



First WBF Call Summary

1. Information on the Call

The First Western Balkans Fund Call for Proposals was published on 15 November 2017.

Deadline for submission of Project Proposals was 22 December 2017.

The overall objective of the WBF first Call for Proposals was to contribute to regional cooperation, and strengthen regional cohesion in the WB6 region.

The Call has foreseen three main areas of intervention through which applicants could have submitted their applications:

1. Cultural cooperation
2. Education and scientific exchanges
3. Sustainable development

Note: The matters pertaining to youth, gender and cross-national cooperation were regarded as cross-cutting issues.

- ✓ The overall indicative amount made available under the 1st WBF Call for Proposals is EUR 230,000.
- ✓ Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals should not exceed EUR 12,000.
- ✓ The applicant should have provided at least 20% of the total costs of the project.
- ✓ The planned duration of a project may not exceed 12 months.

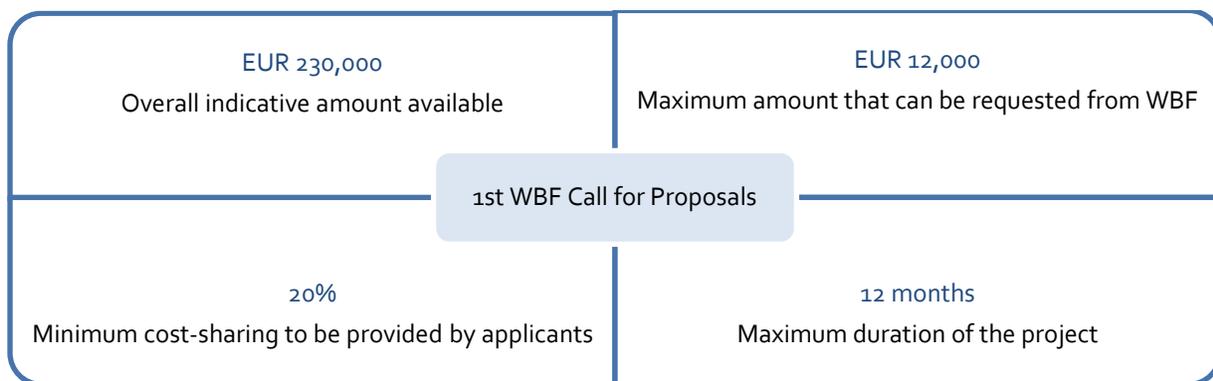


Figure 1 The 1st Call for Proposals in numbers

The project activities should take place in the WB6 region. In certain circumstances activities that promote WB6 region in other parts of the European Union will be also taken into consideration.

The project partnerships represent the central requirement of the Call:

- ✓ Project partnership is consisted of the lead-applicant and minimum two project partners.

- ✓ Partnership parties must come from at least three different WB6 Contracting Parties.

The institutions eligible to apply under the 1st Call for Proposals are following:

- I. Civil society organizations (NGOs)
- II. Local or regional public entities including municipalities or regional development agencies, etc.
- III. Business associations including: business clusters, agriculture associations, chamber of commerce, tourism associations, etc.
- IV. Educational institutions including universities, schools, institutes, libraries, research centers, academies of science/music/art, etc.
- V. Institutions of culture or sports including museums, art galleries, theatres, libraries, or associations of cultural institutions, sport association, etc.

2. Overview of the 1st Call in numbers

Through the 1st Call for Proposals the Western Balkans Fund has received **351 project applications**.

Our assessment indicates that **1,298 organizations** have participated in this call either as a lead-applicant or as the project partner.

Average number of partners per project is **3,7**.

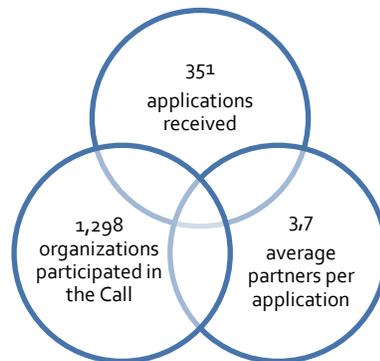


Figure 2 1st WBF Call in numbers

The number of the applications shows that the WBF has achieved an important milestone in this phase of the implementation of the Call. Also considering that regional cooperation represents the main objective of the Call, the fact that 1,300 organizations in WB6 has worked together to submit 351 project proposals underlines the fact that the Call has contributed to the regional cohesion and cooperation.

