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O.3.1 Regional Action Plan:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Abbreviations and glossary of terms

ASP	Associated Strategic Partner
CE	Circular Economy
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
NSHG	National Stakeholder Groups
RAP	Regional Action Plan
S3	Smart Specialisation Strategy
WE	Women Entrepreneurs

1. Introduction

This Regional Action Plan (RAP) is developed within the framework of the WE.Circular project, an Interreg Danube Region Programme initiative aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in the Danube Region by fostering their circular and digital transitions.

The WE.Circular project recognizes that Bosnia and Herzegovina faces unique challenges and opportunities in supporting women-led businesses in adopting circular economy principles and leveraging digital technologies. This RAP builds upon a foundation of thorough analysis and stakeholder engagement, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness for the region.

Specifically, this RAP leverages the findings of the following key activities within the WE.Circular project:

- **Activity 1.1: Transnational Skills Gaps and Needs Analysis:** This analysis, conducted across all partner countries, identified the specific skills gaps and needs of women entrepreneurs in the region regarding digital technologies, circular economy principles, and smart specialization strategies.
- **Activity 3.2: Analyzing of existing policy and legislative framework:** This activity mapped the existing policy and regulatory landscape at both the national and regional levels, identifying existing support mechanisms and potential barriers to the circular and digital transition of women-led businesses.
- **Recommendations from National Stakeholder Groups (NSHGs):** During the project, the project team consulted with the National Stakeholder Group, consisting of representatives from the government sector, academia, business and non-governmental sectors (quadruple model), with the aim of validating existing data and collecting relevant feedback in key areas of action.

The proposed actions in this RAP are designed to address the specific challenges identified through these activities and are tailored to the unique regional context. The implementation of this RAP aims to contribute to the broader objectives of the WE.Circular project, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable circular economy within the Danube Region.

2. Strategic Challenges and Foundations of the Regional Action Plan

Bosnia and Herzegovina is in a complex development context, marked by economic fragmentation, limited institutional capacity and slow progress in digital and green transition processes. Although the country has made some steps towards modernization, including the start of the development of a national Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) (the appointment of the commission itself was 6 years ago), the transition to a circular and digital economy is still at an early stage, especially when it comes to women entrepreneurs.

The results of the Co-Creation workshop showed that there is a strong potential among women entrepreneurs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the development of innovative, locally rooted models that connect the circular and digital economy. At the same time, the same workshop clearly pointed out the deep systemic obstacles that limit the growth and sustainability of these models. The three most prominent challenges, confirmed during consultations with the national Stakeholder Group and the analyses conducted within activities 1.1 (Skills Gap Analysis) and 3.2 (Policy Mapping) of the WE.Circular project, relate to the lack of networked knowledge and support, high start-up costs and limited access to financing, and underdeveloped infrastructure and low consumer awareness of sustainable consumption. Therefore, we define the following challenges:

1. Lack of knowledge, skills and networking

Developing new skills and accessing modern knowledge are the foundation of any transformation. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, many women entrepreneurs use only basic digital tools in their daily business, but more complex technologies and solutions such as digital platforms for monitoring production, artificial intelligence or circular design approaches are still insufficiently present. Most of the available education is focused on theory, while practical training, mentoring and support in applying new knowledge are often absent. This gap stems not only from a lack of resources, but also from the fact that actors in the ecosystem are poorly connected. Educational institutions, the business sector and public policies rarely act in a coordinated manner, so knowledge is lost between sectors and does not reach those who need it most. Especially in smaller

communities, women entrepreneurs rely on their own experience and informal contacts, which makes it difficult to exchange ideas and support. In order for the transition to truly take hold, it is necessary to create networks of trust and knowledge, i.e. spaces in which experiences are shared, learned and passed on. Short, hands-on trainings, mentoring, and digital communities where women can share concrete tools and solutions have a much greater impact than one-off projects. Such forms of support build skills and connect people, which is just as important in this process as the technology itself.

