

Use of Funds under the RCF

In order to reach its goals of strengthening the quality and labour market relevance of VET and, at the same time, to increase the availability of skilled workers for companies, RCF grant support foresees two different categories, namely, financial investments and advisory support, and covers the following aspect of cooperative training activities.

- Financing of adequate training facilities and equipment at VTIs by provision of funds for rehabilitation/extension of training-related workshop facilities and/or the procurement/repair of training equipment provided that equipment and facilities are owned by the VTIs.
- Investing in practical work experience of VET teachers by enabling teacher directly involved in VET Consortia to spend time in enterprises and to gain insights into the organizational and technical aspects of the work performed.
- Funding of pedagogical training of VET teachers and/or in-company trainers.
- Purchasing of training material/media for practical training in VTIs as required within the scope of the cooperative training.
- Covering of expenses for consumables to a limited extent relating to the implementation of the planned cooperative training project.
- Support to related aspects such as occupational health and safety (OHS) aspects, provision of appropriate working conditions for vocational learners, formation of VET teachers and in-company trainers, both at the VTIs and their cooperating enterprises (advisory support).

The following activities are not eligible for RCF Funding:

- Purchase of equipment which is not directly related to the establishment of a new or upgrading/extension of existing cooperative training (CT) programme is not eligible.
- Activities the VTI already implements will not be financed. Only activities that provide a new, value-added component of the CT programme to the partners' normal activities will be supported.
- Normal operating costs of VTIs or partnering enterprises will not be supported.

Eligibility Criteria for RCF Funding

During the expression of interest phase the suitability of proposed projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

- (1) VET consortia comprise at least one vocational training institute (VTI) and at least two enterprises.
- (2) Consortium partners are only represented in one project proposal per call.
- (3) RCF funded cooperative training projects provide training places for at least 15 learners in the first year and 15 learners in the second year.
- (4) Partnering enterprises commit to offer sufficient workplace learning as well as teaching capacities.
- (5) RCF funded cooperative training projects are open to all ethnic groups.
- (6) Cooperative training co-ordinators are appointed by each consortia member.
- (7) Consortia ensure that accident insurance for all trainees is provided in line with national regulations.
- (8) Consortia members operate in compliance with the RCF Occupational Health and Security and Environmental and Social Management guidelines.
- (9) Consortia members consent to publishing good practices and share knowledge with RCF stakeholders.
- (10) VTIs joining the consortia are licenced by the relevant national authority, private VTIs are accredited by the relevant national authority.
- (11) Consortia are based on a co-operative training partnership which is documented in a Memorandum of Understanding between the participating parties.
- (12) Co-operative training projects funded under the RCF lead to nationally recognized qualifications and are in line with the applicable national qualification frameworks.
- (13) The proposed project does not increase the number of training places at the partnering VTI by more than 50%.
- (14) Consortia members agree to disclose their financial status during the application phase.
- (15) Consortia have received a support letter from the relevant authority confirming its commitment to support the VTI during the implementation of the project and the delivery of the proposed cooperative training.
- (16) Requested funding ranges between EUR 150,000 and EUR 600,000.