Project applications per Contracting Party is following:

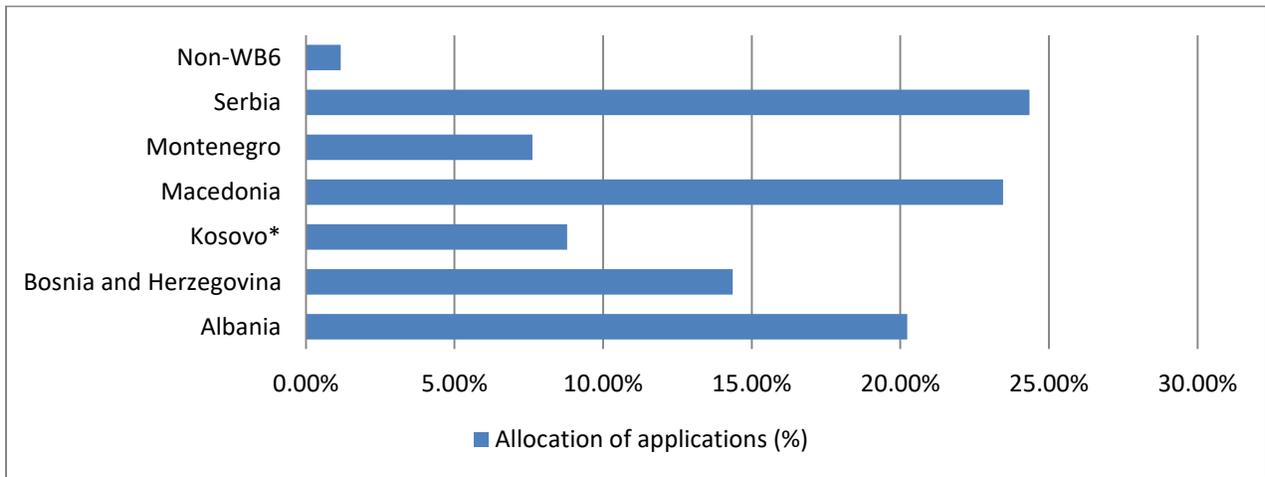


Figure 3 Allocation of applications per Contracting Party (%)

Allocation of project applications per the area of intervention is following:

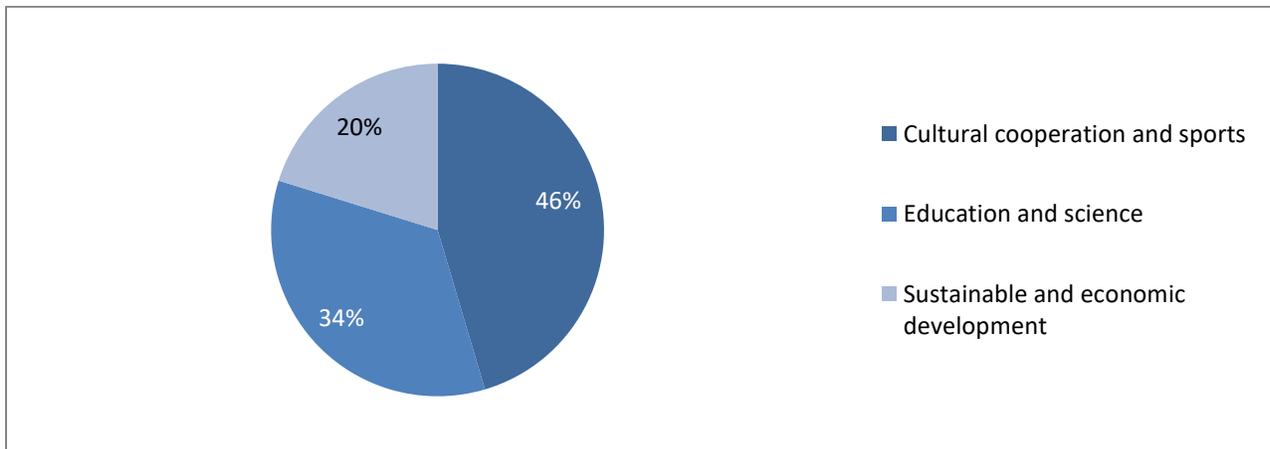


Figure 4 Allocation of submitted projects per the thematic area

The total amount requested from the Fund through the 1st Call for Proposals is more than EUR 3.1 million EUR, while the total value proposed for implementation is EUR 4,7 million.

