Six more projects supported financially by the Western Balkans Fund.

Divided equally between our Contracting Parties, the projects tackle sexual harassment, social inclusion, marginalization, and contribute to best practices exchange and sustainable development through green tourism.

For two days, the representatives of the awarded Civil Society Organisations participated in a workshop and orientation session in Tirana, culminating in the awarding ceremony, attended by many distinguished guests, including Ambassadors of Western Balkans Contracting Parties and V4 countries.
The winners are:

**ApsArt Centre for Theater Research based in Belgrade, with the project “The Hardest Role”**
This project is about actresses and women in the performing arts to present the long-kept truth about the normalization of sexual harassment and abuse in our environment, both in the professional sphere and in the wider public discourse. To combine not only our experiences but also creative potential and specific artistic expressions in an effort to tell this complex and difficult story.

**Association of Youth with disabilities of Montenegro, with the project “Articulate Inclusion”**
The project aims to contribute to the increase of level of participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life of the Western Balkans countries. This aim could be achieved through development of at least one program for artistic development of PWDs and exchange of experience of artists with disabilities and artists without disabilities and by raising awareness of the public on importance of participation of PWDs in the cultural life.

**SpaceSyntaKs, based in Prishtina, with the project “Geotaggers”**
“Geo-Taggers” is a project that organizes its main work around facilitating an annual educational program focusing in the fields of geospatial data. The program will focus on delivering the necessary skill sets and knowledge for the youth of Western Balkan Region that will enable them to follow the newest trends of geospatial data and make use of the relevant technologies.

**Center for Energy, Environment and Resources, based in Sarajevo, “Young Western Balkans Ambassadors of Positive Change”**
This project focus on strengthening the capacity of young people to develop sustainable consumption systems in order to adapt appropriately to climate change. Given that the CPs of the Western Balkans are characterized by intensive linear consumer habits, where resources are enormously depleted, and waste is generated and disposed of in large quantities, it is necessary to implement activities in order to increase the awareness and capacity of youth about changing the habits of traditional consumption and the introduction of innovative ways for sustainable use of resources.

**Paragliding Sky Riders Prilep, “Birds perspective from Balkan Sky”**
The proposed Initiative aims to promote and brand the gliding sport, to enhance interest in this sport, especially among young people and to increase Aero Clubs membership. The project additionally focuses on aero pollution in order to raise public awareness and understanding of this problem that affects Balkan countries terrifically.

**People in Focus Albania, based in Tirana, “WB Summer School – First Edition”**
Contracting Parties have many resources referring to tourism which can lead to bridges of communication and create collaboration fruitful to our countries. Events representing each other identity through tourism will help to understand better ourselves and raise sense of community. Youth will open discussion on the problems, questions and try to find answers on how to make visible all the potential of WB tourism and to find solution to begin advocacy initiative on the future.
Immediately upon launching the 5 CfP, the Western Balkans Fund team embarked on its regional tour of Info Sessions in May, visiting 12 locations, 2 per Contracting Party. From 30 May to 9 June 2022, we visited Belgrade, Skopje, Tirana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Prishtina, Nis, Tetovo, Shkoder, Niksic, Tuzla and Mitrovica. Hundreds of eligible beneficiaries participated in this regional tour. Additionally, for the first time since our establishment, WBF piloted Info Days, in which a selected member of our team travelled to meet with CSOs and stakeholders outside the two selected venues of the Info Session. During the 5 CfP, Info Days were held in Mostar, Banja Luka, Zenica, Kragujevac and Novi Sad. People who couldn’t attend one of the session were invited to benefit from a last, the Mentorship Session provided remotely through Zoom. From 22-23 June 2022, Mentorship Session were conducted in each official language of the region, starting with English and Albanian on 22, and continuing with Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Macedonian on 23. In total, 162 individuals registered and received a tailor-made mentorship session.
The Executive Director, Dr Murra, together with the Finance and Administration Officer of the Western Balkans Fund, Ms Muço, attended in Skopje the EU TACSO organized forum for Western Balkans and Turkey.

During the high level meetings in Skopje, our organisation received full support for our mission and ongoing Call for Proposal, a WBF/EU joint action aiming to strengthen cooperation and reconciliation in the region.

Grateful to our partner, Peace Nexus, for supporting the transformation of WBF into a meaningful regional hub of cooperation and reconciliation. On June 24, representatives of Peace Nexus visited our Secretariat, laying the foundation of an even stronger partnership between us.

