameworks for DRM and climate change adaptation at local and central governance levels.
- Evaluate the implementation of these frameworks in Albania, focusing on urban planning and disaster governance.
- Identify best practices and gaps in DRM and climate adaptation integration to enhance resilience and sustainability.
- Design a practical financing mechanism that supports preventive, response, recovery, and adaptation actions for long-term sustainable development.

These objectives collectively aim to strengthen Albania's capacity to manage disaster risks and climate impacts while serving as a model for other regions facing similar challenges.

Yahya Shaker: Decoding the Governance of Just Green Transitions

In the context of the European Green Deal (EGD) and in response to the growing academic and policy debate around the European Union's (EU) "Green Transition" and "Just Transition" (European Commission, 2020c), this doctoral research critically examines the emerging and compound concept of "Just Green Transitions" (JGT). By placing the framework of Multi-Level Meta-Governance (ML-MG) at the center of the analysis, the research explores how JGT are being conceptualized, framed, and operationalized across different governance levels—from the EU to its Member States (MS)—and among a wide range of actors, sectors, policies, and decision-making arenas. The study investigates the coherence, tensions, and trade-



offs that emerge in the pursuit of environmental sustainability and social justice objectives, questioning to what extent current transition strategies are truly just, inclusive, and equitable. Special attention is given to the vertical and horizontal integration of policies and to the mechanisms through which normative commitments to justice are translated into concrete governance arrangements and policy instruments. Through a comparative and multi-scalar approach, the research aims to uncover the power dynamics, institutional architectures, and discursive constructions that shape the pathways of JGT in Europe, ultimately interrogating whether the transition is not only green, but also just in practice.

Rea Muka: Multi-scale assessment of Urban Heat Island: how to integrate nature-based solutions in local land development practices through micro-climate modelling

In the context of accelerating climate change and increasing urban vulnerability to extreme weather events, this doctoral research investigates the intersection of urban planning, microclimate mapping, and nature-based solutions. Focusing on the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, the study explores how spatial planning can incorporate climate as a core dimension in order to build more resilient and liveable cities, particularly in the context of Albania. By combining theoretical insights on urban ecosystems and green infrastructure with data-driven microclimate modelling, the research develops a methodology for mapping and simulating the effects of green solutions on urban microclimates. The goal is to create an integrated, GIS-based toolkit for planning interventions that mitigate the impacts of urban heat and contribute to climate neutrality at the local level. This study offers a practical and scalable approach to embedding environmental resilience into land development practices, with implications for policy, planning, and governance in rapidly urbanizing regions.

5. Co-supervision approach

In the GreenFORCE project, we have adopted a structured co-supervision model to support MSc students engaged in interdisciplinary and practice-oriented research (Figure 1). This model is designed to provide well-rounded academic, technical, and professional guidance, aligning with the project's commitment to capacity building, knowledge transfer, and applied innovation in the green transition.

At the core of this approach is the student, who is supported by a three-member supervisory team:

- The main supervisor acts as the academic lead, ensuring overall coherence and quality of the research process. They guide the student in aligning their work with educational standards and the strategic objectives of the GreenFORCE project.
- A thematic or technical co-Supervisor provides domain-specific expertise related to the student's topic, such as urban sustainability, green infrastructure, or data analytics, offering focused feedback on research content and methods.
- A network of co-supervisors supports the student's integration into broader project activities, partnerships, and events, while also facilitating administrative processes and mobility-related matters.

