

October 2025

Newsletter

First Local Production Line for Beehive Frames

Modernizing Beekeeping in Kosovo

Beekeeping in Kosovo is evolving and one local business is leading the way. The individual business **Genc Caka**, based in **Komoran, Drenas**, has taken a major step forward in modernizing the sector with support from **CNVP's SUNREED project**, financed by the **Embassy of Sweden in Pristina (Sida)**.

What started as a modest beekeeping initiative with just five hives in 2012 has grown into one of Kosovo's **most innovative enterprises** in the sector. Established officially in 2017, Genc Cakaj has steadily developed its expertise in **producing beekeeping equipment**, especially beehives tailored to local needs.

As of August 2025, with the installation of modern wood-processing equipment, the company is **launching Kosovo's first production line for beehive frames**, which is a key component in



The modern production line for beehive frame production at Genc Cakaj's facility.

every beehive. This new line will meet the growing demand for beekeeping materials while reducing Kosovo's dependence on imports.

Each year, Kosovo imports around 500,000 beehive frames, despite having over 7,500 beekeepers managing more than 200,000 beehives.

By shifting from imports to local production, the initiative is creating **new jobs** and skilled work opportunities in rural areas, while also opening the door to **export markets**, particularly in Albania and Greece, where demand for beekeeping equipment continues to rise.

The initiative promotes the **use of lower-grade wood from Private Forest Owners (PFOs)** for producing beehive frames,



Genc Cakaj works with the new equipment for high-quality beehive frame production

giving this otherwise low-value material a **productive use** instead of it being burned as firewood.

At the same time, the initiative encourages the planting of fast-growing black locust trees, which offer a sustainable source of wood while supporting **biodiversity** and contributing to long-term **biomass production**.

This work is part of CNVP's broader effort under the SUNREED project to support sustainable forestry, renewable energy, and rural livelihoods in Kosovo.



First Nursery for Seedling Production of Fast Growing Trees Established

Local Forestry Solutions

In 2023, **Fidanishtja**, a family-run nursery in Dobrushe, Istog, partnered with CNVP through the **SUNREED** project to launch Kosovo's **first nursery focused on fast-growing tree species**. This is a big step forward for local renewable energy and sustainable forestry.

With over 20 years of experience in producing fruit seedlings like chestnuts and walnuts, the nursery is now growing **poplar cuttings and seedlings** - a fast-growing species ideal for wood biomass.

These trees help reduce reliance on imported planting material, lower costs for farmers, and improve the success rate of new plantations.

In addition to the environmental benefits, the nursery has already produced around 7,000 seedlings for local farmers to use in energy and industry, creating three new jobs in the process.



Poplar cuttings ready for planting.

The nursery is already creating local jobs, especially for young people and farmers, in daily work such as planting, propagation, irrigation, pest control, and maintenance.

A Hungarian forestry expert who worked with CNVP visited the nursery, praised the early results, and encouraged the team to expand production from cuttings to full seedlings.



Established nursery of fast-growing trees.

This initiative supports the local supply of affordable, high-quality poplar seedlings, creates new income opportunities for rural families, and increases the survival rates of new plantations. It is a practical step toward achieving Kosovo's renewable energy and reforestation goals.

This nursery is turning a family tradition into a practical solution for climate action, energy independence, and rural development.



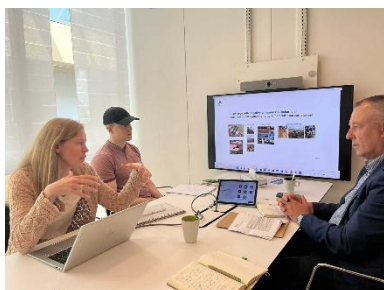
Linking Kosovo and Sweden for Sustainable Forestry, Renewable Energy, and Environmental Protection

From 3 to 7 June 2025, CNVP Kosovo carried out a study visit to Sweden to strengthen cooperation with leading institutions in forestry, renewable energy, biodiversity, and the circular economy. A key focus was presenting CNVP's flagship SUNREED project and exploring how it aligns with Sweden's green transition strategy.

The delegation held high-level meetings with universities, research institutes, government agencies, and environmental organizations, resulting in new partnerships and opportunities for joint action. The visit also aimed to learn from Sweden's experience in areas such as the voluntary carbon market, private forestry, Natura 2000, and waste management.

Strategic Partnerships Initiated

CNVP established collaboration with several key Swedish institutions: **Uppsala University**, to explore renewable energy solutions for rural development; **IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute**, focusing on circular economy and climate adaptation; **Skogforsk**, which expressed strong interest in sustainable forestry cooperation; and **Zero Mission**, which will support the development of a voluntary carbon market pilot in Kosovo.



Meeting with representatives of the Department of Energy and Technology at Uppsala University.

Commitment to Knowledge Exchange and Support

Swedish partners, including the **Swedish Forest Agency** and the **Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)**, committed to expert exchanges, technical support, and co-development of proposals for EU and international funding.



CNVP at the Swedish Forest Agency.

Expanding CNVP's Regional and European Engagement

CNVP also strengthened its ties to European networks through SSNC's affiliation with the **European Environmental Bureau**, enhancing Kosovo's visibility in European environmental policymaking. Discussions also touched on Kosovo's potential alignment with the **Natura 2000** framework.

Support from Kosovo Embassy in Stockholm

The **Embassy of Kosovo in Stockholm** played a key role in supporting the visit, facilitating connections and promoting CNVP's initiatives in Sweden.

Next Steps

CNVP will work to strengthen cooperation with Swedish institutions, CSOs, and private companies in areas where CNVP contributes, such as sustainable forest management, biomass production, bioenergy, Non-Wood Forest Products, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, and the voluntary carbon market.

The visit reaffirmed CNVP's role as a facilitator in promoting trade, economic cooperation, and knowledge exchange on green and climate-smart initiatives.