

Building skills.

Transforming businesses.

Enhancing business competitiveness in the Western Balkans since 2020

The Regional Challenge Fund is financing VET providers addressing skill needs in cooperation with companies in the region, contributing to the sustainable competitiveness of businesses on the way to the EU single market.

The Regional Challenge Fund after the first three calls

6	Economies	528	Partnering enterprises
99	Projects financed	44 mil EUR	Investments committed
4200	Students per year	185	Cooperative or dual/work-based-learning vocational education and training programmes supported

Economic sectors

Top 5

Occupations supported

Mechanical Engineering and Metalworking

ICT

Trade, Hospitality and Tourism

Electrical Engineering

Health and Social Care

CNC Technician, Machine Operator, Welder

Web Developer, Software Developer

Tourism Specialist, Waiter

Medical Nurse

Electrotechnician, Mechatronics Technician

Boosting In-demand Skills

The RCF approach is designed to help vocational training institutes better align their programs with the needs of businesses and equip them with cutting-edge technology used in industries.

The combination of work-based learning in educational facilities and on-the-job training at companies is teaching highly practical skills to graduates.

The RCF is investing in the future productivity, competitiveness, and innovativeness among the businesses.

Promoting Equal Opportunities and Just Transition

The RCF is proud to support excellence in vocational education and training to make all occupations, inclusive and attractive to all genders and groups.

The RCF wants to see the region enjoy the benefits of a just green transition, which is why it encourages continuous environmental considerations and social standards.

Green VET Programmes

The RCF encourages investments in greening practices in schools and companies and training programmes that promote sustainability and energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy

Installation and Maintenance of Photovoltaic and Solar Panels

Organic Farming

Digitalisation and Digitisation Programmes

The RCF helps digitalize the VET landscape in the Western Balkans by investing in modern automated and computer-controlled technology.

40% of the overall RCF investments are going to state-of-the-art digitalized training equipment.

Big data

Graphic Design

AI

Cybersecurity

Multimedia

The RCF mobilizes private sector investments

✓ With the investments planned for projects financed in the first three calls, the RCF mobilized 2.6 million euros of private capital.

✓ Around 20% of the RCF financing goes to private VET providers.

The RCF is a multi-donor funding facility that invests in equipment and infrastructure for cooperative or dual training projects designed by vocational training institutes and enterprises in partnership.

Regional Challenge Fund Fund Management Unit

📍 Trg Božane Vučinić 10/11
• Podgorica 81000, Montenegro
🌐 rcf-wb6.org

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development commissioned 64.43 million euros for the RCF, and the Swiss Government, represented by the SDC Swiss Development Cooperation, co-financed an additional 9.7 million CHF. The funds were commissioned to the 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.



For the latest open tenders, visit rcf-wb6.org/procurements/