This co-supervision model ensures that students receive:

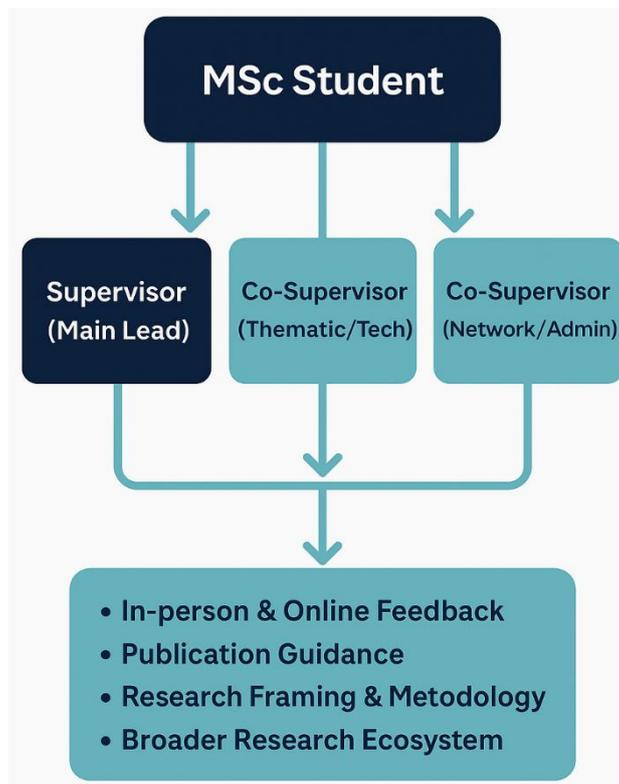


- Regular in-person and online feedback, tailored to their evolving research needs;
- Guidance on scientific writing and publication, encouraging dissemination and visibility of results;
- Support in framing research questions and methodology, grounded in real-world challenges and evidence-based planning;
- Connection to a broader research ecosystem, including stakeholders, institutions, and living labs engaged in the GreenFORCE network.

This collaborative structure fosters a dynamic, responsive, and empowering learning environment for MSc and Phd students, while enhancing the research outputs and societal relevance of the GreenFORCE project.

Besides that, students have been supported in capitalising their research results into scientific publications (see section 8).

Figure 1 – Supervision’s method (source: authors’ own elaboration)



6. Visiting experience and tutoring

Students' international academic engagements offer valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of mobility and collaboration within the framework of transnational research initiatives (Table 2). Despite the diversity of their host institutions and participation formats, each experience significantly contributed to their professional development, research advancement, and the broader goals of knowledge exchange.

Shaneh spent a research period at Nordregio in Stockholm, where the well-organised and supportive environment proved instrumental in facilitating a smooth integration into the institute. The proactive involvement of supervisors—particularly in connecting with stakeholders, conducting interviews, and refining analysis—greatly enriched Shaneh’s research process. The tailored feedback and professional guidance not only deepened the quality of the research but also enabled meaningful progress during the stay.

Mrs. Gjicknuri participated in a teaching exchange at Politecnico di Torino in November 2024. His contribution included delivering an open lecture on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation Financing, which served as a platform for dynamic dialogue with students and faculty. This exchange fostered constructive feedback, encouraged reflection on research themes, and reinforced academic ties within the consortium. Additionally, although not formally embedded in an institutional visit, Gjicknuri’s participation as a tutor in the 2023 GreenFORCE summer school in Turin enhanced his engagement with students and experts from across Europe and the Western Balkans.

Ketevan Katcharava also played a central role in the GreenFORCE summer school, acting as a co-tutor in a working group alongside her co-supervisor, Dr. Kejt Dhrami. Despite not undertaking a dedicated mobility period, her contribution to this intensive program enabled active knowledge co-production. The summer school facilitated close collaboration with a broad network of institutions—including Co-PLAN, Nordregio, and the University of Belgrade—and offered a rare opportunity to exchange ideas and insights on the green transition in the Western Balkans. The experience proved to be especially valuable for shaping her thesis, thanks to the dynamic and up-to-date perspectives shared by peers and experts alike.

Shaker undertook two research visits during 2024: a longer-term stay at Nordregio (February to July) and a subsequent period at the University of Łódź in Poland (October to December). The dual mobility suggests an effort to engage with different institutional environments and research cultures. This combination likely provided Shaker with comparative insights and access to diverse networks, methodologies, and academic discourses relevant to his research focus.