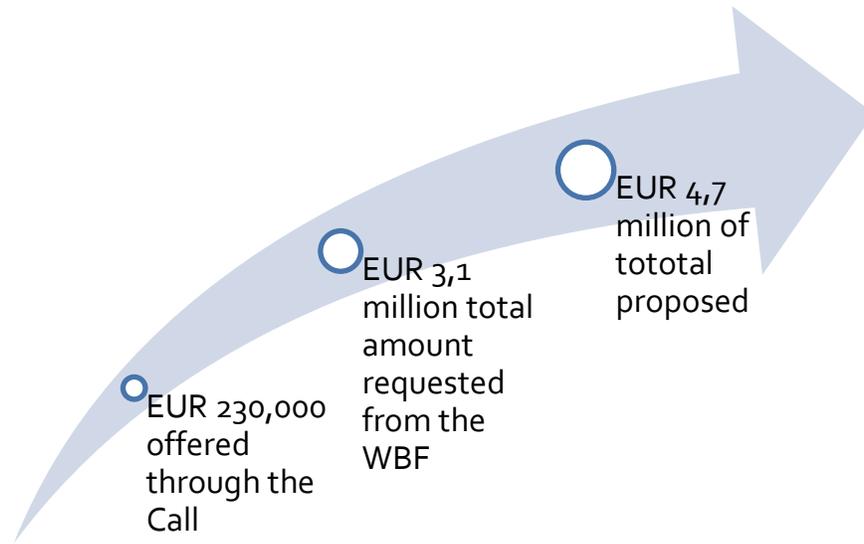


Figure 5 First WBF Call in numbers

3. Timeline of the project assessment process

The Figure 1 provides graphic overview of the main functional segments comprising the WBF Evaluation Process:

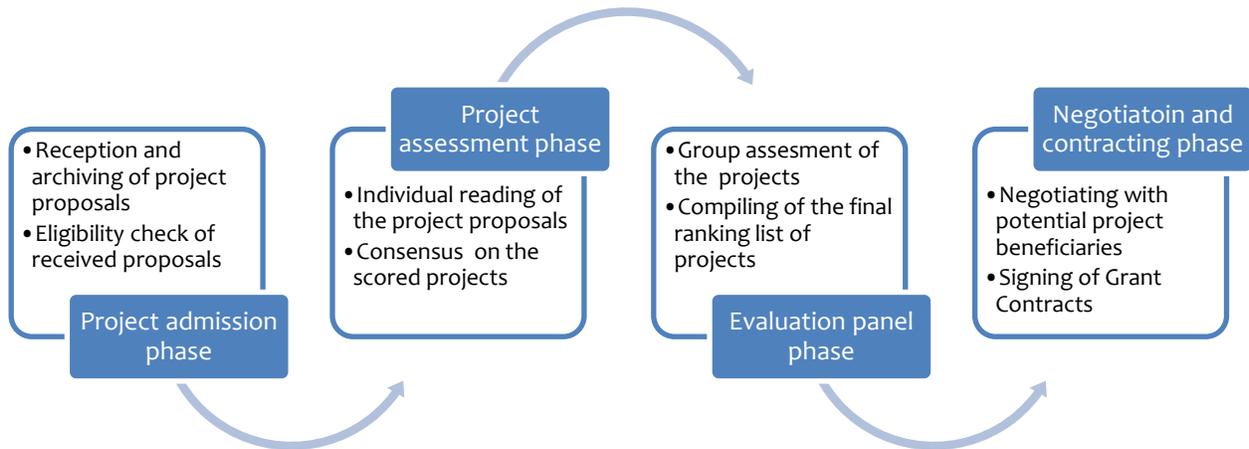


Figure 6 Main phases of the 1st WBF call for Proposals

The archiving and the eligibility check of the submitted project proposals has commenced on 23rd of December 2017, upon the deadline for the receipt of the project proposals and has been completed on 15th of January 2018.

