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SUPPORT TO THE PROMOTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY REGIONAL ACTIONS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS REGION (PHASE III)
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The Grant for Grassroot Initiatives

The Grant for Grassroots Initiatives (GGI) is the renewed and rebranded continuation of the Western Balkans Fund's first seven Annual Calls for Proposals. Building on the Fund's flagship and longest-running grant line, it aims to strengthen regional cooperation while opening more space for new actors to engage in regional projects.

The scheme aims to deliver concrete results across the region, including greater engagement of grassroots and marginalized organisations in regional initiatives, stronger local ownership, and more innovative approaches to cooperation and reconciliation. It also seeks to enhance the participation of youth, women, and minority groups in regional actions aligned with the European Union agenda.

As the first grant opportunity of the year, the GGI has a total financial envelope of EUR 360,000 and will support projects with grants of up to EUR 15,000. The application window is open from 13 March to 20 April 2026.

This scheme is co-funded by the European Union, which has become a crucial partner for the WBF since 2021, implementing together two previous phases of cooperation, with 4 co-funded Call for Proposals and over 100 regional projects of up to 30,000 EUR.

Who can apply?

- To be eligible for the Annual Grant, the lead applicant must:
- Be a legal entity. Individuals and unregistered entities are not eligible.
 - Be established in one of the WBF Contracting Parties.
 - Be non-profit making.
- Eligible applicants may include:
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs/NGOs)
 - Local or regional public entities, or associations of such entities
 - Business associations, including chambers of commerce, tourism associations, agricultural associations, and similar bodies
 - Educational institutions, such as universities, faculties, schools, institutes, libraries, research centres, and academies
 - Media associations and organisations working in journalism and freedom of expression
 - Cultural or sports institutions, including museums, galleries, theatres, libraries, and sports associations

WBF in numbers 2017-2026



ABOUT THE

WESTERN BALKANS FUND

The Western Balkans Fund is a regional organisation, established in 2017 by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the six Contracting Parties of the Western Balkans, with a clear mission: to strengthen regional cooperation, promote mobility and foster people-to-people contacts across the region.

Over the years, the Fund has grown significantly. What began as a single annual grant scheme has evolved into more than six active support schemes in 2026, open to civil society organisations, other eligible entities, fellows, scholars, and individuals. This growth reflects both the increasing demand for regional cooperation and the Fund's determination to respond with diverse and accessible opportunities.

The Grant for Grassroots Initiatives (GGI) is the first grant scheme launched this year. It is co-funded by the European Union through IPA III – the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, under the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the Western Balkans and Türkiye



Grantees of the last 7th Call for Proposals

GGI AT A GLANCE

Objectives of the Call



The overall objective of this Call for Applications is: Enabling young and emerging CSOs and grassroots organizations to participate and contribute to regional cooperation, peacebuilding, good neighborly relations, reconciliation, democratic governance and EU integration.

Intervention Areas



The Fund administers its Grant portfolio to provide financial support to third-party regional projects within three key areas of intervention: **Cultural Cooperation, Education and Scientific Exchange, and Sustainable Development.**

Size of the Grant



80% of the total eligible costs and up to 15,000 EUR for a project!

Duration



The project duration may not be lower than 3 (three) months nor exceed 6 (six) months, including Reporting Period (last 30 days, within the implementation timeframe). Implementation is expected to begin in May 2026

Eligibility



- Legal entity (individuals and/or informal groups are not eligible)
- Registered in one or more of the WBF Contracting Parties
- Non-for-profit organization

Bureaucracy



There is zero bureaucracy to a WBF Application. We require a single document at this stage, a signed statement that the partnership exist. Document, such as proof of liquidity or judicial status will be requested only to the winners.

Partnership



Lead applicant + minimum 2 project partners from different WBF CP's

Number of Applications



Under this Call for Applications, an applicant may submit multiple applications as Lead or Partner, but may receive only one grant as Lead Applicant and one grant as Project Partner (in each case the highest-scoring proposal)

Location



Activities should take place in the Contracting Parties of WBF (WB6). Activities outside of WB6 are not encouraged however in exceptional cases should be properly justified.

How to Apply



Through the Online Grant Management System (OGMS). All applications are proceeded through the system accessible through WBF webpage. For more, scan the QR Code at the bottom of this page

NEED A PARTNER

If you are looking for a partner for your regional project, visit now WBF Partnership Platform on Facebook. 3.500 participants are ready to form a partnership with you



Visit the Guidelines, find a partner or start an application