

# »» Increasing employability as SME booster

16th Meeting of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)  
Steering Committee, 14 – 15 June 2017, Stockholm

Thematic discussion: innovative SMEs, youth employment and  
women in business

Markus Aschendorf

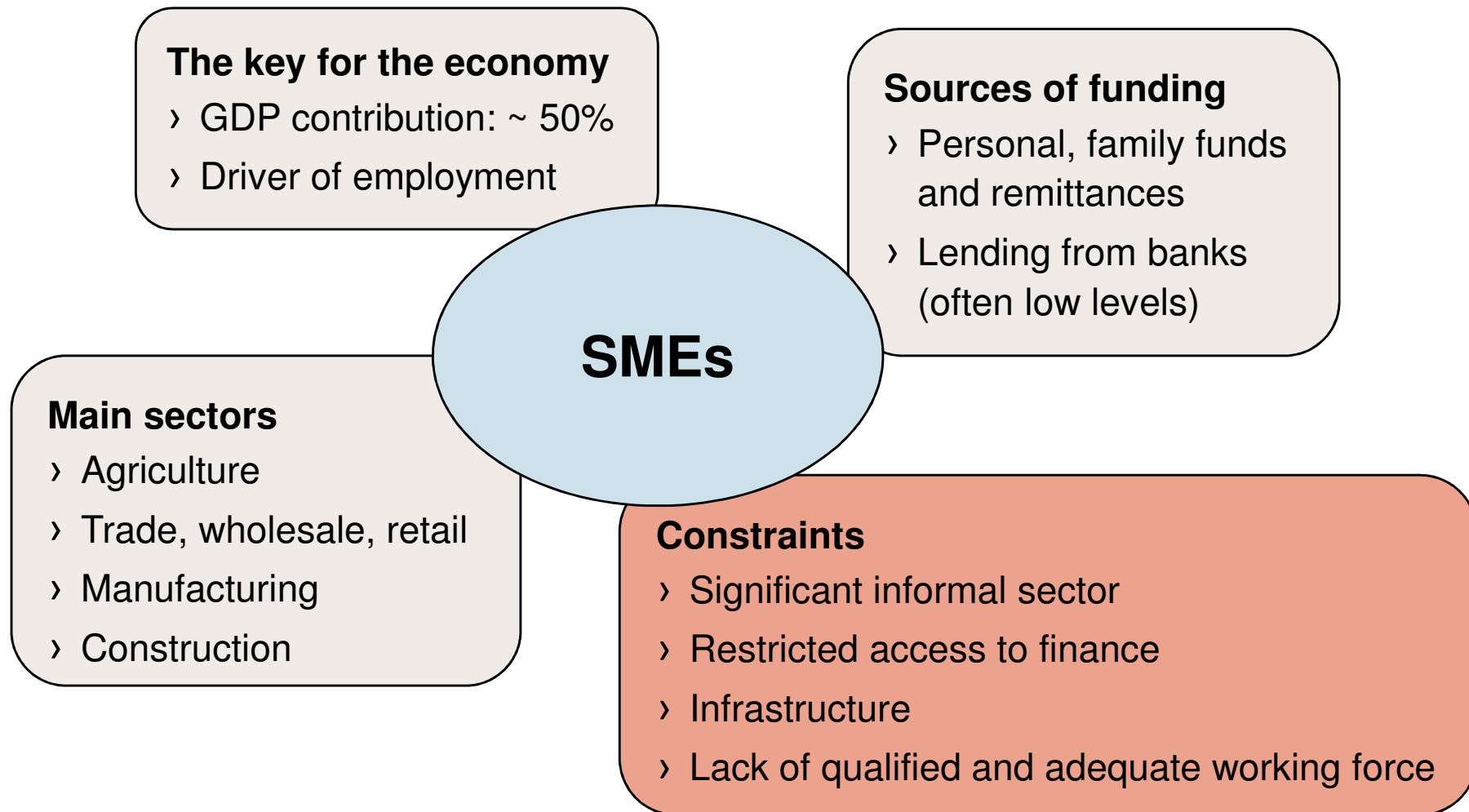
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## »» Content

