



Dear reader,

We open this edition with great news: the **Regional Challenge Fund** has **announced the selected consortia under the 4th Call for Proposals**, marking another important step in strengthening skills development and cooperation between businesses and vocational education providers across the Western Balkans 6.

At the same time, the region's **innovative training models** are gaining **global visibility**. For the first time, RCF-supported projects have been featured on the UNESCO-UNEVOC platform, placing the Western Balkans firmly on the map of recognised high-impact vocational education practices.

Find out more about the latest **equipment deliveries and infrastructure upgrades in VET schools**, explore new resources in the **Net4VET Knowledge Hub**, and discover the newest **procurement opportunities** across the region.

4th Call Results Are In: New RCF Projects Selected Across the Western Balkans

The Regional Challenge Fund has successfully concluded its **4th Call for Expressions of Interest**, inviting consortia of vocational training institutes and enterprises from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,**

Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia to apply for funding aimed at strengthening skills development and regional business competitiveness.

Open from **April 8 to June 6, 2025**, the call attracted **187 applications from across the Western Balkans**, demonstrating remarkable regional interest and commitment to advancing vocational education and training.

Following the eligibility assessment and evaluation process, **86 consortia were shortlisted to develop full project proposals**. From this group, the **Regional Challenge Fund has now selected the projects that will receive funding**, marking the next step in supporting cooperative training initiatives that connect education and business across the region.

[Read more](#)

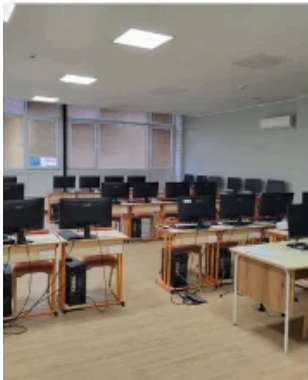
Western Balkans Projects Recognised by UNESCO-UNEVOC

For the first time ever, the **Regional Challenge Fund has placed the Western Balkans 6 on the [UNESCO-UNEVOC map](#)** – a global reference point highlighting impactful vocational education practices for policymakers, educators, and development partners worldwide.

Three projects from the region have been recognised for their **innovative approaches and outstanding contributions to vocational education**:

- [Bogdanci Vocational Secondary School](#), North Macedonia
- [Vocational Secondary School Svilajnac](#), Serbia
- [Technical School Vlasotince](#), Serbia

This recognition highlights the growing visibility of the Western Balkans as a region capable of delivering **forward-looking, high-quality cooperative training models**.



RCF in Action

Across the region, RCF-supported projects continue to strengthen vocational education through **modern equipment and improved training infrastructure**.

Budva, Montenegro

RCF has successfully completed a **€515,000 investment** at the Secondary Mixed School “Danilo Kiš” in Budva, delivering new equipment and upgraded learning spaces that support high-quality training in **tourism and hospitality**.

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Danilovgrad, Montenegro

The Public Institution Vocational School Police Academy in Danilovgrad has completed infrastructure upgrades and received new training equipment as part of an **€283,000 investment**, enabling modern, practice-oriented training for future professionals in the security sector.

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Kavadarci, North Macedonia

New laboratory and workshop equipment has been delivered to **SOU “Kiro Spandžov-Brko”**, strengthening the school’s capacity to provide modern

vocational training aligned with labour market needs.

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Užice, Serbia

Technical School Užice has received a **surface grinding machine** designed to support training for machine tool operators and enhance students' practical skills through high-precision metal processing technology.

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Pančevo, Serbia

The final piece of equipment under the project "**Sustainable Future**" – a **vertical 3-axis CNC Tapper Mill** – has been delivered to the School of Mechanical Engineering in Pančevo, completing the investment and further strengthening practical training capacities in advanced manufacturing.

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Svilajnac, Serbia

RCF visited the consortium led by Secondary School "Svilajnac", showcasing a strong example of dual education in practice through close cooperation between the school, municipality, and industry partner Regent Lighting.

[Read more](#)

Durrës, Albania

In-company mentors at "Beqir Çela" VET School took part in a training initiative supporting their role in dual education, contributing to a more structured and sustainable mentor system across Albania.

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Niš, Serbia

Secondary Vocational School Niš received advanced equipment, including collaborative robot arms and digital design software, enabling students to develop skills aligned with modern manufacturing technologies.

[Read more](#)

Trieste, Italy

WB6 VET experts and chambers of commerce representatives met in Trieste to exchange practices and strengthen regional cooperation in workforce development and skills alignment with the EU labour market.

[Read more](#)

Net4VET Updates

The **Net4VET Knowledge Hub** continues to grow with new resources and insights supporting vocational education across the Western Balkans.

We invite you to explore the latest publications and discover how VET systems across the region are evolving.

VISIT NET4VET

Procurement Opportunities

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Since the beginning of the year, **seven procurement opportunities** have already been published across the Western Balkans under RCF-supported projects – with many more expected in the coming months.

We encourage suppliers, service providers, and interested partners to regularly visit the procurement page or **pre-register to receive notifications about new opportunities**.

[Explore current procurements](#)

[Preregister for tender notifications](#)

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