



NEWSLETTER

Western Balkans Fund Second Call for Regional Projects launched

WBF is pleased to announce its Second Call for Regional Project Proposals! Following the WBF objectives, based on lessons learned from our First Call (2017), this Call aims to promote regional cooperation & enhance people-to-people links in WB region.

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Western Balkans Fund Secretariat First Anniversary celebrated

On November 1st, 2018, the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), - the first all-inclusive born and regionally owned intergovernmental organization in the Western Balkans region, celebrated the First Anniversary of the official opening of its Secretariat office in Tirana!

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Belgrade

6th Global Youth Forum

On 27 October 2018 in the Belgrade City Hall, Western Balkans Fund supported organization of “6th Global Youth Forum: YOUTH POWER FOR THE COMMON FUTURE”. This event, implemented by our partners, ECPS Danubian Center, follows up on the support the WBF has been providing to foster people-to-people links, in the Western Balkans region.

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Tirana / Skopje / Pristina

“Digital Girls of the Year” project

In the framework of the implementation of the regional project “Digital Girls of the Year”, organized by CID- Center for Information and Development Albania, Innovation Center Kosovo* and Estima Macedonia, funded by the Western Balkans Fund, a series of trainings were organized in Tirana, Skopje and Pristina.

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Karavasta / Divjakë

Monitoring of migrating soaring and wetland birds

The 4. cross-border camp “Birds Without Borders” for biology students & researchers was organized from 1st to 5th October 2018 in Karavasta National park in Albania, hosted by Preservation of natural environment in Albania (PPNEA) and partner organizations from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

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Mostar / History Teachers project

As one of the follow up activities after the Summer School Challenge History 2 that was held in Prizren in July this year, the alumna from BiH - Mia Tomic together with Michele Parente from forum ZFD BiH participated in Balkan Kaleidoscope - 2nd International Event in Mostar, where the topic of the conference was: "Teachers and students for multi-perceptivity in history and remembrance teaching".

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WBF launches the Second Call for Regional Projects

The Western Balkans Fund, the first all-inclusive born and regionally owned intergovernmental organization in the Western Balkans, launched this week the Second Call for regional projects. In a very short time since the establishment of the Secretariat office one year ago, WBF managed to bring the Second Call, which will support 26 regional projects from the Western Balkans region.

Civil society and other non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is 13 December 2018. The documents of the WBF Second Call could be reached here:

<http://westernbalkansfund.org/grants-projects/>

With the continuous support of the governments of our six Contracting Parties, we are committed to have more projects supported, more organizations engaged and more collaborations vitalized!

WBF Info Sessions plan in the framework of the Second Call for Regional Projects:

Tirana, 8th of November, 11:00-13:00, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs;

Podgorica, 12th of November, 16:30-18:30, Cultural Center “Budo Tomovic”;

Sarajevo, 14th of November, 10:00-12:00, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Belgrade, 15th of November, 9:30-11:00, Club of Parliamentarians;

Skopje, 16th of November, 10:30-12:30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Pristina, 19th of November, 11:00-13:00, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Western Balkans Fund Secretariat Celebrated the First Anniversary

On November 1st, 2018, the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), - the first all-inclusive born and regionally owned intergovernmental organization in the Western Balkans, celebrated the First Anniversary of the official opening of its Secretariat office in Tirana!

In this first year, our Fund launched its First Call for Regional Projects, attracting more than 350 applications, with more than 1290 partnerships and 18 projects granted, networking 84 partner organizations in the implementation phase all over the Western Balkans Region.

Together with our grantees, we organized more than 40 joint workshops, info sessions, trainings, conferences, festivals and our international staff has been invited and attended more than 50 local, regional and European events.

For all of us, this was a remarkable year, full of exiting tasks, memorable contacts, beautiful implemented projects and very stimulating ideas for our future work! In these 12 months of our regional journey, WBF Secretariat, in its premises, hosted numerous governmental officials, ambassadors, donors, civil society organizations representatives and distinctive regional and European partners.

In the process of implementing WBF Projects of the First Call

In this section we bring to you some news, activities and photos related to the main project activities, as they are organized in our region.



On 27 October 2018 in the Belgrade City Hall, Western Balkans Fund supported organization of “6th Global Youth Forum: YOUTH POWER FOR THE COMMON FUTURE”. This event, implemented by our partners, ECPS Danubian Center, follows up on the support the WBF has been providing to foster people-to-people links both, in the Western Balkans. The “6th Global Youth Forum” was designed to bring together young people from the WB6 region and abroad, and to give them an opportunity to exchange ideas. The event was a great opportunity for over 300 participants including representatives of the most eminent educational, governmental and international development institutions.

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As one of the follow up activities after the Summer School Challenge History 2 that was held in Prizren in July this year, the alumna from BiH - Mia Tomic together with Michele Parente from forum ZFD BiH participated in Balkan Kaleidoscope - 2nd International Event in Mostar, where the topic of the conference was: "Teachers and students for multi-perceptivity in history and remembrance teaching".

