Western Balkans Fund successfully completed Information Sessions within the framework of the “Second Call for Regional Project Proposals”

Within the framework of the “Second Call for Regional Projects”, from/to 8-19 November 2018, the Western Balkans Fund (WBF) successfully accomplished the organization of Information Sessions in the six Capitals of the region.

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Podgorica

‘Socialthon - Prototype Pitches’

“Young people of today will have a central role in pursuing the challenges of tomorrow”. On November 5th, a successful event organized by ADP-ZID, a WBF grantee, took place in Podgorica. The event gathered seventy skilled young participants coming from WB6 with the aim to contribute with innovative solutions that will pave the way to new community development endeavors.

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WB6

WBF grantees - our “stars” during the Info Session Tour

During our WB6 Info Session Tour, WBF invited a grantee from each contracting party to be part of the panel. It was a great opportunity for future applicants to learn firsthand information related to grant experience with WBF. Our grantees delivered interesting messages and encouraged potential applicants with positive feedback on the collaboration with the Fund.

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Tirana

International Visegrad Fund Executive Director visits WBF

On November 28, we had the pleasure to welcome to the WBF Secretariat premises in Tirana Mr. Andor F. David, Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund. IVF is supporting WBF since its establishment and this meeting was another additional opportunity to elaborate new ideas that could extend the collaboration between the two Funds.

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WBF Regional Partnership Platform

If you are facing difficulties finding the suitable Project Partner for Western Balkans Fund Call for Regional Projects, in order to facilitate your needs, Western Balkans Fund comes with WBF Partnership Platform (fb Public Group). Feel free to post and interact with each other!

Please click here:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/WBFPartnershipPlatform/
Western Balkans Fund successfully completed its Info Sessions regarding the Second Call for Regional Project Proposals

Within the framework of its Second Call for Regional Projects, the Western Balkans Fund (WBF) organized Info Sessions in the six Capitals of the region, from/to 8-19 November 2018. Aiming to bring together civil society actors and other non-profit organizations, the WBF Secretariat staff presented the Guidelines of the Call in Tirana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje and Pristina.

Great interest and high positive expectations from the Civil Society Organizations (CSO), universities, schools, associations of arts, culture and sports, local authorities, chambers of commerce and industry, media organizations and also other non-profit stakeholders. More than 500 participants in the sessions were informed in details about the Call, while all their questions were taken down to be provided with answers in Frequently Asked Questions section on WBF website.

This Informative Tour throughout the region, constituted a very useful learning experience and an enriching process for WBF itself, for better exploring the needs and expectations of our stakeholders. Using this opportunity, we would like to thank all the participants for their presence and contribution to the events and especially the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the WB6 for their great support and for sustaining our work during the organization of the Informative Sessions.

Frequently Asked Questions

WBF haven't forgotten about you, and is happy to invite you to find the answers to your questions in the following link: http://westernbalkansfund.org/frequently-asked-questions-faq/
Messages from our beneficiaries during the Info Tour

“What I want to emphasize about WBF is the fact that WBF is not just a donor, as the other donors that we are used to work with. The fact that WBF is founded by the will and support of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of WB6 Contracting Parties, the fact that the executive staff is comprised by high level experts from the WB6 and last but not least, the mission of WBF, which consists in promoting common values and developing regional cooperation between citizens, civil society and institutions of the Western Balkans region by providing a concrete "people-to-people" approach, aiming the integration of the region to the European Union, makes WBF a unique actor in our region.”

Olda Ceta from Social Contract Institute, Tirana

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“We encourage all of you to apply for the support of WBF. The application itself is not too difficult or complicated. What I have to point out is that WBF is one of the rare donors, if not the only one, who is truly a partner to organizations in this process. The team is very open and supportive for any question. We had the honor to have a WBF representative at the festival, and for us is very important donors to see what we do first hand, which is rarely possible…

One of the many highlights of the Dodji na Amfi festival, for example, was the part of the Serbian and Albanian youth artists who jointly performed a song in front of the Nis audience. The standing ovation for the Albanian performers revealed that the culture has no boundaries”

Sonja Totic from KOM018, Belgrade

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“With assistance of WBF, we were able to implement a joint program this year that enables the winners from Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia to present the business pitches to a variety of jury members. In the meantime, they work with mentors to improve their business pitches with the input that they receive from the judges. However, the most valuable of all, are the networking opportunities happening in each pitching…

From these events, we learn how similar we are as societies and mentalities. We face the same difficulties; we all look for new markets far away from the region while the regional collaboration is often neglected.”

Biljana Markovic Stamenova from Macedonia 2025, Skopje

Social Contract Institute is an awarded organization from WBF 1st Call for Regional Project Proposals with the project:” Balkan Girl Power”

Club for Youth Empowerment 018 is an awarded organization from WBF 1st Call for Regional Project Proposals with the project:” Street Art in the Balkans”

Macedonia 2025 is an awarded organization from WBF 1st Call for Regional Project Proposals with the project: “Strengthening cross-border cooperation and relations in the Western Balkans through people-to-people contact of young entrepreneurs”
During the month of November, CID reached out the young girls of “Aleks Buda”, “Asim Vokshi” and “Myslym Keta” high schools in Tirana. In the framework of “The Digital Girls of the Year” project, CID organized a new inspirational session with the guest speaker Ina Hasanaj, who shared all her knowledge acquired from a successful career in the ICT field. During the session, lot of interactive discussions with the students took place. This activity is part of the “digital girls of the year” regional project, funded by Western Balkans Fund.