The purpose of the eligibility check was for the Fund to verify that proposals have met the eligibility criteria as set forth in the Guidelines for the 1st WBF Call for Proposals. Any proposals found to be ineligible have been excluded from further evaluation.

Out of 351 project applications 294 applications have passed the eligibility check and entered project evaluation phase.

The allocation of projects that passed eligibility check per Contracting Party is the following:

– Albania	57
– Bosnia and Herzegovina	44
– Kosovo*	23
– Macedonia	66
– Montenegro	24
– Serbia	80
– Total	294

Expressed as a percentage, the allocation of the eligible projects per the Contracting Party is as follows:

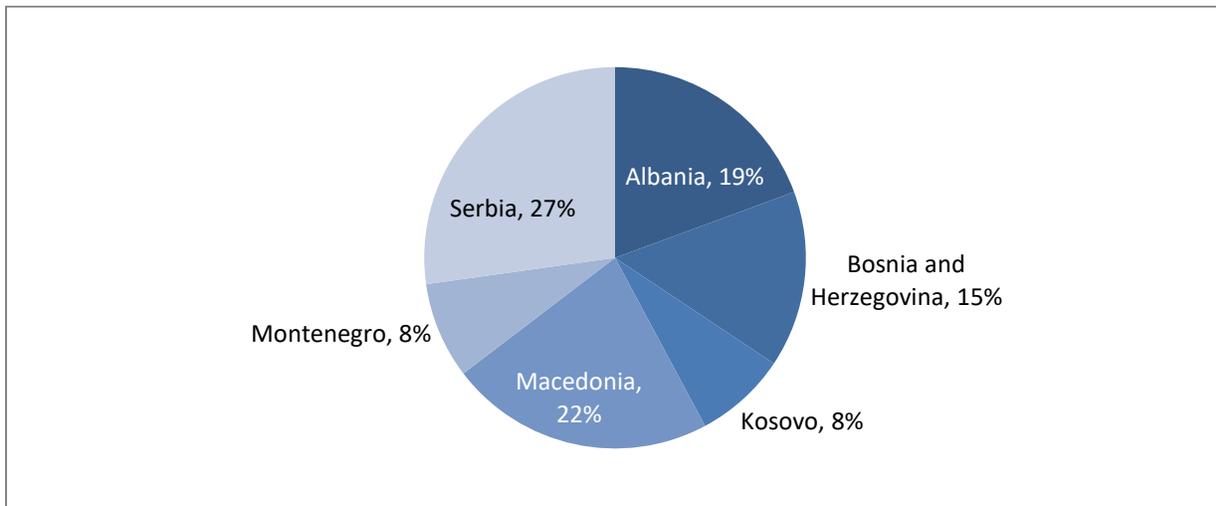


Figure 7 Allocation of eligible applications per Contracting Party

Our analysis of the per capita index, i.e. allocation of applications per Contracting Party relative to the number of citizens of that Contracting Party, indicates that Montenegro has the highest number of per capita applications while Serbia has lowest per capita index¹:

