



Apply for RCF support

The Regional Challenge Fund

The Regional Challenge Fund (RCF) aims to make it easier for businesses in the Western Balkans 6 to find skilled employees.

It does this by connecting 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 companies need. 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, ready to work.

Cooperative Training

- ✓ An approach that combines learning through VTIs with on-the-job training at participating companies.
- ✓ Graduates are highly employable because they have the skills that businesses need today.
- ✓ Participating businesses see increased productivity, competitiveness and innovativeness.

Benefits of the RCF

- ✓ It helps VTIs align their programs with the needs of companies and equips schools with the modern technology businesses use today.
- ✓ It makes it easy for businesses to partner with the right VTI to build a training program that fits their needs.
- ✓ Provides resources to strengthen institutional capacities for adapting to new normality through digitalization, improving digital literacy and widening students' access and participation in cooperative training.

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

Calls for applicants will be opened once or twice per year. 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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