

Announcement of the 2nd Call for Expression of Interest

November 21st, 2022

The Kosovo Challenge Fund (KCF) is a financing facility designed to increase youth employability and boosts the competitiveness of enterprises in Kosovo by funding investments in equipment and infrastructure for selected dual or cooperative training projects that are implemented through partnerships between vocational training institutes and partnering enterprises. The grants are allocated through a competitive national challenge.

The KCF is an initiative undertaken by German Development Bank (KfW) and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with 5,8 mil. EUR for the grants. The project executing agency is the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) in Kosovo, whose operations are supported by an international consortium of consultants to implement the program.

The KCF had a successful First Call for Expressions of Interest opened in 2021 that resulted in 4 most successful projects being proposed for finance, with an allocated amount of approximately 1,9 million Euros.

Now the KCF opens the second call for Expressions of interest and invites interested consortia of vocational training institutes and enterprises devoted to joint implementation of cooperative training programs to apply and:

- ▶ Compete for the opportunity to realize substantial investments in training equipment and training facilities at vocational training institutes and encourage the introduction of new technologies
- ▶ Support the development of cooperative training methods to address human resource shortages effectively and strategically approach capacity building

- Improve employability of trainees/VET graduates and their integration into the labor market
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The second call for expressions of interest will be open from **November 21st, 2022 to January 27th, 2023, at 23:59**. The KCF invites applications from all interested VET providers and enterprises operating in Kosovo.

The expressions of interest can be submitted by VET consortia formed of vocational training institutes and a minimum of two enterprises jointly engaging in the provision of cooperative VET.

Consortia, led by vocational training institutes implementing cooperative or dual VET programs that lead to nationally recognized certificates in Kosovo, can apply.

The application process for KCF funding has two stages. Applying consortia submit expressions of interest and supporting documents in the first stage. In the second stage, shortlisted consortia will be invited to submit the full application, including the project proposal and the detailed elaboration of the planned investment.

More information on the eligibility of the applicants, actions, costs, application procedures to follow, and other issues of relevance could be found in the **KCF Guidelines for the Second Call for the Expressions of Interests** available [here](#). The schedule of the upcoming online events will soon be available. All the stakeholders may expect additional emails with the information on the events for the promotion of the Second Call for Expressions on Interest. To be up to date with the latest news, follow Kosovo Challenge Fund on social media ([Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#)).