



The Regional Challenge Fund

The Regional Challenge Fund (RCF) is a new program that seeks to increase the productivity and competitiveness of businesses in the Western Balkans 6.

Businesses need skilled employees. And young people need to build the right skills, which can be difficult in today's challenging environment. The RCF will help bridge this gap by funding investments in the equipment and infrastructure that vocational training institutes need to help their students build the skills that today's companies demand.

The first Call for Expressions of Interest is Open from February 1st until April 30th!



This call is published simultaneously in the six Western Balkan economies and invites applications from all six economies and all economic sectors.

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 licensed public or private vocational training institute, such as a VET school or training center, from WB6 countries 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.

apply online



Download the Announcement of the First Call

download

Benefits of Cooperative Training for Businesses

- ✓ It increases productivity, competitiveness and innovativeness of participating businesses.
- ✓ Its students 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 to partner with the right vocational training institutions to build a training program that fits their needs.
- ✓ Supports businesses to build resilience and respond with agility to new realities by offering innovative online solutions to train and mobilize talents.

The RCF is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to KfW Development Bank and executed by the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum (WB6-CIF), a joint initiative of chambers of commerce from the region.

Learn more

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

Implementation Partners