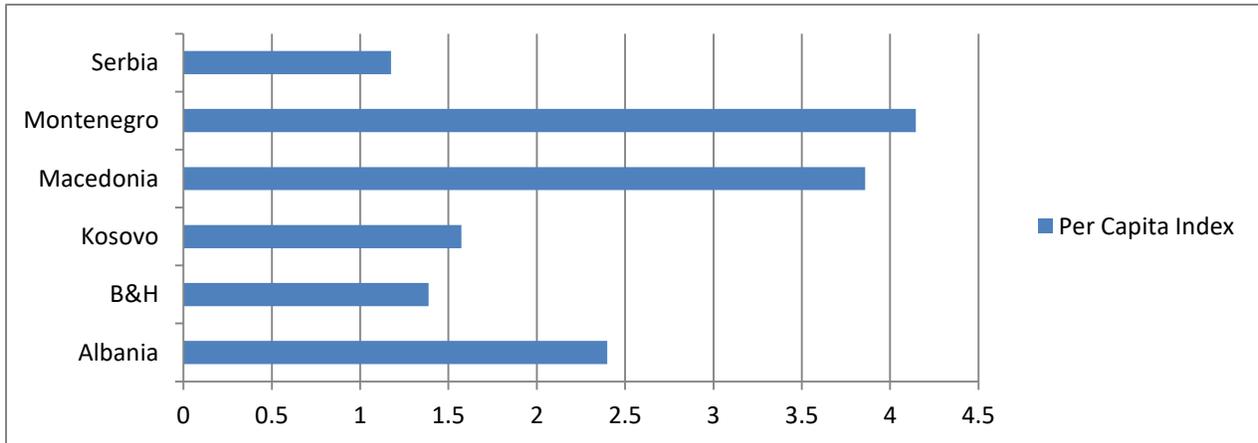


Figure 8 Per capita applications relative to the number of citizens of the each Contracting Party

Our assessment indicates that 47 applications or 13.78% of total received applications are ineligible in line with the criteria set forth in the Chapter 1 of this document.

4. Project Evaluation Process

Upon completing the eligibility check of the project proposals, on 16th January 2018, the WBF evaluation team commenced the project Evaluation Process of the First WBF Call for Proposals.

The Evaluation Process included assessment of all proposals that have passed the Eligibility Check with the purpose of examining their conformity with the evaluation criteria relevant for the call.

For the purpose of the Assessment Process the WBF experts have developed detailed assessment technology to administer the process of evaluation and selection of proposals. The project assessment technology is outlined in the WBF Assessment Guidelines.

4.1. Hiring and selection of external assessors

Given the high quantity of received applications, and the fact that 294 projects should have been reviewed, the WBF has engaged two external assessors. Together with 4 in-house assessors, the evaluation process of the 1st WBF Call for Proposals included 6 project assessors.

¹ Per capita index is calculated in a following way: Per Capita Index = (number of applications per the Contracting Party / number of citizens per Contracting Party) * 100,000

The selection of experts was carried out through a closed call for the submission of applications, where the two most successful applicants were selected as external project assessment experts.

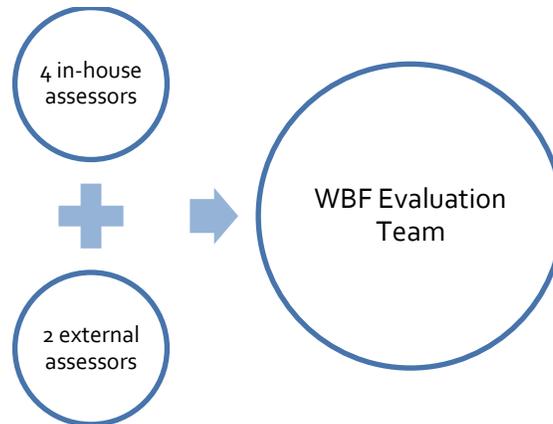


Figure 9 WBF Evaluation Team

4.2. Description of the project evaluation process

In the second phase it was necessary to establish short-list of the best ranking projects. For this purpose, the WBF Executive Director convened the Evaluation Panel.

The Evaluation Panel was structured in the following manner:

- A. The WBF Executive Director acting as a Chair of the Panel
- B. The 6 assessors of the WBF Evaluation Team acting as the Panel Members

The Figure 13 outlines the structure of the Evaluation Panel.

