

REGIONAL INCUBATOR FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS - RISE

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs (RISE)** is a multi-stakeholder initiative designed to promote reconciliation and youth engagement in the Western Balkans through social entrepreneurship. The project is implemented by RYCO and its partners and is funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Commission (EC), and RYCO, with additional fundraising efforts ongoing.

OBJECTIVES

RISE aims to open new spaces for reconciliation by *empowering youth in social entrepreneurship*. The project is structured around three key objectives:

- Strengthening the social entrepreneurship ecosystem by supporting local incubators and project leaders.
- Improving youth access to social entrepreneurship across the Western Balkans.
- Raising awareness about social entrepreneurship among youth (15+) and key stakeholders in the social economy.

By fostering social entrepreneurship, RISE equips young people with the tools to develop solutions with high social and environmental impact, while reinforcing regional cooperation and peacebuilding.

TARGET GROUP

RISE is dedicated to fostering social entrepreneurship and strengthening the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem through targeted support initiatives. It introduces *834 young individuals* to social entrepreneurship, equipping them with essential knowledge and skills. Additionally, *324 young entrepreneurs* receive training and support to develop and refine their business ideas, while *54 young entrepreneurs* in the Region are supported with grants and are coached to successfully establish their own social enterprises.

6

LOCAL
INCUBATORS

834

YOUNG
INDIVIDUALS

378

YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS

184

KEY ECOSYSTEM
ACTORS

+30.000

INDIVIDUALS
REACHED

Beyond direct support for entrepreneurs, RISE empowers six local support structures, known as RISE incubators, helping them gain greater recognition within the regional entrepreneurship ecosystem. Furthermore, it engages **184 key ecosystem actors**, including CSOs, economic stakeholders, and policymakers, to create a more collaborative and supportive environment. Through its communication and awareness-raising efforts, RISE aims to reach over **30,000 individuals** by 2025, ensuring a lasting impact on the entrepreneurial landscape.

IMPLEMENTATION

RISE is implemented across the Western Balkans 6 (WB6): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The project is led by PULSE SOS Groupe, in partnership with RYCO, SEEYN, the Franco-German Youth Office, and six local incubators (ARNO, Balkan Green Foundation, Nesto Vise, Smart Kolektiv, IEC Tehnopolis, and Yunus Social Business Balkans).

BUDGET AND DURATION

The project, spanning from October 2022 to October 2025, operates with a total budget of **€1,363,994**, ensuring comprehensive financial support for its successful implementation.

The funding is sourced from multiple contributors, with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) providing **€600,000**, the European Commission contributing €400,000, and the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) allocating **€257,000**. This diversified financial backing underscores the collaborative commitment of key stakeholders to achieving the project's objectives within the designated timeframe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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**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.*

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