2. High start-up costs and limited access to finance

Another key challenge concerns the economic frameworks in which women operate. Introducing circular and digital innovations requires significant initial investments, from purchasing equipment and developing software to paying for certifications and market research. For most small businesses, especially those run by women, these are costs that are difficult to cover without support. Existing financial mechanisms in the country are not adapted to such needs. Banks often require guarantees that small businesses cannot provide, while public support programs are limited in scope and complex to access. A particular problem is the high costs of international certificates, without which it is difficult to enter more demanding markets. In practice, this means that many innovative ideas remain at the concept level, as there is no “bridge” between development and market application.

Solutions can be built on the principles of collaboration and sharing. Joint procurement, shared workshops and labs, micro-funds and voucher systems for digital tools and green innovations represent approaches that lower the threshold of entry and allow more women to test and improve their business models. Such models do not require large investments, but they create a multiplication effect, i.e. each new user becomes a bearer of knowledge and inspiration for others.

3. Poor infrastructure and low consumer awareness

The third challenge stems from the environmental conditions needed to establish the foundations of circular models. Bosnia and Herzegovina lacks the appropriate infrastructure to support circular product flows, as it lacks recycling facilities, repair shops, and systems for collecting and sorting materials. The basic capacities allow production and consumption to function in a closed system. The absence of these basic

facilities leads to higher costs, while local resources remain unused. In addition, the market in Bosnia and Herzegovina operates through price competition and rapid turnover of products, with consumers not understanding the value of durable products and sustainable purchasing practices. The lack of consumer understanding of circular products creates barriers to market demand, which threatens the stability of businesses operating according to these principles.

Solutions require extended time frames that combine educational programs with the development of local infrastructure and open market transparency. The development of local repair centers and reuse systems, as well as digital platforms for tracking the origin of products, will lay the foundation for large-scale market transformations. The market will shift towards sustainable practices through continuous sustainability awareness campaigns that demonstrate how environmentally friendly products create value in everyday life.

3. Regional Action Plan Measures

Based on the previously defined challenges, main three measures are defined and elaborated in detail in order to reach the strategic goal and vision of the WE.Circular project.

Measure 1: Strengthening knowledge, digital skills and networking of women entrepreneurs through WE.Circular online training and mentoring network

Measure 1 is contributing to the following strategic pillars:

- ☑ Circular economy and transition
- ☑ Digital transition
- ☑ Smart specialization

Challenges, barriers and gaps:

Women entrepreneurs in Bosnia and Herzegovina face a pronounced lack of practical knowledge, digital skills and access to relevant support networks. The education available to them is mostly theoretical, short-term and often unrelated to specific market challenges. The lack of continuous support through mentoring and access to digital tools limits the possibility of applying what has been learned in practice. A large number of women entrepreneurs, especially from smaller communities, do not have the opportunity for professional development or access to networks that enable the exchange of experiences and learning through practice. On the other hand, cooperation between the academic sector, institutions and the business community in the field of women entrepreneurship is still fragmented, which leads to a waste of resources and duplication of efforts.

Within the framework of the WE.Circular project, an online training program was developed on the Moodle platform of the University of Sarajevo, which provides a unique opportunity to bridge existing knowledge gaps through digital learning and practical modules. However, it is necessary to systematically promote and institutionally integrate this resource and connect it with a mentoring network and a database of practical tools (Toolkit), so that the knowledge is permanently accessible and applicable.

Policy alignment of the Measure:

The implementation of this measure is fully aligned with the development priorities and policies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska:

- Small Business Development Strategy of the Federation of BiH (2022–2027)
 - o Strategic Goal 1: Competitive small economy based on innovation, digitalization and green economy
 - Priority 1.1: Digitalization of small economy entities
 - Priority 1.2: Green transition of small economy
- Small and medium-sized enterprise development strategy of the Republika Srpska (2021–2027)
 - o Strategic Goal 1: Renewal and growth of entrepreneurial activity in RS, focusing on youth and women entrepreneurship
 - Priority 1.2: Development of women entrepreneurship
- Women entrepreneurs' strategy in Republika Srpska (2025-2031)

- Strategic Goal 3: Growth of knowledge-based and innovation-oriented sectors in the SME structure
 - Priority 3.1: Development of business skills for SMEs
 - Priority 3.2: Innovation and digitalisation of business
- Action plan for gender equality and economic empowerment of women in BiH, focusing on empowering women through digital and entrepreneurial skills.
- EU Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans – supporting the development of digital competences and e-learning.

