



## VISEGRAD+ WESTERN BALKANS

The four countries forming the Visegrad Group (V4) have been demonstrating a long-standing commitment to the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, supporting cooperation, stability, development and the European perspective of the region. Drawing on their own experience, the V4 countries emphasize the benefits and significance of regional cooperation.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## Sharing the Experiences of Visegrad Cooperation

The International Visegrad Fund has been supporting projects that facilitate transfer of know-how between non-governmental and civil society organizations in the Visegrad Group and the Western Balkans since 2008. In the same year, the fund started to offer scholarships to Western Balkan students to study at V4 higher education institutions.

In 2014 the fund launched the Civil Servants Mobility Program (CSMP), supporting study visits of civil servants from Western Balkan countries to V4 countries, focused on implementing sectoral reforms and harmonization of the national legislation with EU legislation.

Through grants (Visegrad+ Grants), mobility programs (scholarships) or assistance to the Western Balkans Fund of a total worth exceeding €3 million, the fund aims to contribute to the democratization and transformation processes in the region, as well as to the development of regional cooperation, good neighborly relations and the region's European perspective.



Andor F. Dávid  
Executive Director

*"Reflecting the joint commitment of V4 countries in the European integration of the Western Balkans, we at the fund have always recognized the importance of facilitating people-to-people contacts between the V4 region and the Western Balkans. Developing of civil society and individual mobility between our regions will continue to be our focus. To this end, we have also supported the establishment of the Western Balkans Fund, a partner donor organization created following the model of the International Visegrad Fund."*

SHARE KNOWLEDGE, ENHANCE INNOVATION,  
ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

## INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS EXAMPLES



### Mountain Rescue Services for Valbona National Park

This project initiated establishment of the first Albanian mountain rescue service in Valbona National Park. Project was based on sharing experiences and knowledge between V4 mountain rescuers and their Albanian counterparts. The final outcome of this cooperation is a guideline that serves as a roadmap for creating a professional mountain service in Valbona.



### Developing animation culture between the Western Balkans and V4

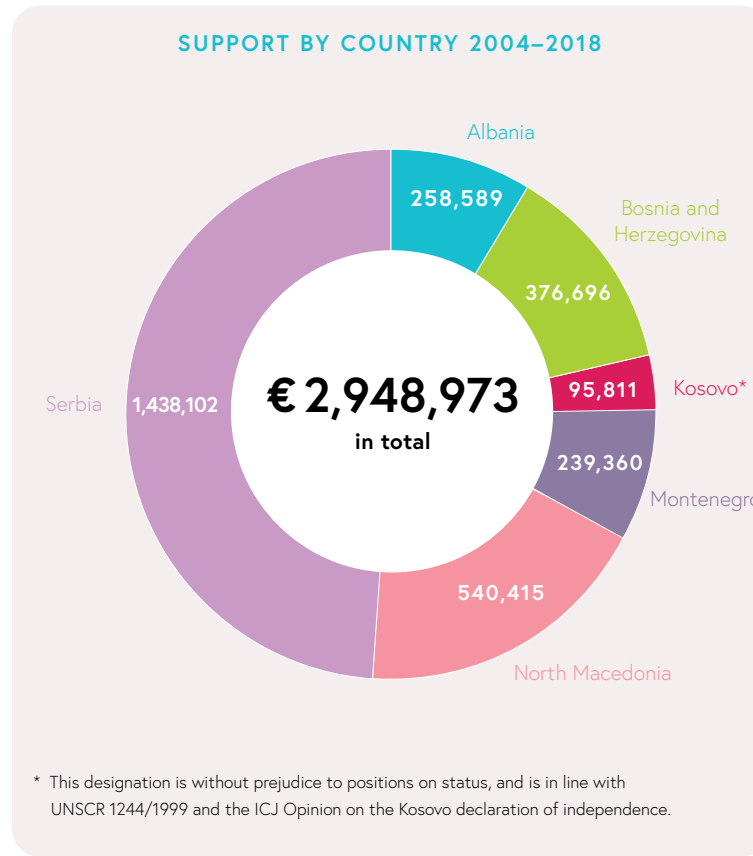
This project aims to develop animation culture and was launched by the Anibar Foundation from Kosovo\*. Through screenings animations from the Western Balkans in V4 countries, the organizers' goal is to present young animators from WB countries and support direct links between the countries' filmmaking students and cultural institutions through a festival platform.



### Western Balkans Fund

Western Balkans Fund is an international organization for the 6 Western Balkan countries modeled on the International Visegrad Fund that awards grants for the projects which contribute to cross-border cooperation and to strengthening of cohesion in the region.

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## Visegrad+ Grants and Visegrad Scholarships

Visegrad Grants+ support projects in seven focus areas: culture and common identity, education and capacity building, innovation and entrepreneurship, democratic values and the media, public policy and institutional partnership, regional development, environment and tourism, social development.

The Visegrad Scholarship Program supports scholars and individual researchers at bachelors, masters and post-masters (doctoral, postdoc) levels in all academic disciplines for periods of up to four semesters at more than 190 higher education institutions across Central and Eastern Europe. Citizens of the Western Balkans are eligible to apply for support at any accredited public or private higher education institutions in the V4 region.

HOW IT WORKS

#### Your idea

Come up with a project idea and find partners from at least 3 Visegrad countries.

#### Online application

Create an account on My Visegrad, and submit your application online.

#### Deadlines

Apply by 11:59:59 CET (noon) on February 1, June 1, October 1.



/visegradfund

More information on how to apply [www.visegradfund.org/apply/grants/visegrad-plus-grants/](http://www.visegradfund.org/apply/grants/visegrad-plus-grants/)