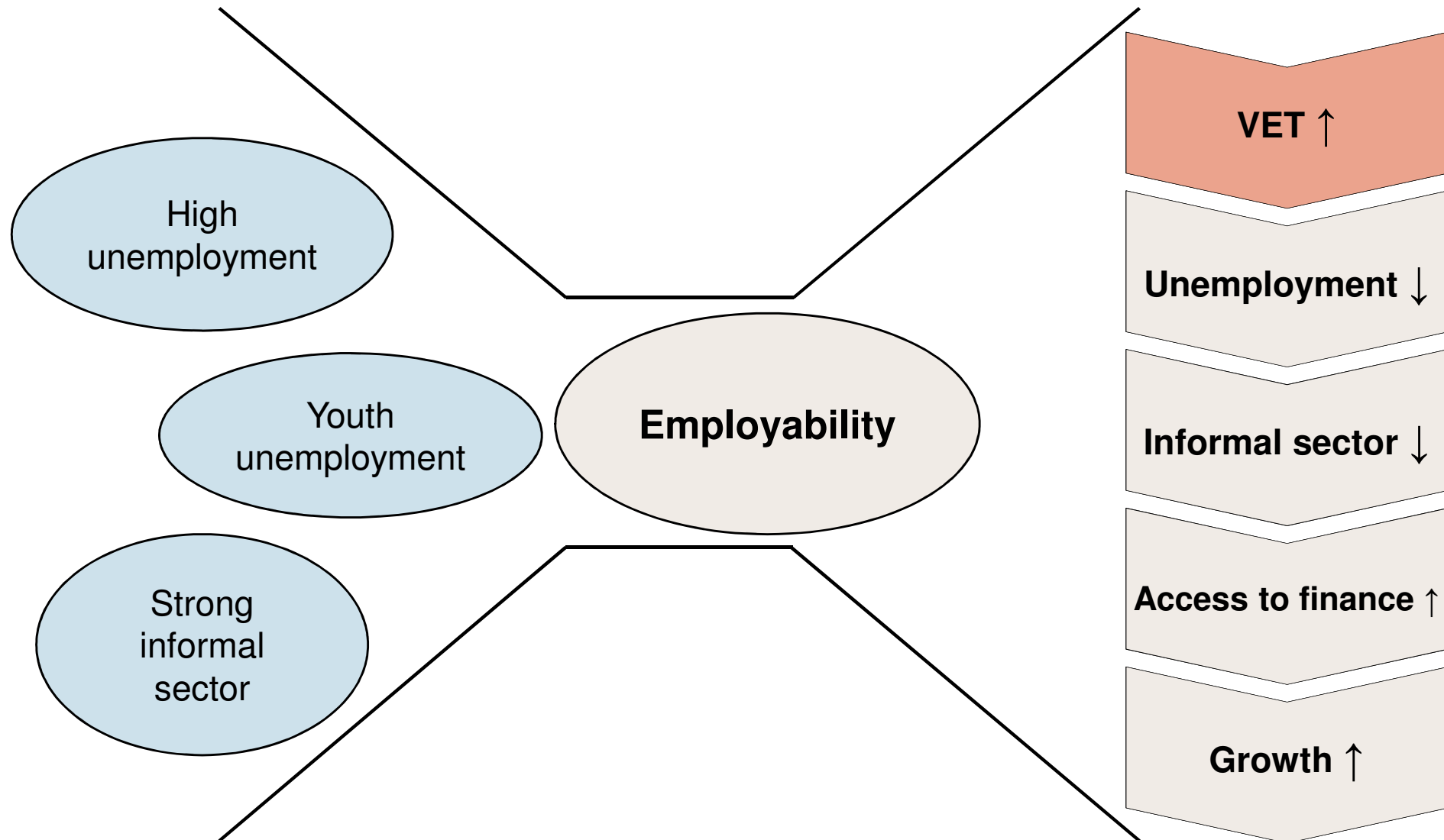
- 1 Snapshot Western Balkans: The SME sector
- 2 Unemployment in the Western Balkans
- 3 Employability as SME booster
- 4 How can KfW support the increase of employability?

