

WB6 Lab

Call for Applications for Local Structures

Background of the Call

The purpose of this call is to select six Local Structures (one in each Contracting Party of the project - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), to enrol in the project and implement a social entrepreneurship support program at the regional level.

This call for applications for Local Structures is published as part of the project “WB6 Lab”, implemented by RYCO, GROUPE SOS Pulse, SEEYN, the Franco-German Youth Office and Institut Français. The WB6 Lab is a three-year project that started on the 1 October 2019. The general objective of WB6 Lab is to open new spaces of reconciliation for the youth of the Western Balkan, through a regional program to support social entrepreneurship. This will enable young project leaders to develop innovative solutions to tackle the challenges faced by their communities.

The project will enrich the regional ecosystem by supporting six local structures in strengthening their ability to provide support to social entrepreneurs. The six local structures will deliver a support program, composed of an ideation phase and a regional incubation phase and will assist the development of a total of 72 impacting projects.

The support program for social entrepreneurs aims to promote dialogue and cooperation between actors and between territories through the mobility of participants, the organization of regional trainings, exchange workshops and events as well as the creation of a real network around ideation and incubation of the WB6 Lab programme. Social entrepreneurship, and more generally social and economy in the WB6 will create synergy and ultimately participate in the reconciliation of populations.

Objectives of the project

The project aims to contribute to the achievement of the following specific objectives:

1. *Strengthening the capacity of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Western Balkans:*

Result 1 – The capacities of six Local Structures supporting young project leaders are strengthened;

Six Local Structures will operate the program to support social entrepreneurship for young project leaders in the region. One structure will be selected in each of the six Western Balkan Contracting Parties. Each Local Structure will benefit from an organisational diagnostic held by GROUPE SOS Pulse which will lead to a capacity building and the delivery of a tailored methodology for the creation of the WB6 Lab ideation and incubation programs.

Result 2 - Youth aged 18-35 years old of the WB6 develop their socially impactful solutions for the development of their communities;

Six social entrepreneurship projects will be selected by each of the Local Structures, and will attend a four-month ideation phase.

During the ideation phase, the Local Structure will set up a program containing a capacity building event, individual coaching, networking and mentoring opportunities and provide management methodologies to social entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into a sustainable business model based on social business principles.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Result 3 - Social entrepreneurship projects are strengthened through a cross-border incubation program;

At the end of the ideation phase, during a demo day organised by the Local Structures the six project leaders will present their projects to an official jury that will select the two best social projects. The two selected project leaders will then attend a five-day regional BootCamp and a six-month Regional Incubation program.

The Regional BootCamp will gather all the social entrepreneurs of the six Local Structures program in the same city. During the BootCamp, the social entrepreneurs will benefit from an intensive capacity building trainings, to challenge and bring their project to the next step.

The regional incubation phase will end with a regional forum.

The ideation phase and the incubation phase will be implemented twice during the project, in two cycles.

2. Raising awareness of entrepreneurship among people aged 15 and above, and key actors in the social economy and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans.

Result 1 - A regional communication strategy is co-developed by the project consortium;

A common identity brand will be created to communicate at a regional level and several videos will be made to promote the program and its local structures.

Result 2 - Regional cooperation through social entrepreneurship among the WB6 youth is promoted;

The Local Structures will raise awareness of social entrepreneurship concept and impact among the young people (from 15 years old), by animating a three-day design thinking workshops.

Three (3) training sessions (of 3 days) will be organised within the Local Structures. The training will focus on design thinking applied to social entrepreneurship, and will allow young people aged 15 and over to develop their design and thinking skills around social innovation. The objective of these activities is to raise awareness and to encourage the social involvement of young people in the region, who would use these tools to design innovative solutions to the problems faced by their communities.

Result 3 - A positive context is advocated for social entrepreneurship;

Advocacy actions will be implemented in the Western Balkans through a study on social entrepreneurship in the region and the organisation of a regional end-of-project forum to serve as a platform for discussion on social entrepreneurship in the region.

The consortium

This project is co-financed by the AFD – French Development Agency and RYCO. It is designed and is going to be implemented through a partnership among:

- a) [Regional Youth Cooperation Office \(RYCO\)](#) – Intergovernmental organization that stewards and promotes regional, cross-border and intercultural cooperation within and among its six Western Balkan Contracting Parties (present in WB6 region);
- b) [GROUPE SOS Pulse](#) – GROUPE SOS' structure is supporting entrepreneurship and the promotion of social and environmental innovations. Its network of incubators and experts is engaged in France as well as in the world – working alongside entrepreneurs, social & solidarity actors, companies and public and private organisations in the design and development of projects with a social impact.