This measure directly contributes to the WE.Circular Transnational Strategy, in particular the pillars of Digital Transition and Smart Specialization, through strengthening human capacities and introducing innovative forms of learning.

Actions for implementation of Measure 1:

1.1 Promotion and localization of WE.Circular online training (UNSA Moodle platform)

Promote the WE.Circular online training, developed within the project, as the main tool for digital education of women entrepreneurs in BiH. The course is available on the Moodle platform of the University of Sarajevo and adapted to the needs of small businesses and start-ups.

1.2 Establishment of a network of mentors and peer-to-peer support “Women for Women in the Circular Economy” - Form a network of mentors and experts who will provide support, organize advisory sessions and encourage mutual learning among women entrepreneurs within the Moodle platform.

1.3 Update of a digital resource and toolkit (WE.Circular Toolkit) - Regularly update a knowledge and toolkit on the Moodle platform, including guides, tutorials, business templates and examples of good practice from BiH and the region.

1.4 Regional Learning Circles and annual Forum “Women in the Circular Economy” - Organize online and live events connecting female entrepreneurs, mentors and experts from BiH and the Danube Region, presenting results and exchanging experiences.

Action	Lead stakeholder	Support stakeholders	Time-frame	Impact indicators (KPI)
1.1 Promotion of the Moodle platform	University of Sarajevo (UNSA)	Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH, entities' ministries, entities' business chambers, women's associations	2025–2026	20 new platform users
1.2 Mentor and peer-to-peer network	CENER 21 and OREA	UNSA, Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH, entities' business chambers, mentors from practice	2025–2026	5 mentors, 10 active participants
1.3 Digital Toolkit	UNSA	NGO partners and business networks	2025	1 active database with over 10 resources
1.4 Forum and Learning Circles	Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH	WE.Circular partners, entities' business chambers, local communities	2026	1 event, 40 participants

Implementation timeline:

Year 1 (2025):

- Promotion of the Moodle platform and outreach to users;
- Formation of a mentoring network and peer community (start);
- Creation and publication of a digital Toolkit (start).

Year 2 (2026):

- Formation of a mentoring network and peer community (cont.);
- Creation and publication of a digital Toolkit (cont.).
- Connecting users through Learning Circles;
- Organization of the “Women in the Circular Economy” Forum;

- Evaluation of results and integration of the program into existing support institutions.

Expected impact:

The measure establishes a sustainable model for the development of digital and business skills of women entrepreneurs in BiH, based on open access to knowledge and cooperation. The Moodle platform of the University of Sarajevo becomes a central place for continuous learning and networking, while mentoring and peer networks strengthen trust and cooperation between the entities. This directly contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the RS SME Strategy – in particular Priorities 1.2, 3.1 and 3.2 – and the FBiH SME Strategy, empowering women to actively lead the digital and circular transformation.

Measure 2: Improving access to finance and investment readiness of women entrepreneurs in the circular and digital transition

Measure 2 is contributing to the strategic pillars:

- ☑ Circular economy and transition
- ☑ Digital transition
- ☑ Policy improvement

Challenges, barriers and gaps:

Women entrepreneurs in Bosnia and Herzegovina face significant difficulties in accessing the finance needed to develop and transform their businesses towards circular and digital models. Although there are various sources of financing, from local grants and credit lines to international programs (e.g. EEN, EBRD, EU funds), many women are not sufficiently informed about the opportunities available to them, nor do they have practical knowledge on how to apply and meet the formal requirements. This obstacle is not only informational, but also structural. Most women entrepreneurs do not have sufficient experience in financial planning, writing project proposals or assessing investment risk. At the same time, financial institutions rarely offer products

tailored to the specific needs of women entrepreneurship in the early stages of development. Because of this, a large number of innovative ideas remain unused, and the transition to sustainable, digital and circular models is slowed down.