## »» Snapshot Western Balkans: The SME sector

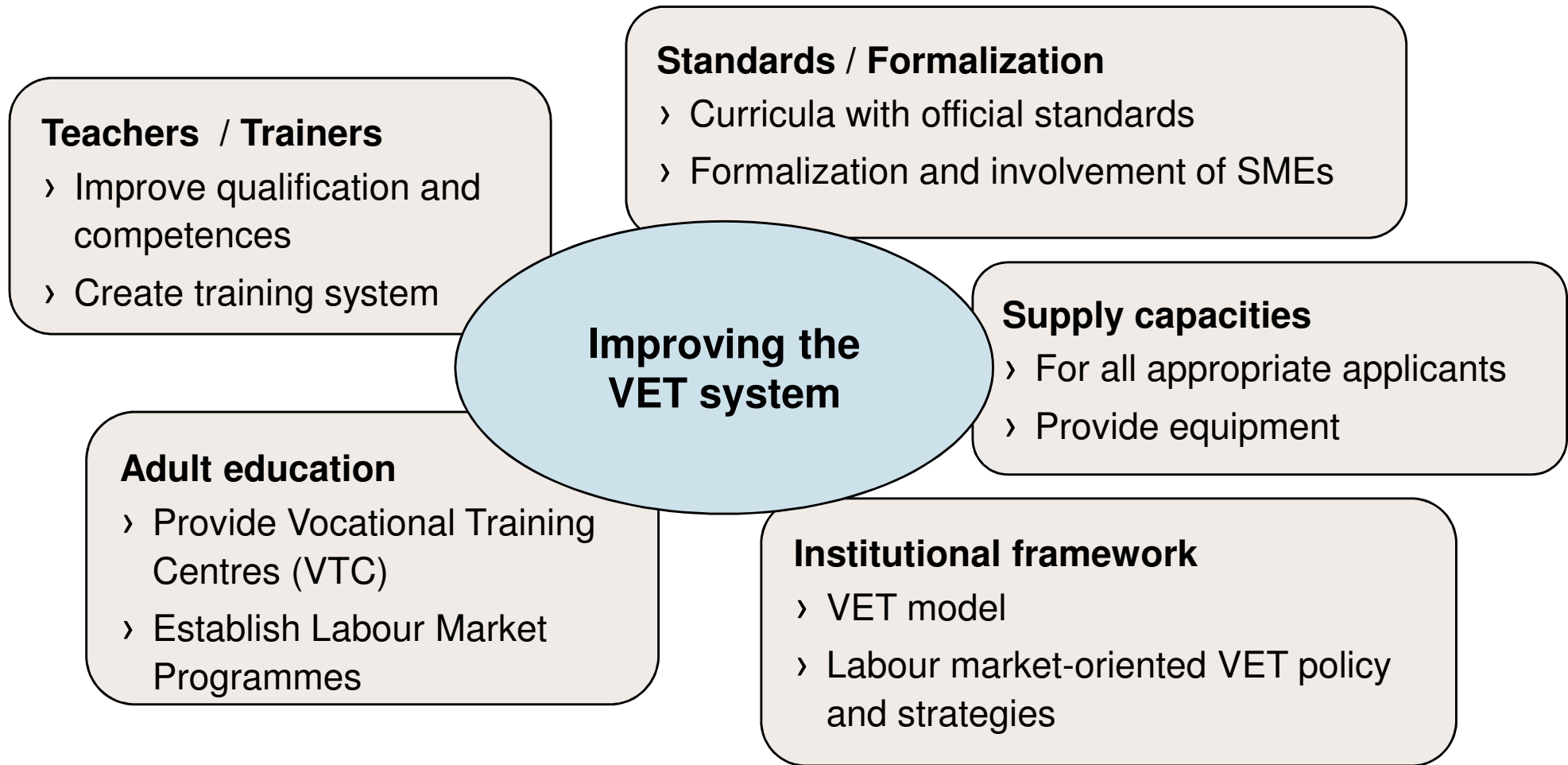


# »» Unemployment in the