- c) [South East European Youth Network \(SEEYN\)](#) – SEEYN is a regional formal network of 22 youth organizations from 12 countries working on reconciliation, community development and economic empowerment of youth (present in the SEE region, including all WB6).
- d) [Franco German Youth Office](#) – Organization that supports youth exchange and youth projects between Germany and France in order to strengthen ties between German and French youth and to deepen their understanding about one another as well as with expertise on cooperation with the youth organizations from WB6 region (present in France, Germany and WB6);
- e) [L'Institut Francais](#) – French public institution in charge of international cultural relations. Its action is at the crossroads of the artistic sectors, intellectual exchanges, cultural and social innovation, and linguistic cooperation. It supports, throughout the world, the promotion of the French language, the circulation of works, artists and ideas, and foster a better understanding of cultural issues.

Key dates of the project:

Pre selection		
Selection of local structures	14 January 2020	Launching of the call for application
	23 January 2020 Rescheduled 30 January 2020	Online information session Register here .
	14 February 2020	Deadline for requesting any clarification
	21 February 2020	Deadline for submission of the applications
	16 March 2020	Communication of the selected local structures
Post selection		
Capacity building of local structures	March - April 2020	Analysis of the needs and practices of the structures selected through a five-day organisational diagnostic. Contracting between RYCO and the Local Structures.
	May 2020	Regional event: Delivery of Ideation & Incubation program methodology and training of Program Managers in Bosnia-Herzegovina (5 days).
1st phase	September 2020	Initiation of the Ideation phase.
	January 2021	Regional event: Boot Camp for the launch of the incubation phase of the support program in Montenegro.
	June 2021	Regional event: Closing event for the first cycle of the support program in Serbia.
2 nd phase	September 2021	Initiation of the Ideation phase.
	January 2022	Regional event: Boot Camp for the launch of the incubation phase of the support program in Kosovo*.
	July 2022	Regional event: Closing event of the project in Albania.

Support offered to the selected Local Structures

What we offer:

Capacity building for the Local Structure & ongoing support thought the program:

After the selection of the Local Structure, the GROUPE SOS Pulse will operate a five-day operational diagnostic within the Local Structure, in order to identify the need of the Local Structure in terms of methodologies and tools to support Young Social Entrepreneurs.

This diagnosis will be used to develop the support program content and methodologies that will be implemented during the Ideation and Incubation phase. This support program content and methodologies will be passed onto all the Local Structures during a five-day capacity building training for the Program Managers of the Local Structures.

During the overall project, the Local Structure will have a constant support from the WB6 Lab Project Managers for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the program. The WB6 Lab Project Managers will be the direct interlocutors with the Local Structure Program Manager.

Financial offer allocated to the local structures:

A total amount of 41.050 euros for the two phases of the project will be granted for each Local Structure. It will cover the activities carried out by the Program Manager of the selected Local Structure, as part of the WB6 Lab project:

- **36 400€** are allocated to the recruitment of a Program Manager.
- **4 050€** are allocated to conduct the workshops on design-thinking applied to social entrepreneurship.
- **600€** are allocated to the organization of two demo days to conclude the ideation phases.

The envelope of 41 050€ will strictly be allocated to expenses described above, in this way, no budget set up is required from the applicant in this call for applications.

Events and communication offer, led by the project consortium (RYCO, GROUPE SOS Pulse and SEEYN)

- It includes 5 days of capacity building for the Program Managers in May 2020, two Regional bootcamps in January 2021 and January 2022, and the Regional closing events in June 2021 and July 2022.
- A regional communication channel (Though the Social Networks, website, and press release).
- The Local Structure will be part of the GROUPE SOS Pulse's network and will thus benefit from worldwide network of social entrepreneurship actors.

Grant offer to the Social Entrepreneurs:

Each social entrepreneurship project selected during the Demo Day will benefit from a 2.500 euros mobility grant.

What we expect:

Participation to the Capacity building phase.

The Local Structure will actively participate to the five-day operational diagnostic by welcoming the GROUPE SOS Pulse representative during 5 days and will share detailed information on the organisation, its existing methodologies and its needs to conduct the WB6 Lab Support Program.

Two members of the local structure, including the Program Manager will assist a five-day Regional capacity building event to receive training and contents and implement successfully the WB6 Lab support program.

