



Apply for RCF support

The Regional Challenge Fund

The Regional Challenge Fund (RCF) offers participating businesses in the Western Balkans 6 a competitive advantage.

Businesses need skilled employees. And young people need to build the right skills. The RCF connects companies in need of skilled labour with vocational training institutes (VTIs) that use a unique cooperative training approach. This approach is more effective than traditional vocational education and training (VET).

With the RCF, VTIs partner with companies to customize cooperative training programs that teach students the skills your business needs. The RCF will fund investments in the equipment and infrastructure that VTIs need to help their students build those skills. The result is highly trained employees who are ready to work for you.

Benefits of Cooperative Training for Businesses

- ✓ It increases productivity, competitiveness and innovativeness of participating businesses.
- ✓ Its students- your future employees - acquire the right skills because they learn both in educational settings and through on-the-job training at your company.
- ✓ It reduces recruitment and onboarding training costs.

Benefits of the RCF for Businesses

- ✓ It equips VTIs with the equipment they need to train students on the skills businesses need today.
- ✓ It makes it easy for businesses like yours to partner with the right VTI to build a training program that fits your needs.
- ✓ supports your business builds resilience and responds with agility to the new realities by offering innovative online solutions to train and mobilize talents

Who can apply for RCF support

Consortia of vocational training institutes and businesses in need of skilled labour are welcome to apply. A consortium should include:

- ✓ An officially licenced public or private vocational training institute, such as a VET school or training centre, from WB6 economies that wishes to engage in cooperative training activities
- ✓ at least 2 partnering private enterprises

RCF grants will be awarded to VTIs as lead partners of a cooperative training consortium.

Types of projects the RCF can support

Projects focused on introducing or improving cooperative training programs. Consortia can apply for funds to purchase equipment or machinery, do construction or renovations, improve curricula and training materials, or train teachers or in-company trainers to strengthen the practical aspects of training courses.

The size of the grants will range **from 150.000 to 600.000 EUR.**



How to apply

Interested consortia may submit an Expression of Interest electronically for appraisal by the selection committee, which is comprised of international VET experts. Selected consortia will be invited to submit full project proposals.

Learn more

Visit www.rcf-wb6.org to find out more about the open calls, eligibility criteria, applications process, and upcoming events.



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