Western Balkans

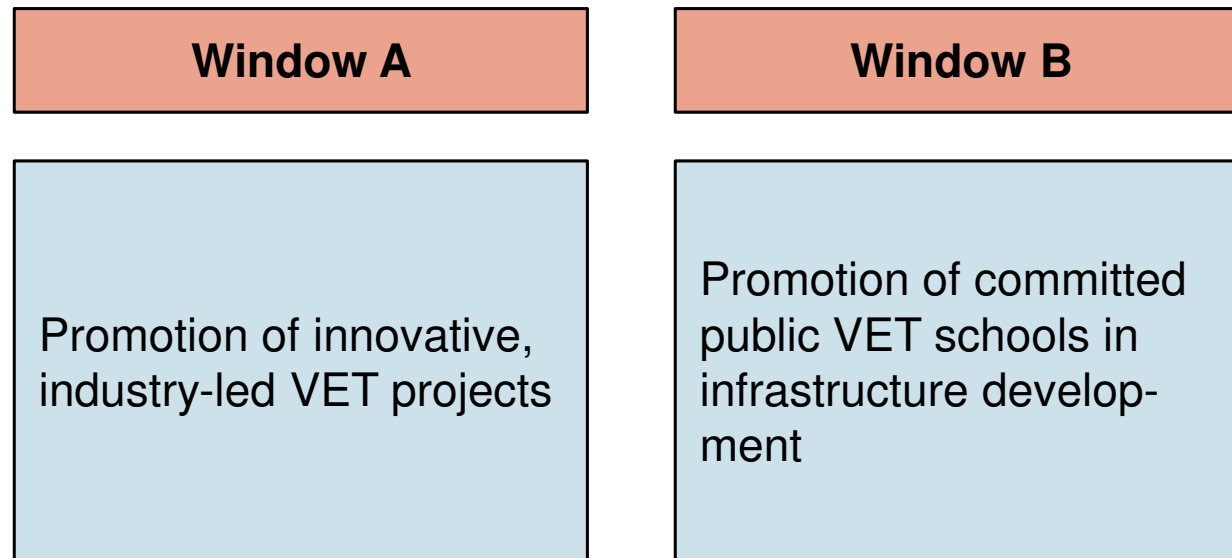
- current situation, bottleneck and future scenario



