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**Green Jobs in Bosnia  
and Herzegovina:  
An Economic  
Opportunity We Cannot  
Afford to Miss**

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# Green Jobs in Bosnia and Herzegovina: An Economic Opportunity We Cannot Afford to Miss

## SUMMARY:

Green jobs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are no longer a futuristic concept, but a real economic necessity. Driven by the European Green Deal, the CBAM mechanism, and the global climate transition, the labor market is rapidly transforming. This article explains what green jobs are, why they are crucial for the competitiveness of Bosnia and Herzegovina's industry, and how the green transition can become an opportunity for economic modernization and the development of new skills.

## KEYWORDS:

Green jobs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Green transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Green Deal and Bosnia and Herzegovina, CBAM in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Energy transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina



## Introduction

When green jobs are discussed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they are often perceived as a luxury of developed European economies. However, reality tells a different story: the green transition is already reshaping labor markets across Europe, and its impact is becoming increasingly visible in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well.

Green jobs are not merely an environmental concept. They are a response to climate change, shifts in international trade, and the evolving requirements of the European market. In this context, they are becoming a matter of competitiveness, employment, and long-term economic stability.

## What Are Green Jobs?

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), green jobs are positions that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment. This includes activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, minimize waste, or protect biodiversity.

Importantly, green jobs are not exclusively “new” occupations. In many cases, they represent the transformation of existing professions. A construction worker installing thermal insulation, an engineer designing solar power plants, or an economist developing an ESG strategy can all operate within the framework of the green economy.

In other words, the green transition changes the way work is performed, not necessarily the profession itself.

## A Global Trend Affecting Bosnia and Herzegovina

The ILO estimates that the transition to a sustainable economy could generate approximately 24 million new jobs globally by 2030, provided climate policies are implemented in line with the Paris Agreement.

Through the European Green Deal, the European Union has set the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. This strategy drives massive investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, and industrial modernization.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a country aspiring to EU membership and strongly economically linked to the European market, cannot remain outside these developments.

## The Energy Reality of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina still produces a significant share of its electricity from coal. Coal-fired power plants generate high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while the EU is introducing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which will impose carbon-related charges on imports with high emissions.

This means industries such as metal production, cement manufacturing, and energy generation will need to reduce emissions to remain competitive in EU markets.

In this process, new professional profiles emerge: decarbonization experts, energy efficiency consultants, renewable energy engineers, and sustainability analysts.

In this context, green jobs are not a choice - they are an economic adaptation.

## Research Shows: The Transition Creates Employment

The World Bank, in its climate and development reports for the Western Balkans, emphasizes that countries that initiate the energy transition earlier face lower long-term adjustment costs and gain greater competitiveness.

The European Training Foundation (ETF) highlights that labor markets in the Western Balkans will need to develop skills in renewable energy, circular economy, and digital-green transformation. This implies reforms in education systems, workforce reskilling, and the development of new technical programs.

## Interesting Facts That Shift Perception

Solar panels have globally decreased in price by more than 80% over the past decade, making renewable energy more economically competitive than ever before.

Energy efficiency investments typically generate more jobs per unit of capital invested than fossil fuel sectors.

Millions of people in the European Union are already employed in sectors related to renewable energy.

Bosnia and Herzegovina possesses significant solar potential, particularly in its southern regions.

## The Biggest Myth: Green Jobs Are Elitist

A common misconception is that green jobs are reserved for highly educated professionals.

In reality, much of the green transition relies on technical and vocational skills, including:

- solar panel installers
- thermal insulation technicians
- heat pump technicians
- recycling facility operators

This means that the green transition can have a strong social impact, especially in regions facing high unemployment.

## What Happens If We Fail to Act?

If Bosnia and Herzegovina does not develop green sectors, it risks:

- reduced export competitiveness
- increased adaptation costs
- brain drain of young professionals
- missed investment opportunities

The green economy is not only a climate obligation - it is a market reality.

## Conclusion: An Opportunity to Modernize the Economy

Green jobs represent one of the rare areas where climate objectives and economic interests align.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, they offer:

- modernization of industry
- development of new skills
- strengthening of local economies
- long-term sustainability

The question is not whether the labor market will change - it already is.

The question is whether we will plan for that change or face it unprepared.

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