

Results from the First Kosovo Challenge Fund's Call

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 the 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 main implementation partner is the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) in Kosovo, whose operations are supported by consultants from the Fund Management Unit.

The Kosovo Challenge Fund had its First Call for Expressions of Interest opened from **April 15th** until **June 23rd, 2021**. The call encouraged the Expressions of Interest from consortia of vocational training institutes and enterprises, implementing cooperative VET courses that result in nationally recognized certificates.

The **KCF** received **23** Expressions of Interest. The eligibility and compliance checks based on the predefined eligibility criteria resulted in shortlisting **9 consortia**. These consortia were further invited to prepare the full project proposals with the submission deadline of October **8th, 2021**.

In the second step of the evaluation, external selection experts reviewed and scored the applications based on the set of selection criteria, assessing the concept, feasibility and plausibility, and the ambition of the submitted projects. The ranking list was prepared based on the scoring results. The Selection Committee's decision about the funds available for the first call resulted in **4 most successful projects** being proposed for finance.

All consortia whose projects were not proposed for financing under the first call will be allowed to reapply. In case they choose to do so and improve their applications, the FMU will provide detailed feedback from the assessment.

KCF First Call - Overview



- **23 vocational training institutes** (15 VET schools, 6 VTCs, 3 academies of professional studies, 1 university)
- **68 companies** with **3,106 employees** (47 % small and medium, 51 % micro, 2% large)
- Manufacturing followed by wood processing, construction and ICT are the most dominant sectors

- **9 vocational training institutes** (8 VET schools, 1 academy, 1 VTC)
- **23 enterprises**

- **4 consortia** in total proposed for financing
- 2 VET schools, 2 academies of professional studies, **13 enterprises**
- The total indicative amount proposed for projects in Kosovo: **1,982,373 EUR**

List of Projects proposed for Financing after the First KCF call

Leading vocational training institute	City	Amount ¹ EUR	Partnering enterprises
Tempulli	Prishtina	549,240	Electra LLC DP Partners Sh.P.K
Center of Competence - Skenderaj	Skenderaj	579,975	NNP DACI (Daci Metal Construction) AKTIV SH.P.K, Drenas SH.P.D.K. "Woodprocessing association of Kosovo"
PROED SH.P.K.	Prishtina	317,566	Global CT Digital Kosovo Sh.p.k. Virtual Era Ltd ZGG Ltd Scooler LLC MILLENNIALS MARKETING SH.P.K KD Events & Communications
Shkolla e Mesme Profesionale „Jonuz Zejnnullahu“	Viti	535,592	SH.P.K. „VINEX“ P.P.Z. „EDONI“

¹ The amounts are subject to the additional verification by the pool of technical experts, confirmation through funding agreements, and the outcome of the procurements to be organized for the planned investments.