Policy alignment of the Measure:

This measure is directly aligned with key strategic documents defining the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in BiH and the entities:

- Small Business Development Strategy of the Federation of BiH (2022–2027)
 - Strategic Goal 1: Competitive small economy based on innovation, digitalization and green economy
 - Priority 1.2: Green transition of small economy
 - Strategic Goal 2: Development of business environment and improvement of entrepreneurial infrastructure
 - Priority 2.2: Entrepreneurial learning and targeted forms of entrepreneurship
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Development Strategy of the Republika Srpska (2021–2027)
 - Strategic Goal 1: Renewal and growth of entrepreneurial activity in RS, focusing on youth and women entrepreneurship
 - Priority 1.2: Development of women entrepreneurship
 - Strategic Goal 2: Renewal and strengthening of SME competitiveness in global value chains
 - Priority 2.1: Improvement of the business environment and access to finance for SMEs
 - Strategic Goal 3: Growth of knowledge-based and innovation-driven sectors in the SME structure
 - Priority 3.3: Transition of SMEs towards a green economy
- Action plan for gender equality and economic empowerment of women in BiH – supporting women’s entrepreneurship through access to finance and markets.
- EU Green Deal and EU Digital Agenda for WB – promoting green and digital financial instruments for SMEs.

Actions for implementation of Measure 2:

2.1 Education on available funds and financial instruments - Organize online education via the Moodle platform of the University of Sarajevo on available sources of financing (EEN, EBRD, EU programs, local grants and credit lines). The education will include video materials, guides and practical examples of applications.

2.2 Annual live training on access to financing – “Finance for Circular Growth” - VTK BiH, in cooperation with universities and financial institutions, will organize live training for women entrepreneurs from BiH once a year. The focus will be on practical steps for applying, preparing business plans and understanding the financial criteria of investors.

2.3 Development of a “Green Finance Toolkit” and a digital database of financial resources - In cooperation with banks and funds offering green and digital financial instruments, create an interactive Toolkit with an overview of available programs and tips for preparing applications. The Toolkit will be publicly available via the Moodle platform and the peer-to-peer network from Measure 1.

2.4 “Impact Investment Readiness” Program – preparation for investors - Launch a modular program that helps female entrepreneurs develop a financial model, understand investor expectations and present their business ideas. The program will include mentoring, pitch simulations and investment readiness evaluation.

Action	Lead stakeholder	Support stakeholders	Time-frame	Impact indicators (KPI)
2.1 Online education on funding opportunities	University of Sarajevo (UNSA)	CENER 21, OREA, VTK BiH	2025–2026	20 women trained via Moodle
2.2 Annual live training “Finance for Circular Growth”	Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH (VTK BiH)	Banks, entities’ ministries, development funds, NGOs	2025–2026	1 annual event, 40 participants
2.3 Green Finance Toolkit	UNSA	Financial institutions	2026	Toolkit published and integrated into Moodle

2.4 Impact Investment Readiness Programme	VTK BiH	UNSA, entities' business chambers, investors' networks	2026	5 businesses trained, 2 ready for investment
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Implementation timeline:

Year 1 (2025):

- Launch of online education on the Moodle platform;
- First edition of the annual training "Finance for Circular Growth";
- Development of the Green Finance Toolkit and publication on the Moodle platform.

Year 2 (2026):

- Second edition of the training and expansion of the resource base;
- Launch of the Impact Investment Readiness program;
- Networking with potential investors and funds in the region.

