



RCF News, July 2022



The 2nd Call for EoI: The Number of Shortlisted Applicants

The Regional Challenge Fund in the Western Balkan 6 had its **Second Call for Expressions of Interest from March 7th until April 14th, 2022**. The call encouraged the applications from consortia of vocational training institutes and enterprises from WB6 economies, implementing cooperative VET courses that result in nationally recognized certificates.

Upon the end of the Second Call for EoI, **the RCF received 123 applications** from all 6 Western Balkan economies.

47

shortlisted applicants

Based on the predefined eligibility criteria and the availability of the funds for the Second Call, the selection panel has shortlisted **47 applicants to proceed to the next stage of developing full project proposals** and submitting them within the next 40 days.

[Full list >>](#)

We congratulate the shortlisted applicants and wish them success in the upcoming stages of the selection process. To support the applicants, the RCF team will further organize online workshops on cooperative training and online tutorials for project proposal development. The RCF team also encourages the applicants who were not shortlisted, but who applied for the first time, to consider revising their expression of interest based on our feedback and re-apply for the RCF support within the following calls.

RCF Survey: Poaching the Main Challenge for Partnering Enterprises

To collect feedback from the **enterprises supporting consortia** during the RCF grant program application process, the Regional Challenge Fund conducted a **short online survey** from the 3rd to the 9th of June.

In the survey, the RCF asked partnering enterprises to share their **motivation for application, expectations from the programme**, as well as **challenges** they expect on the path of cooperative training implementation.

96

responses

The survey showed that the **majority of companies (59.4%)** joined the consortium led by a VET institute to **get access to skilled employees**. Another major reason (**47.9%**) was a long-term investment to **increase productivity, competitiveness, and innovativeness**. Only **16.7%** of consider **the reduction of recruitment, onboarding and training costs** to be the motivation for application.

The Regional Challenge Fund thanks all the companies who shared their insightful experience.

[More info >>](#)

First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the RCF held in Montenegro

The First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Challenge Fund in Western Balkans 6 was held June 16-18 in Budva, Montenegro. Apart from the RCF Fund Management Unit, the meeting gathered VET experts from the CIF member chambers and KfW offices around the region. Based on the lessons learned from two open calls, the Technical Advisory Committee members discussed how the RCF could promote exchange on cooperative training and contribute to policy dialogue.

Webinar on Greening TVET in the Western Balkans

The Regional Challenge Fund aims to make vocational education and training more relevant to the labor market. As reflected in the Green agenda for the Western Balkan 6, the green transition becomes inevitable for the economies in the region. To be able to respond to this challenge and incorporate sustainability principles, greening TVET has become more relevant than ever before. The RCF invites vocational training providers, enterprises, partners, and organisations, to join us for a webinar dedicated **to learning and discussing the importance of greening TVET**. We will explore the benefits of greening TVET for schools and companies and how to engage in greening, especially in cooperative or dual training arrangements.

Date: 25.07.2022
Time: 13h CET
Location: Zoom

[Register here >>](#)

Implementation Partners