Table 2 - Comparative Table of Academic Engagements

Name	Institution(s) Visited	Period	Type of Activity	Main Contributions	Key Outcomes
Shaneh Aida	Nordregio, Stockholm, Sweden	Not specified	Research Visit	Advanced research through stakeholder engagement, interviews, and feedback	Enhanced depth and quality of research
Gjicknuri Ogerta	Politecnico di Torino, Italy	November 2024	Teaching Exchange & Summer School Tutor	Delivered open lecture; engaged in academic exchange; participated as	Strengthened academic collaborations; improved research via feedback



				tutor in summer school	
Katcharava Ketevan	Summer School in Turin (GreenFORCE project)	September 2023	Summer School Tutor	Guided student group work; exchanged ideas with regional experts; contributed to GreenFORCE	Improved thesis with up-to-date regional perspectives; enriched collaboration
Shaker Yahya	Nordregio, Stockholm & University of Łódź, Poland	Feb–July 2024 (Nordregio), Oct–Dec 2024 (Łódź)	Research Visits	Engaged with different research environments; gained comparative insights	Exposure to diverse academic contexts and networks
Rea Muka	Summer School in Turin (GreenFORCE project)	September 2023	Summer School Student	Participated in the group works exchanged ideas with regional experts; contributed to GreenFORCE	Improved thesis abstract. And initiated and tested her preliminary methodological design
Andrija Planić	Summer School in Turin (GreenFORCE project)	September 2023	Summer School Student	Participated in the group works exchanged ideas with regional experts; contributed to GreenFORCE	Exposure to new scientific content (just green transition)

Source: authors' own elaboration

7. Participation in International Conferences

Yahya Shaker



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- XXV Conferenza Nazionale SIU Cagliari - Transizioni, Giustizia Spaziale E Progetto di Territorio, (15-16 June, 2023), Track 6: Governance Urbana e Territoriale, Coesione e Cooperazione.
- Green Agenda For Western Balkans, International Scientific Conference, University of Belgrade (20-22 June 2023), Section 6: GreenFORCE – Green Agenda and Spatial Planning
- 35th AESOP Annual Congress, Łódź, Poland (11-15 July 2023), Track 12: Territorial Governance and Cohesion.
- 36th AESOP Congress 2024 (Paris, France), Chair of Track1: Post-Growth. Main Organizer of the Roundtable 13: Just Green Transitions: Transforming or Transitioning to What?
- Presentation in Track 6: Governance: Shaker, Y. & Berisha, E. Towards a Conceptual Framework for implementing the Just Green Transitions in the European Union.
- Abstract Co-Author in Track 7: Environment and Climate: Berisha, E., Todella, E., Shaker, Y. Co-designing Indicators for Turin's Just Green Transition: The case of GreenFORCE Summer School.
- International Symposium NMP24 Networks, Markets & People International Symposium (Reggio Calabria, Italy). Presentation in Ts-04: a Glocal Knowledge System for the Sustainability Assessment: Todella, E., Shaker, Y., Berisha E. Towards a Pan-European Conceptual Framework of Indicators for the EU Just Green Transitions.

8. Publication works

The following list showcases the scientific contributions of early-career researchers and students who have been actively involved in the project through co-supervision and international collaboration. Their work addresses key dimensions of the Just Green Transition, with a focus on territorial governance, policy transfer, and comparative insights across European and neighboring contexts. Several publications are featured in the forthcoming *Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions in the Western Balkans and Beyond*, while others appear in leading journals. These outputs exemplify the academic value and impact of the project, while also reflecting the diversity of backgrounds and research perspectives involved.