This event is only one in a series of regional events as follow up activities with the purpose promoting the School and its achievements and experiences across the region of the Western Balkans. Summer School Challenge History 2 is financially supported by the Western Balkans Fund among the others.

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We welcomed to our Secretariat the highest managers of OSW – Centre for Eastern Studies Mr. Eberhardt & Mr. Gniazdowski accompanied by Mr. Karol Bachura, Ambassador of Poland to Albania. Good exchange of achievements and challenges ahead of WBF; very interesting ideas about cooperation areas with V4Group think-tanks, in the framework of the Polish Presidency of the Berlin Process.

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Invited by European Parliament, WBF participated at the Inter-parliamentary Conference: "Transforming the Western Balkans region, A parliamentary perspective on the role and the future of EU accession process" - in Sofia, Bulgaria. This was a good opportunity to inform members of Parliaments from the Western Balkans and from 12 European Union countries about our Fund, the achievements and challenges ahead.

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WBF participated to the conference organized in Tirana by Albanian Telegraphic Agency and Tanjug News Agency of Serbia. We shared our opinion that regional cooperation needs the involvement of media. Western Balkans Fund is ready to cooperate with them and to welcome

Monitoring of migrating soaring and wetland birds in Divjake-Karavasta National Park (Albania)

The fourth cross-border camp “Birds Without Borders” for biology students and researchers was organized from 1st until 5th October 2018 in Divjake-Karavasta National park in Albania and hosted by Preservation of natural environment in Albania (PPNEA) in cooperation with Center for Protection and Research of birds from Montenegro, Ornithological society “Nase ptice” from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) from Macedonia.

A total number of 102 individuals from 9 raptor species have been counted during the camp. The most common bird species resulted to be: The Marsh Harrier, the Common Buzzard, the Osprey and the Hobby. On the other hand, the less common species were registered such as: The Lesser Spotted Eagle, the Pallid Harrier, the Red-footed Falcon and the Short-toed Eagle.

The camp was the last camp organized within the project “Birds without Borders” project which is supported by Western Balkans Fund (WBF). The camps organized within the project contributed to strengthening cross-border cooperation of environmental civil society organizations in the Western Balkans.



“Digital Girls of the Year” project

In the framework of the implementation of the regional project Digital Girls of the Year, organized by CID- Center for Information and Development Albania, Innovation Center Kosovo* and Estima Macedonia, funded by the Western Balkans Fund; organized training events in Tirana, Skopje and Pristina.

Experienced speakers shared their insights with the young female professionals and students in the premises of “Petro Nini” and “Qemal Stafa” high schools in Tirana. On 29th of October the first activity of this initiative was implemented in Macedonia. The “informative session with successful women in ICT” was held in the high school “Rade Jovchevski Korchagin” in Skopje, where 30 young women participated. Innovation Center Kosovo* gathered successful woman in a high level participation in Pristina, sharing the experiences and looking the ways for more engagement of the woman in the workplaces.



WBF News

Some news related to WBF (These articles are in English and in the languages of WB6)

- <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2018/10/20/western-balkans-fund-secretariat-first-anniversary/>
- <https://mk2025summit.com/final-regional-business-pitching-competition-in-skopje-supported-by-the-western-balkans-fund/>
- <http://wb-csf.eu/western-balkans-fund-secretariat-first-anniversary/#.W8nLferU03A.twitter>
- <http://ata.gov.al/2018/11/05/celet-thirrja-e-dyte-e-fondit-te-ballkanit-perendimor-mbeshteten-26-projekte-rajonale/>
- <http://vesnik-ilinden.com/fondot-za-zapaden-balkan-slavi-prva-godina-od-osnovaneto-se-sprema-vtoriot-povik-za-proekti/>
- <http://ata.gov.al/2018/10/17/fondi-i-ballkanit-perendimor-mbeshtet-18-projekte-rajonale-gati-thirrja-e-dyte/>
- <https://ickosovo.com/events/all-events/launching-digital-girls-of-the-year-kosovo>
- <https://ppnea.org/2018/10/10/monitoring-of-migrating-soaring-and-wetland-birds-in-divjake-karavasta-np/>



Projections of activities for the upcoming month

- 1st -12th of November 2018, Dokufest, Re-Thinking Films, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 7th of November, 2018, “Strengthening of Cross-border Cooperation and Relations in the Western Balkans through People to People Contact of Young Entrepreneurs “, Macedonia2025 Summit, Skopje, Macedonia,
- Ongoing - Monitoring the implementation of WBF projects, all over the region;
- Ongoing - Collaborative visits to WBF partners in the WB6 Region.

NOTE: In our web page at the Calendar section you may find the latest information regarding the timing of the concrete activities of WBF projects, as they are updated accordingly.

www.westernbalkansfund.org

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- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLuEaTSASEoaUu4ez5DIvnw>



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