WBF is in search for qualified candidates who can support the team with the evaluation process of grant applications received within the framework of the 5th Call for Proposal, under the Joint Action with the European Union.

The External Evaluators are expected to work remotely during the phase when the individual evaluation process takes place, while for the Evaluation Panel s/he shall join the team in the WBF Premises in Tirana, Albania.

The External Evaluator is planned to be engaged for up to 15 working days. Precise timetable of the assignment will be defined after the selection process.

For more details visit WBF webpage.
Doku.Tech is an international annual event, organised by the IPKO Foundation in Prishtina/Pristina. The Western Balkans Fund, as the donor of the GameJam session, attended the 9th edition of Doku.Tech held from 10-12 June. IPKO Foundation, as the lead applicant, is one of the 30 winners of the 4th Call for Proposals, co-funded by the European Union, IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

In the forested plateau of Anamorava/Kosovo Pomoravlje, the town of Viti/Vitina, near Gjilan/Gnjilane in Kosovo*, along with the surrounding areas, is known for its fertile lands. Not by chance, in a radius of fewer than 10 kilometres, you can find the settlement of Llashtica/Vlastica, with stones dating Bronze Era and carved, according to some legends, by the giants. Nearby, in Dardhankodër, literally meaning “The pear uphill”, bronze coins from the time of the Roman Empire have been found. Of Rome is also the Castle of Goven/ Podgrađe. At the same time, the curative Baths of Kllokot/Klokot have been sought-after for their miraculous effects since antiquity.

In her hometown, agriculture remains the main economic activity. In addition to agriculture, the largest employer is a plastic bottle packaging and manufacturing company. Most of the young people who attend university have to move to big cities, such as Gjilan/Gnjilane or Prishtina/Pristina, to have more employment opportunities. Kujtesa, an English language student, makes no exception. Unemployment is a scourge that pushes many young people to leave for better opportunities abroad. An industry larger than the entire GDP of the Western Balkans combined can be a game-changer.

The idea is simple and original. With partners from Albania and North Macedonia, IPKO Foundation invites young people from all over the region to teach them how to develop computer games. With this idea, they applied to receive a grant from the Western Balkans Fund/EU joint action. This proposal was endorsed formally by WBF Secretariat in April 2022.

Thanks also to our support, for three days in a row, young people from the region’s Contracting Parties met in Prishtina/Pristina to learn how to become part of a $ 195 billion industry, several times larger than Hollywood. By comparison, the GDP of all the contracting parties combined is 115 billion USD in 2021 (source World Bank). On the final day, every working group was able to produce a video game.
For one week, children aged 10-14 gathered in Ohrid to participate in the sports camp organised by Ohrid Trcat, grantee of the 4th Call for Proposals.

They learn new skills, play games and train in different sports categories, but they also meet friends of the same age from all over the Western Balkans, learning that while we might speak different languages, we all share the same ambitions, aspirations and values.

We are proud to support Ohrid Trcat in this great project. Western Balkans Fund is here to build new bridges of cooperation and reconciliation all over the Western Balkans.
During our stay in Belgrade, we had a meeting with Mirko Radovanac, of Yugo Cycling Campaign.

With a project contributing to the regional sustainable environment protection and towards the valorisation of shared cultural heritage, Yugo Cycling Campaign submitted one of the 30 awarded partnerships of the 4th Call for Proposals.

Preservation of cultural heritage is one of the key factors for the future growth and development of modern society.

We are very proud of our grantees, ANIP "Veselin Maslasa", ANPO Skopje “Skoplje” and AKUD "Spanac“ Belgrade, that contribute to turn our shared values into a tool of sustainable peace and cooperation. The project will take place in three destinations in WB Contracting Parties. You are all invited to attend.

ANIP "Veselin Maslasa", as the lead applicant, is one of the 30 winners of our 4th Call for Proposals.

Western Balkans Fund is proud to participate in the leading global conference on sustainable urbanization, in Katowice, Poland.

The 11th edition of UN Habitat started with a call to double efforts to tackle the challenges presented to cities by Covid-19, the climate emergency, and conflict.

In this picture, WBF Senior Program Manager Dafina Beqiri addresses the "Regional Perspectives of Urban Talks" panel. WBF is proud to have earned the right to participate in this prestigious forum by supporting many initiatives that make our cities a better place to live.
Youngsters from all over the region are gathered in Mostar to cherish our culture’s diversity and unique customs.

The event is organized by UWC Mostar, grantee of the 4th Call for Proposals.