Expected impact:

The measure will enable women entrepreneurs to understand and exploit financing opportunities, empowering them to move from theoretical knowledge to real investment activities. Through the Moodle platform and the mentoring network from Measure 1, all education and tools become permanently available, making BiH part of the wider WE.Circular support system.

This measure creates a bridge between knowledge and capital by connecting women entrepreneurs with institutions, investors and green finance, which directly contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the RS SME Strategy (Priority 1.2, 2.1 and 3.3) and the FBiH SME Strategy (Strategic Directions 1.3 and 2.1).

Measure 3: Promotion of the circular economy and raising awareness of sustainable consumption in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Measure 3 is contributing to the strategic pillars:

- ☑ Circular economy and transition
- ☑ Policy improvement
- ☑ Smart specialization

Challenges, barriers and gaps:

Although the concepts of sustainability and circular economy are increasingly present in business discourse, in practice there is still limited understanding of their importance, especially among small businesses and consumers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The public often associates the circular economy exclusively with recycling, while its broader role, i.e. efficient use of resources, extension of product lifespan and responsible consumption, remains unknown. At the same time, the lack of infrastructure for waste collection and processing further slows down the development of the secondary raw materials market, which makes visibility and education even more important. It is necessary to create a more favorable environment for circular initiatives, by raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits that this approach brings.

This measure aims to connect communication, education and practical examples, using the existing digital resources of the WE.Circular project, the Moodle platform and the peer community, in order to build a culture of circular thinking in BiH.

Policy alignment of the Measure:

The measure is fully aligned with the strategic priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and entity strategies:

- Small Business Development Strategy of the Federation of BiH (2022–2027)
 - Strategic Goal 1: Competitive small economy based on innovation, digitalization and green economy

- Priority 1.2: Green transition of small economy
- Strategic Goal 2: Development of business environment and improvement of entrepreneurial infrastructure
 - Priority 2.2: Entrepreneurial learning and targeted forms of entrepreneurship
- Small and medium-sized enterprise development strategy of the Republika Srpska (2021–2027)
 - Strategic Goal 3: Growth of knowledge-based and innovation-oriented sectors in the SME structure
 - Priority 3.3: Transition of SMEs towards a green economy
 - Strategic Goal 1: Renewal and growth of entrepreneurial activity in RS, focusing on youth and women entrepreneurship
 - Priority 1.2: Development of women entrepreneurship
 - Strategic Goal 2: Renewal and strengthening of SME competitiveness in global value chains
 - Priority 2.2: Standardisation, technical regulation and internationalisation
- Action Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment of BiH - raising awareness of the role of women in a sustainable economy.
- EU Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan (2020) - strengthening public awareness and changing consumer behavior as a key pillar of the green transition.

Actions for implementation of Measure 3:

3.1 National campaign “Circular BiH” - Launch a multimedia campaign promoting the values of circular economy, sustainable consumption and women’s leadership in green businesses. The campaign will include digital channels, media and local events across the country.

3.2 Use of Moodle platform and peer community for sustainability education - The Moodle platform of the University of Sarajevo will serve as the main digital tool for public webinars, online discussions and educational content on circular practices. The

peer community (from Measure 1) will be used to share experiences and ideas that can be an inspiration for other female entrepreneurs.

3.3 Digital storytelling – stories of women in the circular economy - In cooperation with UNSA and VTK BiH, create a series of short video and text stories about successful examples of women who are already implementing circular models in BiH. These contents will be published on the Moodle platform, social networks and in the media, as inspirational and educational materials.

3.4 “Small Change, Big Impact” Campaign - VTK BiH could coordinate a campaign that promotes small, everyday steps towards sustainable consumption, simple messages, advice and practical examples that show how individual decisions can have a big impact on resources and the environment.