“Young people of today will have a central role in pursuing the challenges of tomorrow”. On November 5th a successful event was organized by ADP-ZID a WBF grantee in Podgorica. The event gathered seventy skilled young participants coming from WB6 with the aim to contribute with innovative solutions that will pave the way to new community development endeavors. During the event, six diverse teams were established and introduced their innovative ideas to the professional jury and the audience. In the end, three best ideas were awarded, supported also with monetary value, available to start with the implementation.

DOKU.TECH 2018 was more diverse than ever thanks to the partnership with Western Balkans Fund, where over 45 participants coming from Serbia, Macedonia and Albania participated to the annual tech conference.

Watch the video below to find out their first impressions

https://www.facebook.com/dokutech/videos/266658400659142/

After pitching together in Belgrade and Sarajevo, LEADER project winners from Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina pitched their business ideas together for the third time, in front of an international jury at the Final Regional Business Pitching Competition, held on 7th of November in Macedonia.

Through peer education, the participants from Challenge History Summer School 2 gathered in Prizren, were talking not only about new knowledge they acquired during the School, but also challenging their peers to question the narratives they've been taught

Summer School Challenge History 2 is a project financially supported by the Western Balkans Fund, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Bosnien und Herzegowina, Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst, Schweizerische Helsinki-Vereinigung and Swiss Federal departments of civil protection, sport and defense.
On 14th and 15th of November, the Conference "Regional Cooperation to Improve EU Law Teaching in the Western Balkans" was held at the Faculty of Law in Niš. The Conference was organized by the SEELS Network and was attended by scholars from the Law Faculties of Zagreb, Osijek, Skopje, Shtip, Belgrade, Niš, Zenica, Sarajevo and Tirana.

Topic of the third session was the "Harmonization of EU Law teaching in WB: models and mechanisms, role of regional and international cooperation", under which the participants had the opportunity to compare the current models of EU Law teaching and discuss ideas on future harmonization.

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From 28th of November until third of December in Sarajevo was held the 13th edition of Pravo Ljudski Film Festival, a partner organization in WBF grantee DokuFest. Pravo Ljudski Film Festival is an annual creative documentary and experimental film festival that aims to promote human rights through exploring forms, practices and common spaces of cinema and audio-visual arts. Our gratitude to the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the facilitation of the issuance of visas for participants coming from Pristina.

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WBF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

“Youth are one of the most important resources of the region and the ones that will have a central role in shaping the future of the Balkans”. On November 21st, WBF participated at the Regional Forum on Youth Entrepreneurship in Durres, Albania, organized by Beyond Barriers Association and the regional partners of the project WeB4YES. A great opportunity to address constructive messages to the CSO’s and especially the young people of the Western Balkans.

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On 20th and 21st of November, in the framework of WBF Organizational Development, a two-day intensive workshop took place in the premises of WBF Secretariat. The main scope of this workshop stands on “creating the institutional memory” of our organization and for better shaping its actions and structures in the future. Gratitude to the two experts for the great work and devotion and to PeaceNexus for the opportunity provided.
International Visegrad Fund Executive Director, Mr. Andor F. David visit to WBF

On November 28th, we had the pleasure to welcome to the WBF Secretariat premises in Tirana Mr. Andor F. David, Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund.

IVF is supporting WBF since its establishment and this meeting was another additional opportunity to elaborate new ideas that could extend the collaboration between the two Funds.

In the occasion of his visit in Tirana, Mr. David had the opportunity to give an interview for the Albanian Telegraphic Agency. Please refer to the below link:


News related to WBF


http://upbeathub.com/programme/


https://www2.fundsforngos.org/arts-and-culture/western-balkans-fund-wbf-inviting-applicants-for-second-regional-project-proposals/

https://www.mreza-mira.net/vijesti/poziv-na-promociju-western-balkans-fund/


http://youth.rs/archives/12688

https://www.energobserver.com/sr/post/13147


Projections of activities for the upcoming month

- 10-12 December - WBF Strategic Planning Workshop
- 13 December - Deadline for receiving project proposals
- 14-27 - Eligibility Check (from 28th of December starts the project evaluation phase)
- 19-20 December - Western Balkans Fund Council of Senior Officials meeting

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

Happy to have engaged an audience of 10000 visitors in our official webpage during November, reaching a pick of 1000 visitors on November 2!

Follow WBF at social media channels:

- https://www.facebook.com/WesternBalkansFund/
- https://twitter.com/balkans_fund
- https://www.instagram.com/westernbalkansfund/
- https://www.linkedin.com/company/westernbalkansfund/
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLuEaTSASEoaUu4ez5DIvnw

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www.visegradfund.org

For more information related to this Newsletter, please contact us: info@westernbalkansfund.org