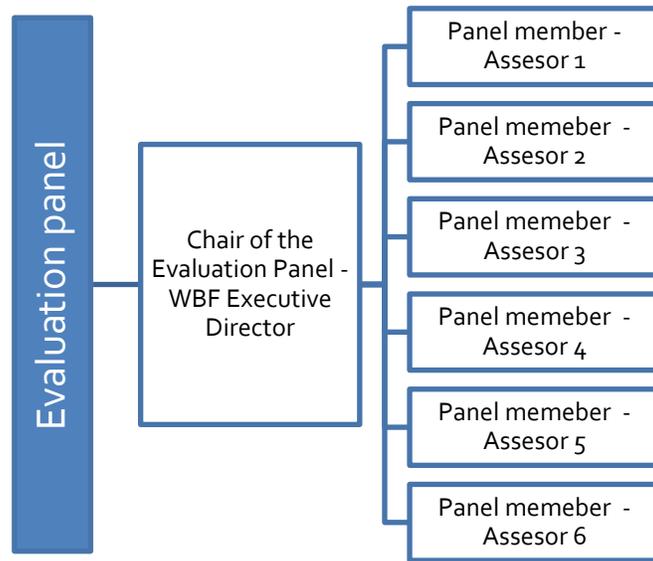


Figure 10 WBF Evaluation Panel Structure

The evaluation panel assessed shortlisted projects, which involved presentation of the project and a group discussion on every projects included in the shortlist. In this way the Evaluation Panel has developed the final list of projects recommended for the WBF funding which included:

- ✓ List of projects recommended for the WBF funding, and
- ✓ List of projects comprising the reserve list of projects.

In this way each of the 6 WBF Contracting Parties received the 3+2 list, with the following structure:

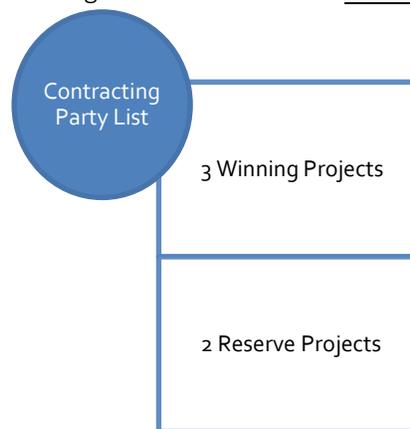


Figure 11 Structure of the 3+2 list per contracting party

The purpose of the Reserve Projects is to provide substitute for the Winning Projects in case they fail to conform to the requirements extended by the WBF Evaluation Panel such as valid Partnership Agreement, Financial Statement, etc.

In terms of thematic areas projects recommended for the WBF Funding allocation of projects per the thematic area is following:

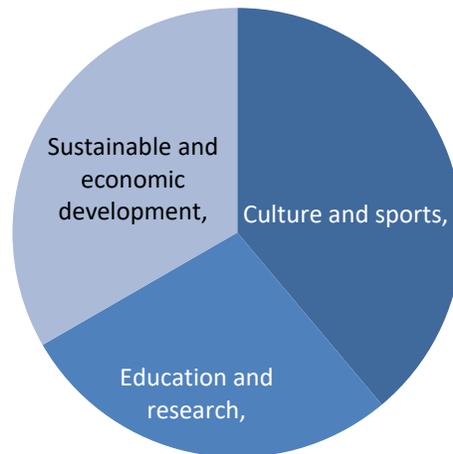


Figure 12 Allocation of projects per thematic area

5. Negotiation and Contracting process

The contract negotiation will start after the projects are approved by the WBF Ministerial Conference . The shortlisted applicants are required to submit the following supporting documents for review:

1. Statute and the registration
2. Financial statement
3. Partnership agreement

Based on the Evaluation Panel's decisions the winning applicants may be asked to revise the budget or the project indicators/activities. In this phase, and prior to the signing of the Grant Contracts, the WBF enters in an intense exchange with the grantees in order to make sure that desired or necessary changes, for example of project partners, outputs, timelines, locations, budget, methods are taken into account in the final contract.

For the purpose of the Contracting process, the WBF experts have designed a grant contract template that will be used for the contracting purposes.

6. Publication of the results

The WBF Evaluation Panel informs the lead applicants on the WBF decision concerning their application. However, the partnership agreement will ensure that they inform their co-applicants.

The WBF team will publish the list of grants awarded including the logos of the lead and partner grantees on their website and on social media.

For the purpose of the extending the reward the WBF Secretariat will organize a grant reward ceremony and conference at the end of April 2018.