Action	Lead stakeholder	Support stakeholders	Time-frame	Impact indicators (KPI)
3.1 National campaign “Circular BiH”	Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH (VTK BiH)	Ministry of Environment, local chambers, NGOs	2026	1 national campaign implemented, 5 media features
3.2 Moodle platform and peer community activities	University of Sarajevo (UNSA)	OREA, CENER 21, WE.Circular partners	2025–2026	2 webinars and 2 discussion cycles
3.3 Digital storytelling	University of Sarajevo (UNSA) & VTK BiH	Women entrepreneurs, entities’ business chambers, local media	2025–2026	5 stories published
3.4 Campaign “Small Change, Big Impact”	Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH (VTK BiH)	Communication agencies, NGOs, entities’ business chambers, student associations	2026	1 national campaign on social media

Implementation timeline:

Year 1 (2025):

- Launch of the “Circular BiH” campaign and start of activities on the Moodle platform;
- Production and publication of the first digital stories about women in the circular economy;
- Activation of a peer community for content sharing and feedback.

Year 2 (2026):

- Expanding the campaign to new local communities;
- Launch of the “Small Change, Big Impact” campaign;
- Organization of online discussions and events connecting consumers, entrepreneurs and institutions;
- Joint evaluation of the impact of the campaign and proposals for continuation through institutional programs.

Expected impact:

The measure aims to initiate a broader social change, so that consumers, institutions and entrepreneurs in BiH start to view the circular economy not as a trend, but as a real way of life and business. Through the synergy of digital tools (Moodle platforms, peer communities) and public campaigns, BiH gets the first coordinated framework for communication on circularity and sustainable consumption.

The VTK BiH and UNSA, as key players, will build the foundation for continuous education and motivation of the public, which in the long term contributes to the goals of the RS SME Strategy (Priority 4.1) and the FBiH SME Strategy (Strategic Direction 2.1), as well as the overall goal of the WE.Circular project, to connect knowledge, finance and awareness into a unique ecosystem of sustainable women's businesses in BiH.

4. Monitoring of the Regional Action Plan implementation

Effective monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan is essential for monitoring progress, assessing effects and timely adjusting activities in accordance with the objectives of the WE.Circular project. The monitoring process will ensure transparency, measurability of results and their alignment with the priorities defined through the RAP measures. Monitoring will be based on clearly defined key performance indicators (KPIs), regular data collection and quality communication between all involved partners and institutions.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

For each of the three measures, performance indicators are foreseen that will enable objective monitoring of results:

- Measure 1: number of new users of the Moodle platform, number of mentors and active peer members, number of trainings implemented and available digital resources.
- Measure 2: number of women who have undergone financial training, number of annual trainings held, number of tools created or used from the Green Finance Toolkit, number of entrepreneurs prepared for investors.
- Measure 3: number of campaigns and public events conducted, number of digital stories published, reach of online campaigns (engagement, views), number of participants in webinars and workshops.

In addition to quantitative indicators, qualitative effects such as the level of participant satisfaction, application of acquired knowledge in practice and strengthening of cooperation within the peer community will be analyzed.

Frequency and Tools for Monitoring

Monitoring will be conducted on a semi-annual basis (every 6 months), with an annual review of overall progress. A combination of digital and communication tools will be used to collect data:

- Online questionnaires and evaluation forms via the Moodle platform and e-mail,

- Short reports from partners and institutions involved in the implementation of measures,
- Analysis of the platform and social networks (visit statistics, user engagement, activity overview),
- Follow-up interviews and focus groups with program beneficiaries, mentors and organizations.

All data will be consolidated into an internal monitoring report that will serve as a basis for discussion and decision-making on further steps.

Responsibilities for Monitoring

The monitoring will be coordinated by the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (VTK BiH), in cooperation with the University of Sarajevo (UNSA) and partner organizations CENER 21 and OREA.

- VTK BiH – responsible for overall monitoring of the implementation of activities, evaluation of campaigns and events, and communication with key stakeholders.
- UNSA – monitors digital activities (Moodle platform, peer community, Toolkit), analyzes data and prepares periodic reports.
- Partners and mentoring networks – provide updated information on implemented trainings, events and achievements of women entrepreneurs.

