



# Fork to Farm - Zero Waste Montenegro factsheet



Z E R O  
W A S T E  
M O N T E N E G R O

Organisation:  
**Zero Waste Montenegro (ZWMN)**

**The municipalities we have worked with:** Danilovgrad, Tuzi, Podgorica, Kotor.

**Other partners we have collaborated with:** Public Utility Companies of Tuzi, Danilovgrad, and Kotor; social enterprise Ozelenimo.me; [Clinical Centre of Montenegro](#); [Urban Garden Podgorica](#); several local farms and households, [Tržnice i pijace](#) (Public Enterprise for Markets and Marketplaces).

## OVERVIEW

Over the past two years of the Fork to Farm project, Zero Waste Montenegro has implemented a wide range of activities across Danilovgrad, Tuzi, Podgorica, and Kotor to promote composting and reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill.

In **Danilovgrad**, 150 households began backyard composting using kits that included bins and Bokashi microorganisms. Participants were supported through a dedicated Viber community and educational materials on [ZWMNE website](#), which provided ongoing guidance, troubleshooting, and educational materials to ensure successful composting practices.

In **Tuzi**, 300 households joined the newly introduced door-to-door organic waste collection system improving local waste separation. An additional 50 households started backyard composting. All participants received information through municipal channels, in-person guidance, and instructional materials.

In **Podgorica**, community composting was strengthened through the Urban Garden Podgorica, where 100 bins were distributed and an official composting site approved. A community garden and composting site were set up in a neighborhood in Podgorica, where 100 apartments in a nearby building received composting bins, enabling residents to dispose of organic waste directly into the garden's community composter. At Lješkopljaska Gorica, around 5,600 kg of green waste were shredded and transformed into compost for local use. The green waste was also collected from small agriculture producers. A pilot with Tržnice i pijace (Public Enterprise for Markets and Marketplaces) introduced composting at one public market, equipping ten stalls with bins and installing an on-site composter.





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In **Kotor**, the door-to-door collection system was expanded to include organic waste, with 200 bins distributed to participating households. This marked a significant step in strengthening separate collection systems in coastal municipalities.

### CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

In Danilovgrad, the municipal waste management company initially showed hesitation to engage in the project due to **financial and operational constraints**. These factors threatened to slow down future efforts to expand household composting and to raise public awareness on this topic.

In Podgorica, although initial discussions with city representatives were encouraging, the **waste management company did not demonstrate full commitment**. An additional challenge comes from the landfill company's **plans to build a waste incinerator**, as such plans divert attention and resources from separate waste collection and undermine efforts to promote composting.

Regarding citizens, several individuals who received composting kits expressed a **need for additional equipment**, such as branch shredders and tools for processing larger amounts of green waste. At this stage, the project was unable to meet these requests, which reduced the motivation of some participants to continue composting due to difficulties in managing larger volumes of organic waste.

### SUCSESSES AND VICTORIES

**Institutional recognition and policy change:** Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Podgorica, officially authorized Zero Waste Montenegro to establish composting gardens on unused city land—eliminating lengthy permit processes. Zero Waste Montenegro also received the national [Farm to Fork Academy Award for Environmental Protection and Biodiversity](#).

**Operational impact:** Over 700 households across four municipalities now practicing composting or separate organic waste collection, with measurable reductions in waste sent to landfills.





### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OR COMMUNITY

The project has contributed to several meaningful changes within the municipalities and communities involved. Across all 4 locations, **residents became more engaged in separating organic waste and adopting composting practices**, often for the first time, leading to a noticeable shift in everyday waste habits. New composting infrastructure, from household and community composters to the market-based pilot in Podgorica, provided practical, long-lasting systems that continue to operate and inspire replication. **Municipalities also gained valuable experience and motivation to expand organic waste initiatives**, demonstrating increased readiness for larger-scale solutions.

In Podgorica's community composting garden, the project did much more than improve waste practices. Close cooperation among residents, volunteers, and the gardening community sparked a broader civic initiative with the Municipality to transform a previously contaminated gravel area, formerly used as an informal parking lot into a new public park in front of the residential building. This shows how environmental projects can catalyse wider urban improvements and stronger community cohesion.



Composter in front of the "Tržnice i pijace" building.



A workshop on composting held at the event "Researchers' Night" in Podgorica.





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### TUZI

Population size: **12,979 inhabitants** | Type: **Mixed**

**Focus:** Household organic waste door-to-door collection and home composting.

**Engagement local community:** We distributed 300 organic waste bins to households for door-to-door collection. An additional 50 home-composting bins, each supplied with Bokashi microorganisms, were provided to households participating in the home composting pilot. Households enrolled in door-to-door collection were informed by the Municipality of Tuzi, using instructional bin stickers and in-person guidance during distribution.