## »» How can employability be built up and maintained?

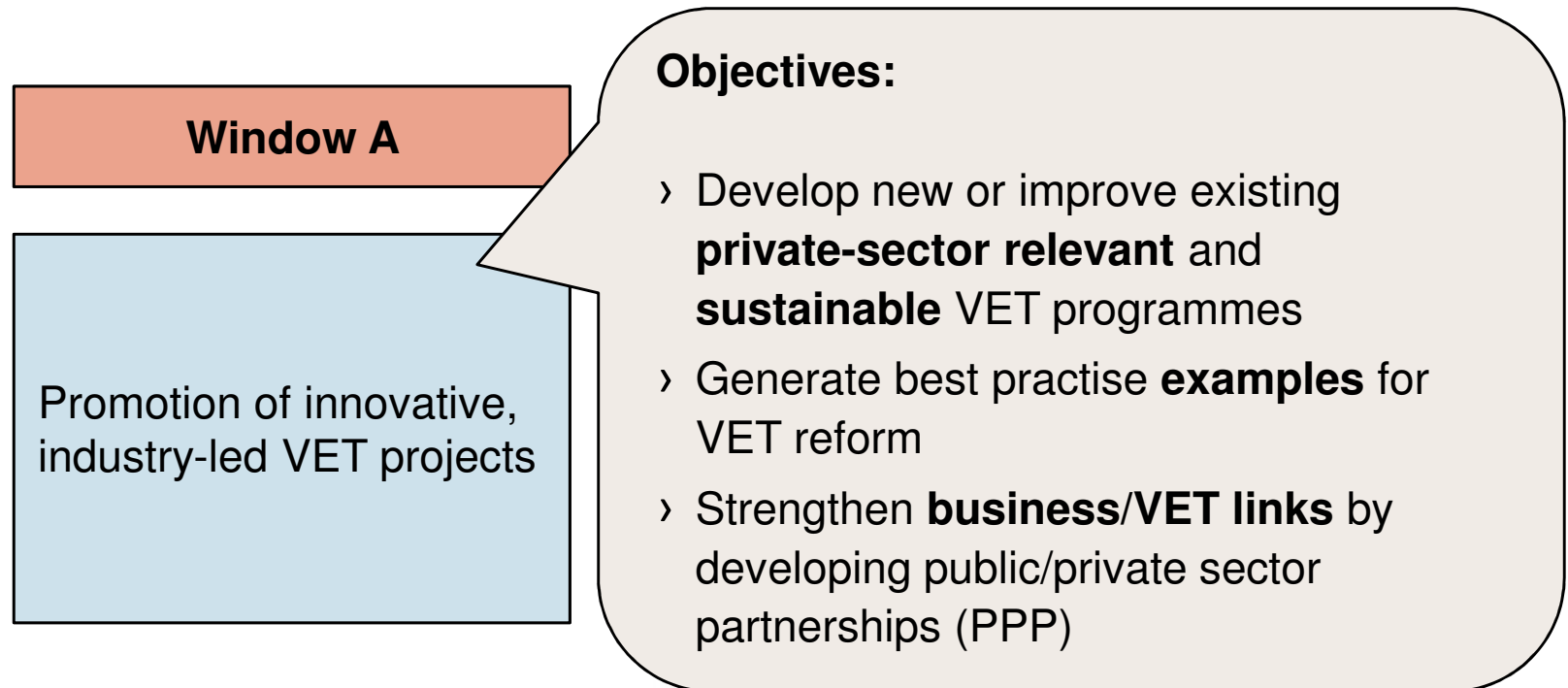


## »» Fostering Education, Training and Employment - via a Challenge Fund in the VET sector



## »» Challenge Fund in the VET sector

- Grant scheme objectives (Window A)



## »» Challenge Fund in the VET sector

- Opportunities / benefits for businesses (Window A)

Window A

Promotion of innovative,  
industry-led VET projects

### Benefits:

- › Brings **businesses and VET providers together** for collaboration
- › **Brings VET closer towards needs of workforce development** by bridging gaps between VET provision and business needs
- › **Update and improvement of practical training** in line with modern company facilities and equipment
- › **Enlargement of opportunities** by modular VET approach to enhance mobility / employability of qualified workers



## »» Challenge Fund in the VET sector

- Objective and conditions (Window B)

### Objective:

Enhancement of **performance capacity** of VET schools and promotion of **cooperation** of VET schools with private business

