



Dear reader,

As we wrap up a vibrant third quarter, we are excited to share some of the milestones shaping the future of skills development across the Western Balkans.

From preparing our RCF Annual Regional Conference ***Smart Balkans: Shaping Skills for a Sustainable, Competitive Future – Navigating VET in a Digital and AI World*** to announcing the shortlisted consortia in the 4th Call and sharing new Hot Topics, to following equipment deliveries and upgrades at training centres and launching Update & Shine Net4VET Challenge – momentum is building and we are just getting started.

Online RCF Annual Regional Conference – Register Now

The region's key event on skills, business and the future of work is just around the corner.

Be part of the flagship regional event bringing together businesses, policymakers, VET institutions and international partners from across the Western Balkans on 9 October 2025!

Under the theme [Smart Balkans: Shaping Skills for a Sustainable, Competitive Future – Navigating VET in a Digital and AI World](#), the event will bring together experts from business, education and policy to discuss the future of skills in the Western Balkans.

This year's conference will spotlight how digital transformation, sustainability and AI will shape the future of vocational education in the Western Balkans on the region's path towards EU integration – and foster dialogue on building future-ready skills.

[Register for online attendance and secure your virtual seat.](#)

REGISTER NOW



86 Consortia Shortlisted in the 4th Call

The Fourth Call for Expressions of Interest closed on 6 June 2025, with 187 applications received from across the Western Balkans 6. Based on the eligibility criteria and available funds, 86 consortia have been shortlisted to develop full project proposals.

They include 18 from Albania, 22 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 17 from Kosovo, 4 from Montenegro, 4 from North Macedonia and 21 from Serbia.

Net4VET Hot Topics

[Green Professions, AI and the Future of VET: Insights from Malte Schmidthals](#)

What will tomorrow's professions look like and how can vocational schools prepare youth for a sustainable digital future?

Malte Schmidthals, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment (IZT) in Berlin, shares powerful insights on how VET can integrate sustainability and digital transformation, including the use of AI, into teaching and training practices.

He will also bring these perspectives to the RCF Annual Regional Conference: Smart Balkans – Shaping Skills for a Sustainable, Competitive Future, joining the panel session **“Green Skills for Growth: Aligning with EU Sustainability Standards”**

Spotlight: Equipment & Infrastructure Upgrades

Subotica, Serbia

[The School of Chemical Technology in Subotica has received modern equipment to enhance training for bakers and confectioners.](#)

With new, up-to-date machines now in place, students can connect classroom theory with real work experience and strengthen both their technical and soft skills through the school's cooperation with local businesses. This upgrade opens the door to more opportunities for work-based learning, supports a smoother transition to the labour market and helps bridge the skills gap in the region.

Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

[At the Public School of Agriculture and Medicine in Bijeljina renovation works and laboratory upgrades have been completed.](#)

The new facilities will give teachers improved training conditions, while students will benefit from more practical, hands-on learning aligned with industry standards. This investment will strengthen cooperation with local companies and help better connect education with real-world practice in the food sector.

Net4VET Challenge: Celebrating Excellence in Vocational Education and Training

We launched the [Update & Shine – Net4VET Challenge](#) to spotlight excellence among RCF-awarded consortia and to give them the stage to showcase the results and impact of their projects, while further strengthening connections within the regional VET community.

Dozens of consortia have submitted applications, highlighting how they successfully bridge skills and business through high-quality cooperative training.

The consortia with the most outstanding profiles on the Net4VET platform will be rewarded with the exclusive opportunity to participate in the **RCF Annual Regional Conference onsite**, where they will present their achievements and connect with peers, industry representatives, stakeholders, and donors from across the region.

Open Procurements

RCF continues to publish new tenders to support the implementation of awarded projects across the Western Balkans.

We invite all interested suppliers of goods, works or services, to explore the ongoing procurement opportunities on our website.

[VIEW OPEN TENDERS](#)

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