



Dear reader,

We are opening this issue with great momentum: **the 4th Call for Expressions of Interest**, which was open from 7 April until 6 June 2025 at 23:59h CET, is officially closed! A total of **187 applications** were submitted by consortia of vocational schools and companies from across the Western Balkans. This remarkable response once again confirms the relevance of cooperative training and the shared ambition to strengthen skills ecosystems across the region.

The eligibility check process is now in full swing, and we look forward to seeing the most impactful ideas move forward.

Online and On-Site Promotion of the 4th Open Call

As part of our efforts to support the 4th Call, RCF organised a series of **12 online info sessions** to engage and inform the VET and business community from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia**. The events were held to guide

vocational education and training institutions through the application process and respond to their questions.

In April, we also hosted the ***Regional Knowledge Exchange: Empowering Skills Development for Business Transformation***, which brought together stakeholders from across the region to reflect on RCF's impact, explore the new Call, and engage with our Net4VET platform. The high level of participation with 643 attendees confirmed the growing momentum for cooperation and innovation in vocational education.

In parallel, a total of **22 on-site events** were held across the region, offering not only a platform to promote the Call but also valuable opportunities for direct engagement and dialogue. These gatherings enabled **meaningful networking among schools, companies, policymakers and other key actors** in the skills development area, fostering stronger partnerships and deepening the regional commitment to dual and cooperative training.

Over 17,000 Visitors to Net4VET Since Launch

Since its launch, the **Net4VET platform** has attracted more than **17,000 unique visitors**, confirming strong regional interest in building connections between VET providers, businesses and policymakers. The growing engagement reflects the platform's relevance as a go-to hub for **dual education, knowledge exchange and cross-sectoral cooperation**.

[Visit Net4VET](#)



Regional Challenge Fund Celebrates

The [University Metropolitan Tirana](#) officially opened its new Multimedia Laboratory — developed with support from the Regional Challenge Fund. This high-tech facility will be used to train future ICT and tourism professionals through labour-market-driven cooperative programmes, in partnership with leading industry actors in Albania.

In Prishtina, the RCF marked another milestone by [delivering professional kitchen equipment to Korabi Corporation](#). The grant supports two new cooperative training programmes, Certified Chef and Certified Sous Chef, designed to tackle skills gaps in the food and hospitality sector and promote women's participation in vocational education.

Read more about our work below and take a look at our [open tenders](#).

Save the Date: RCF Annual Regional Conference, October 9, online and in Budva, Montenegro

As we continue building bridges between education and industry, we are thrilled to announce that preparations are underway for the **RCF Annual Regional Conference**, set to take place **on October 9 in Montenegro**. This year our conference goes under the title ***Smart Balkans: Shaping Skills for a Sustainable, Competitive Future - Navigating Dual Education in a Digital and AI World***.

This flagship event will explore how skills development can address the challenges businesses in the Western Balkans 6 face on their path to EU integration, with a focus on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and environmental sustainability. It will bring together businesses, policymakers, VET professionals, researchers, experts, and donors for discussions and workshops to facilitate learning and exchange, and reflect on achievements that shape the future of dual education in the Western Balkans. We can't wait to welcome our dear colleagues and partners, both online and onsite!

For more information on our future activities, follow the news on the RCF website.

[Explore RCF Website](#)

RCF and KfW visits to schools:

[Albania](#)

[Kosovo](#)

[Montenegro](#)

[Serbia](#)



Regional Challenge Fund

Trg Božane Vučinić
Podgorica 81000
Montenegro

You received this email because you subscribed to our newsletter or you took part in any of our previous online events.

@2025 Regional Challenge Fund. All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update preferences](#)