### Conditions:

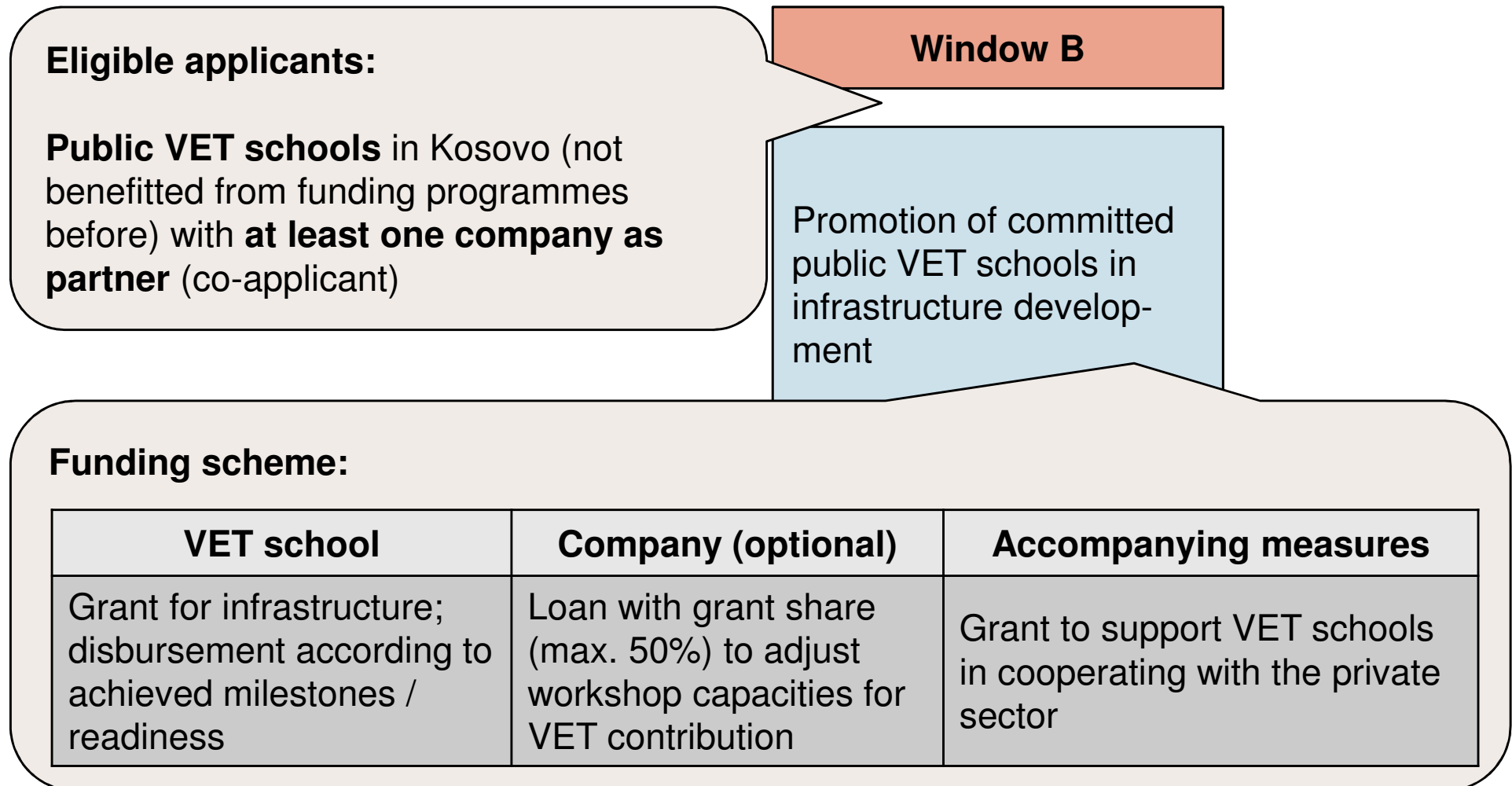
- › Applicants can give evidence of a **sound management performance** (criteria to be defined)
- › Concept is based on **cooperation with the private sector** in VET provision
- › **Sector focus** to be considered
- › **Inclusion** and **gender** to be considered

### Window B

Promotion of committed public VET schools in infrastructure development

## »» Challenge Fund in the VET sector

- Eligible applicants and funding scheme (Window B)



# »» Challenge Fund in the VET sector

## - Accompanying measures

### Preparation

- › Fund launching and **awareness raising**
- › **Information** and **clarifications** on funding guidelines, proposal development, standards and procedures
- › Information **handouts, presentations**; online and during open events
- › **Helpdesk support** with publicly shared file of Q&A relating to the challenge fund specific issues
- › Provision of a simple **match-making platform** for national and international parties to facilitate the setup of consortia

### Implementation

#### Support to grantees:

- › **Introductory** and **follow up** project implementation, procurement and reporting training
- › **Provision of support** in project implementation, monitoring, procurement, good practices development (help desk)

#### Support to challenge fund management:

- › **Compliance** with KfW fund management standards
- › **Monitoring** and **information system**
- › Technical and financial **reporting**
- › **Evaluation** and deduction of good practices

# Thank you!

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The logo for KfW, consisting of the letters 'KFW' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.