Aida Shaneh

- Tapia, C. Giacometti, G. Moodie, J.R., Cedergen, E. & **Shaneh**, A. (2025 – forthcoming), From mitigation to transformation: An evolutionary perspective on the Just Green Transition. In E. Berisha, J. Moodie, L. Allkja and M. Jeftić (Eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions in the Western Balkans and Beyond*. Palgrave Macmillan: London.
- **Shaneh**, A., Moodie, J., Tapia, C., Giacometti, A., & Cedergen, E. (2025 – forthcoming) Understanding territorial governance dynamics in the Swedish EU territorial just transition planning processes - lessons for the Western Balkans. In E. Berisha, J. Moodie, L. Allkja and M. Jeftić (Eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions in the Western Balkans and Beyond*. Palgrave Macmillan: London.

Ketevan Katcharava



- Katcharava, K. (2025 – forthcoming). Just Green Transition in the Eastern Partnership and Lessons from the Western Balkans. EUROPA XXI
- Katcharava K. (2025 – forthcoming) Pathways to a Just Green Transitions in the Eastern partnership - guided by Western Balkan experience. In E. Berisha, J. Moodie, L. Allkja and M. Jeftić (Eds). The Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions in the Western Balkans and Beyond. Palgrave Macmillan: London.

Ogerta Gjicknuri

- Toska, M., Gjoka, R., **Gjicknuri**, O., & Vuković, A. (2025 – forthcoming). The Montenegrin waste management sector transformation and its impacts towards Just Green Transitions. In E. Berisha, J. Moodie, L. Allkja and M. Jeftić (Eds) The Palgrave Handbook of Just Green Transitions in the Western Balkans and Beyond. Palgrave Macmillan: London.

Yahya Shaker

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9. Co-supervision outcome

The process of co-supervision has proven to be a highly effective and innovative mechanism for simultaneously addressing the educational needs of students and the strategic, organisational requirements of the project. By engaging supervisors from diverse institutions, disciplinary fields, and national backgrounds, the co-supervisory model created a fertile ground for intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue. This collaborative environment enabled students to benefit from a plurality of perspectives, gaining exposure to different research methodologies, epistemological approaches, and thematic priorities. In particular, the active involvement of international supervisors brought added value to the students' learning trajectories. These supervisors provided access to specialised expertise that would otherwise have been difficult to obtain, and their participation encouraged a more comparative, critical, and globally-informed understanding of the core themes explored, especially those related to the Just Green



Transition. Students were thus encouraged to situate their research within broader transnational debates, enriching both the analytical depth and practical relevance of their work. At the same time, the project itself was significantly enhanced by this co-supervisory structure. The collaborative framework allowed for a more comprehensive and multidimensional exploration of key challenges associated with sustainable and inclusive transitions. The integration of diverse disciplinary lenses – from environmental policy and spatial planning to social innovation and governance – enabled the research to move beyond siloed perspectives, fostering more holistic and context-sensitive analyses. Moreover, the cultural and institutional diversity of the supervisory teams served as a catalyst for knowledge co-production and innovation, generating added value for all partners involved. This arrangement created a genuine win-win dynamic. On the one hand, students benefitted from an enriched academic experience, improved access to networks, and increased motivation to pursue further research. On the other hand, participating institutions strengthened their collaborative ties, shared best practices, and deepened their engagement in transnational research initiatives. The synergies generated by this model translated into tangible outcomes: the enhancement of students’ research capacities, the expansion of their professional and academic networks, and the bolstering of their future career prospects. A particularly illustrative example of this positive impact is the case of Aida Shaneh. After completing her MSc thesis under the co-supervision model, she chose to continue her academic journey and was successfully admitted as a PhD candidate at the Politecnico di Torino. Her decision reflects not only the motivational and formative power of the co-supervision process but also its potential as a best practice for fostering emerging talent, supporting academic excellence, and strengthening international cooperation in the fields of higher education and research. This experience underscores the broader relevance of co-supervision as a replicable and scalable model. It can be adopted in a variety of institutional settings to promote interdisciplinary collaboration, enhance student learning, and build robust transnational partnerships capable of addressing complex societal challenges through collective knowledge generation and exchange.