For the 50 households joining the home composting initiative, participation followed a public call for sign-ups. Participants received further instructions via a Viber community group, in person during bin distribution, and through the ZWMNE website's composting information page.

### Data collection on impact

Metric	Baseline (pre-project)	Current (post-implementation)
Separately collected organic waste (by target group e.g. households, businesses, total city?) (tonnes/year)	-	350 households x 0,55 kg per day x 365 days = 70,26 tonnes per year
Number of Households/Businesses engaged	-	350



Community composter Podgorica.





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### PODGORICA

Population size: **179,505 inhabitants** | Type: **Mixed**

**Focus:** Home composting, community composting, and testing composting solutions at public markets.

**Engagement local community:** A total of 100 composting bins were distributed to members of the [Urban Garden Podgorica](#), who signed up to participate in the community composting system. Another 100 apartments near the Pomorandža community garden received composting bins, allowing residents and volunteers to deposit organic waste directly into the garden's built-in community composter. In-person guidance sessions accompanied each distribution. Community meetings and events were also organized to engage the residents.

Collaboration with the municipal market operator enabled the launch of a pilot at Podgorica's public market, where 10 stalls were equipped with composting bins and an on-site composter was installed for market bio-waste. Market stallholders were interviewed before the bin distribution providing them with more information and assessing their willingness to participate in the pilot. Engagement was further strengthened through participation in [the European Researchers' Night](#), offering hands-on learning for visitors, families, and youth and raising broader awareness about reducing organic waste.



Distribution of bins in Urban Garden in Podgorica.



A workshop on composting held at the event "Researchers' Night" in Podgorica





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### DANILOVGRAD

Population size: **18,742 inhabitants** | Type: **Mixed**

**Focus:** Home composting programme.

**Engagement local community:** Zero Waste Montenegro distributed 150 home-composting bins equipped with Bokashi microorganisms to households. Participation was based on a public call for sign-ups. Registered households received additional instructions via a Viber community group, in person during bin distribution, and through the ZWMNE website's composting information page.

#### Data collection on impact

Metric	Baseline (pre-project)	Current (post-implementation)
Separately collected organic waste (by target group e.g. households, businesses, total city?) (tonnes/year)	-	150 households x 0,55 kg per day x 365 days= 30,11 tonnes per year
Number of Households/Businesses engaged	-	150

### KOTOR

Population size: **22,746 inhabitants** | Type: **Urban**

**Focus:** Household door-to-door organic waste collection.

**Engagement local community:** 200 households were informed about the pilot by the Utility Company Kotor, with information flyers delivered to each home and instructional bin stickers provided as part of the distribution including pre and post bin distribution door-to-door education.





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### STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

As part of the project, a Viber community group was created to connect all participants involved in the composting initiatives. The group served as an **open communication channel** for households to share their experiences, ask questions, and receive ongoing technical support from the Zero Waste Montenegro team. It also fostered a sense of community and peer learning, helping participants stay motivated and engaged throughout the process. In addition, a **public survey** was conducted among participating households to assess their satisfaction, habits, and long-term motivation related to composting. The results showed a very positive response, 100% of respondents expressed willingness to continue composting and to recommend the practice to others. This feedback confirmed both the effectiveness of the educational component of the project and the growing public interest in sustainable waste management practices.

“

Very useful for our garden. There is less waste that ends up in the trash. Let's find a way to recycle plastic and we can forget about trash bins.

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“

Using compost, the plants that I grow in the garden thrive and produce beautiful and healthy fruits. It's not a big garden, but it's enough for my family and friends who are delighted to eat healthy, chemical-free tomatoes. I would recommend anyone who has a garden to grow their vegetables this way. It is not difficult if we want to eat healthily! Greetings!

”

“

First of all, thanks for the advice. I think that the amount of waste would be reduced by 50% if everyone made a very small contribution. This is one of the ways. Less garbage and more money (I will have humus ground for flowers). Thanks again!

”

“

It is as useful as it is interesting. Now I mow the yard, and collect grass clippings, and leftovers from food, in autumn I will not throw away the dry leaves but use them for hummus. Thank you!

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## Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

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[Zero Waste Europe](#) is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the prevention and elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems; for the redesign of our relationship with resources; and for a global shift towards environmental justice, accelerating a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet.



[Zero Waste Montenegro](#) is an organization working with citizens, communities, local leaders and partners to reduce waste and promote sustainable practices across the country, advocating for systems that protect people, resources, and the environment.



The campaign forms one part of our broader work within the [European Methane Matters Coalition \(MMC\)](#). The coalition aims to ramp up ambition at the European Union level and within key European countries to reduce methane emissions across the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors by 2030.



In 2024, [#ForkToFarm campaign](#) made impressive advances, especially at the local level. The campaign empowered 541,366 people across six European countries with better bio-waste solutions, from separate collection to community composting.

