

Annual Regional Conference of the Regional Challenge Fund and the Technical Advisory Committee Workshop

Realizing Opportunities: Building Human Capital in the Western Balkans 6 for Integration into the EU Single Market

12-13 June 2024, Hotel Maritime Plaza, Tirana, Albania & online

ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 12, 2024, QUEEN GERALDINE ROOM

<p>09.00 – 10.00</p>	<p>Conference Opening and Welcoming Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blendi Gonxhja, Minister, Ministry of Economy, Culture, and Innovation of Albania • Ines Mucostepa, Member of the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum Managing Board and President of the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Albania • Niels Annen, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) • H.E. Ruth Huber, Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in Albania <p>Keynote Speeches: Fostering Western Balkans 6 Economic Growth through Human Capital Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andjela Jaksic-Stojanovic, Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro • Tatjana Shterjova Dushkovska, Secretary General, Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum President, Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum • Martin Zickendraht, First Secretary, Embassy of Germany in Albania
<p>9.50 – 10.00</p>	<p>Technical Break</p>
<p>10.00 – 11.00</p>	<p>Panel Session – Co-hosted by the Ministry of Economy, Culture, and Innovation of Albania Vocational Education and Training Systems of the Western Balkans as a Driving Force of the Economic Growth: Reform Priorities and Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klevis Hysa, Head of National Agency for Employment and Skills, Albania • Mirjana Kovacevic, Director of Business Academy, Head of Education, Dual Education and Educational Policies Centre, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia • Jelena Bojovic, Department of International Cooperation and Projects Centre for Vocational Education, VET Centre, Montenegro • Mevlane Zulfiqari, Head of Unit for Quality Assurance, Development and Cooperation, Adult Education Centre, North Macedonia

	Moderator: Olta Manjani , Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Culture, and Innovation of Albania
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.45	<p>Panel Session: Organized Business Sector Initiatives for Enhancing Workforce Development in the Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingrid Portenkirchner, Head of the secretariat, Donor Committee for dual Vocational Education DC dVET • Besim Mustafa, Director of the Department for International Cooperation, Kosova Chamber of Commerce • Mladen Perazic, Director of Education and Quality Department, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro • Trajce Karov, Economic Chamber of North Macedonia and Marquardt • Lidija Matijas, Senior Advisor, Dual Education and Educational Policies Centre, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia <p>Moderator: Balsa Culafic, RCF CIF Project Coordinator, Chamber of Commerce Montenegro</p>
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch break
13.45 – 15.00	<p>Perspectives Panel I: Greening Cooperative Vocational Education and Training for Sustainable Economic Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannelore Kress, Senior Project Manager, German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) • Danijela Manic, Director, College of Applied Studies Aviation Academy, Belgrade, Serbia • Danijela Kovac, WB6 CIF National Coordinator, Foreign Trade Chamber of Commerce, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Stevan Zivkovic, Head of Network Management Sector, CEDIS, Montenegro • Vera Chilari, Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization, Moldova <p>Moderator: Marina Braletic, High School of Electrical Engineering Vaso Aligrudic, Podgorica</p>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 16.45	<p>Perspectives Panel II: Boosting Digital Transition and Cybersecurity through Vocational Education and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Peter Ganter De Otero, Human Capital Development Expert - Country Liaison for Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Training Foundation • Vincent Roessle, CTO Holberton School, France

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snezana Saramandova, Professor, Municipal School Bogdanci, North Macedonia • Çelik Nimani, Managing Director, Southeast Europe, Kin+Carta, Kosovo • Belma Ramić-Brkić, Dean CS Department, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Bosnia and Herzegovina <p>Moderator: Elton Domnori, Vice Dean, Faculty of Computer Science and ICT Metropolitan University Tirana</p>
16.45 – 17.00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viktorija Veidt, Senior Portfolio Manager, KfW • Frieder Woehrmann, Team Leader, Fund Management Unit, RCF
19.30 – 22.00	<p>Dinner at “Kazerma e Cerenit” Restaurant, Mount Dajti</p>

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP, JUNE 13, 2024, JERONIM DE RADA A, 23RD FLOOR

09.00 – 12.00	<p>Technical Advisory Committee Opening and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCF in numbers after three open calls • Strengthening thematical aspects of the RCF in the future calls
	<p>Interactive workshops conducted by Irena Topalli</p> <p>Ways forward for VET in WB6 for strengthening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacities for Green and Digital Transition ○ Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in TVET programs in WB6 ○ Regional cooperation in human capital development
10.30 – 10.45	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Lunch</p>

WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABILITY VET CHAIN, JUNE 13, 2024, JERONIM DE RADA B, 23RD FLOOR

08.30 – 12.30	<p>Interactive workshop on sustainability along the supply chain (for selected RCF funded consortia only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted by Hannelore Kress and Julia Olesen, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) for the RCF funded consortia
10.30 – 10.45	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Lunch</p>