□ **Conduct of the WB6 Lab Program (two cycles)**

- The selection of the projects: Six early-stage social entrepreneurship project, led by a team of minimum 3 young people, will be selected by the Local Structure, and will attend a 4 months Ideation phase.
- The Ideation phases: During four months, six team projects are supported by the Local Structure and its Program manager, through individual coaching, capacity building trainings, mentoring and networking. The objective is to support them in developing a sustainable and impactful business model aligned with their social mission and develop the soft skills needed for a successful entrepreneur. The Ideation phase ends with a Demo Day, where an official Jury select the two best projects, which will continue the support program through the Incubation phase.
- Incubation phase: During six months, the Program Manager will support the two best projects selected during the Demo Day. This Regional Phase includes the participation to two regional events (5 Days BootCamp and Regional Forum) and the possibility for the Entrepreneurs to access to regional mentoring through the mobility grant. The Program Manager will develop a network of mentors and actors working in similar fields as the Entrepreneurs participating in the Regional Incubation phase, in order to provide them Regional mobility opportunities. The Entrepreneurs that didn't get selected for the Incubation phase will benefit from a local mentoring program.

□ **Implementation of the Design thinking workshops**

With the support of the Project Managers and the methodology provided by GROUPE SOS Pulse and SEEYN, the Program Manager will implement three design thinking workshops of three days per year targeting fifteen people per workshop session. The objective is to raise awareness among the youth on the concept of Social Entrepreneurship.

□ **Participation to the Regional Events**

The Program Manager will support the organisation of the Regional event that will take place in its Contracting Party and will insure the mobility of its Entrepreneurs and himself for Regional events in the other Contracting Parties.

□ **Reporting**

The Program Manager will work in close relationship with the WB6 Lab Team and will send to his WB6 Lab Manager regular information regarding the implementation of the project. He/she will be committed in the administrative, accounting and financial management of the activities described above.

Selection criteria of the local structures

- Be a legal entity established in one of the WB6, a minimum of one year prior to the launch of this Call for Applications;
- Have a sustainable and viable economic model; the candidate should prove its sustainable financial situation.
- Be (or have the will to become) a social entrepreneurship institution (incubator, association house, NGO, etc.);

Please note that due to anti-money-laundering rules, the French Development Agency will be informed of any new partners who will receive funds. The final participation of the Selected Local Structure will depend on AFD validation.

Necessary qualifications and Experience

- Familiarity/experience with/in the youth employment, social entrepreneurship and social economy;
- Demonstrated experience in supporting projects with a positive social and environmental impact through capacity building, mentorship, or funding programs;
- Willingness to promote regional collaboration between the contracting parties of the Western Balkans and in particular among the youth of the region;
- Ability to be a communication platform for the project;
- Ability to communicate in English and work within an international consortium.

Assessment Grid

CRITERIA	POINTS
<p>Compatibility of the organization values and missions with the WB6 Lab project and its consortium The core mission, values and activities of the applicant organisation are aligned with the WB6 Lab project and apply to the thematic of the youth, regional mobility or social entrepreneurship.</p>	25
<p>Applicant organisation's experience in regional mobility, youth empowerment or social entrepreneurship. The applicant organisation has successfully worked on project(s) related to the WB6 Lab thematic areas.</p>	25
<p>Sustainability and management of the organisation. The organisation is embedded in its ecosystem and supported by different technical and financial partners. The team managing the organisation is complementary and has competences related to the project. The organisation has a proven background of successful projects and ongoing activities. The Organisation has a sustainable financial situation.</p>	25
<p>Key assets and needs of the organisation in order to monitor successfully the WB6 Lab Project. The Applicant organisation has clearly identified its key assets and its needs in order to make the WB6 Lab Support project successful. The Applicant organisation has an interest in following an internal capacity building training to strengthen its capacities to support social entrepreneurs.</p>	25
TOTAL	100

Application process

Questions may be sent ONLY via e-mail, not later than 7 days before the deadline for the submission of applications, to the following e-mail address: adrien.delaby@groupe-sos.org

All candidates should submit their applications by email to: adrien.delaby@groupe-sos.org not later than **21 February 2020 by 23:59, CET time**. Please precise in the title of your email: CONTRACTING PARTY - YOUR NAME - Application WB6 LAB Project.

Interested and qualified candidates need to enclose the following documents to the application:

- Application Form
- The supporting documents detailed in Annex 1

Only full applications that include all the documents will be taken into consideration.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified no later than 28 February 2020.