Corrective Measures and Reporting

In case the defined KPIs are not met within the planned period, the following corrective measures will be applied:

- Analysis of the causes of deviations – through consultations with partners and beneficiaries, identify obstacles to implementation.
- Updating and adjusting the RAP – revise activities, deadlines or the method of implementing measures in accordance with new circumstances.
- Strengthening communication and support – additional peer meetings, mentoring or targeted training for teams implementing activities.
- Reporting according to WE.Circular coordination – prepare a short “progress and adjustment report” with recommendations and a plan for the next period.

5. Recommendations for Enhancing Long-Term Impact

The focus in the coming period will be on continuing education, expanding the partner network and institutionalizing the created digital solutions.

1. Institutional anchoring of the RAP results

In order to ensure continuity and practical application of the results, it is proposed that the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FTC BiH) take on the role of national carrier and coordinator of the WE.Circular approach after the project is completed. The FTC BiH will:

- integrate WE.Circular activities into its programs to support women's entrepreneurship and the green transition of the SME sector;
- use existing resources and cooperation with regional and local chambers to maintain the network of women entrepreneurs and continue organizing annual events such as the "Women in Circular Economy" forum;
- ensure that the tools (Moodle platform, Toolkit and Green Finance resources) remain publicly available through institutional channels and are included in education and mentoring programs.

2. Role of the University of Sarajevo (UNSA)

UNSA will continue to manage the Moodle platform as a permanent knowledge center on the digital and circular transformation of women's entrepreneurship. It is planned to:

- regularly update and maintain the platform, including adding new courses and materials developed through the WE.Circular network;
- expand cooperation with other universities in BiH and the Danube region;
- integrate Moodle content into formal and informal education programs, especially in the fields of economics, innovation and sustainable development.

UNSA will also provide technical and educational support to the VTK BiH and partners in the process of knowledge transfer and expanding the community of users.

3. Continuation and expansion of the network through a new project and regional cooperation

VTK BiH and UNSA plan to jointly apply for a new Interreg project or a similar transnational program that would build on the WE.Circular results and enable:

- further expansion of the peer-to-peer network of women entrepreneurs in the Danube region;
- development of new digital tools for monitoring circular practices and market value chains;
- creation of regional educational and investment programs in partnership with EU and Western Balkan member states.

This continuation will be focused on the transfer of good practices, but also on the inclusion of new actors – business incubators, development agencies and financial institutions interested in the green and digital economy.

4. Linking to national and entity strategies

To ensure the sustainability of the RAP, it is recommended that its key components be integrated into the strategic documents of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, in particular:

- Small Business Development Strategy (new revisions after 2027);
- Women's entrepreneurship support programs led by entity ministries of economy;
- Plans and initiatives under the Green Deal and the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans.

In this way, the RAP will not be seen as a stand-alone document, but as a functional framework that contributes to the implementation of existing policies.

5. Strengthening partnerships and communication with stakeholders

For long-term impact, it is crucial to create a permanent communication platform between institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society. It is proposed:

- to form an annual Committee for Monitoring and Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in the Circular Economy, coordinated by the VTK with the support of UNSA;
- to hold periodic online meetings and consultations with peer network members;
- to publish an annual "Circular Impact Report" that would document progress, new practices and inspiring examples from BiH.

Recommendation Area	Lead Actor	Supporting Actors	Expected Result
Institutional integration of RAP results	VTK BiH	Entity ministries, chambers	WE.Circular model integrated into SME support programmes
Continued use of Moodle and Toolkit	UNSA	VTK BiH, entities' business chambers, CENER 21, OREA	Permanent access to learning and mentoring tools
New Interreg project for network expansion	VTK BiH	UNSA, regional partners	Continuity of peer network and cross-border collaboration
Strategic policy linkage	VTK BiH	Ministries of Economy, development agencies	RAP measures embedded in future SME and gender equality strategies
Annual "Circular Impact Report"	VTK BiH	UNSA, peer network	Regular visibility and documentation of long-term effects