

Info Day for Student Joint Research Grants

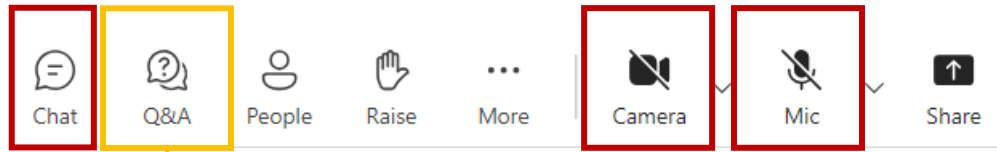
23.01.2025

Agenda

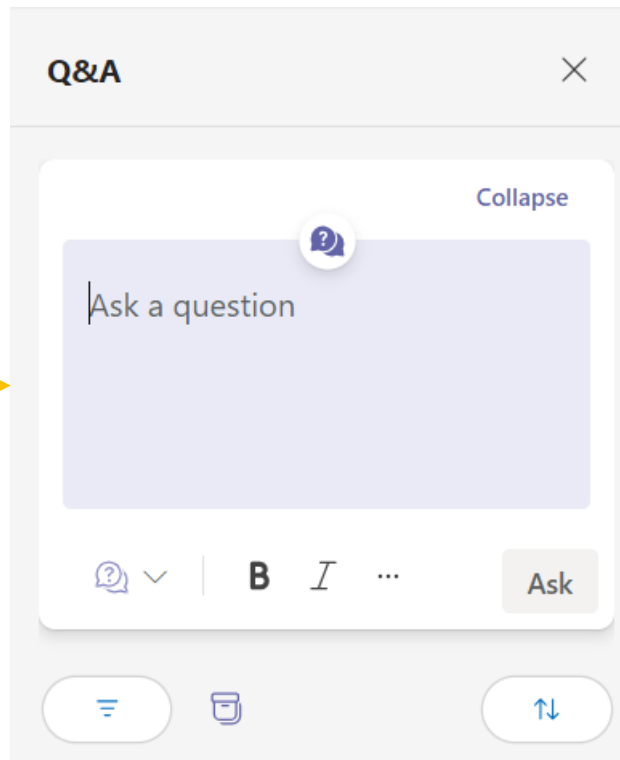
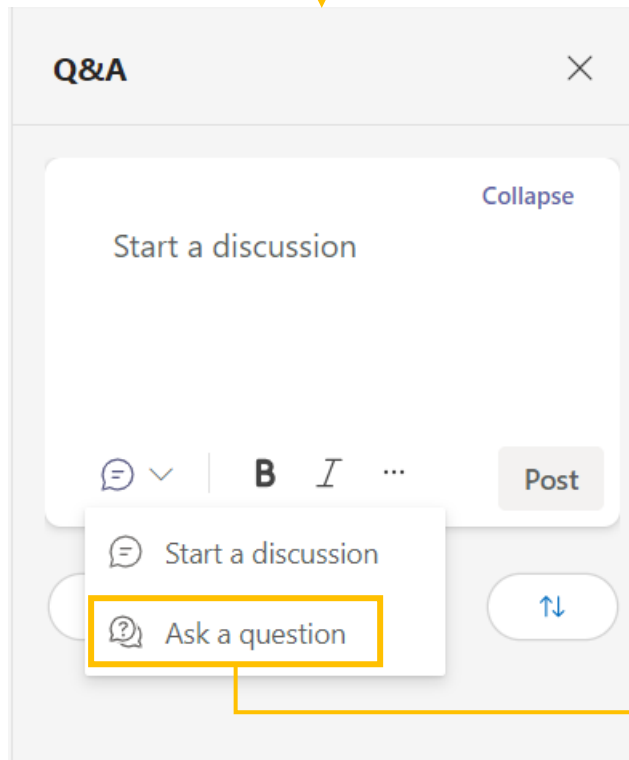
- **Opening speech from the Team Leader of the LFMWB Programme – Cvetan Nikolovski**
- **Student Joint Research Grants Presentation – Marija Sterjovska**
- **Questions and Answers Session**
- **Moderator: Jasminka Pashaliska Andonovska**



Webinar Guidelines and Technical Details



Participants are unable to turn on their cameras or microphones during the webinar.



Please use the Q&A feature for any questions or comments, as the chat is disabled.

Info Day for Student Joint Research Grants within the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans Programme

Marija Sterjovska, Project Officer

23.01.2025



Scope of the LFMWB Programme

Western Balkans is one of the most affected regions in Europe by landscape fires.



Landscape Fires in the Western Balkans

Total burnt area in WB (2014-2024)



Source: EFFIS



Landscape Fire Management is an overarching term for fires burning in natural and cultural landscapes and affecting urban-industrial landscapes (especially the peri-urban and rural residential areas).

More prevention than suppression!

Total burnt area in WB (2014-2024): **1.198.651 ha**

Overall goal of the LFMWB Programme

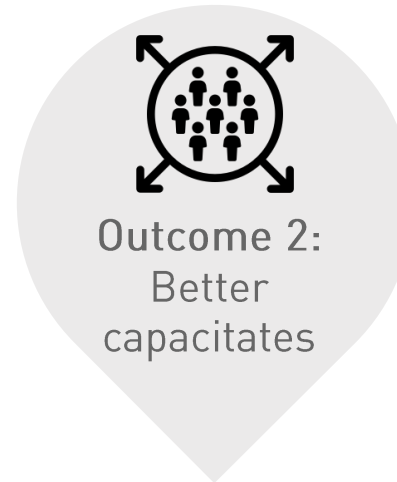


Increased resilience of Western Balkan forests and landscapes against fires to benefit the people who depend on these landscapes for their livelihoods and socioeconomic development.



Established a long-lasting LFM regional network

Phase I: 2022-2026



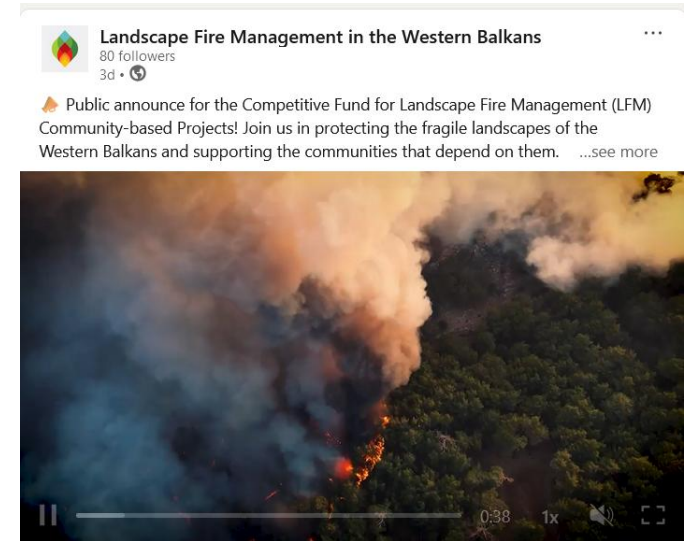
Strengthened capacities on the LFM approach

Duration: 5+4 years

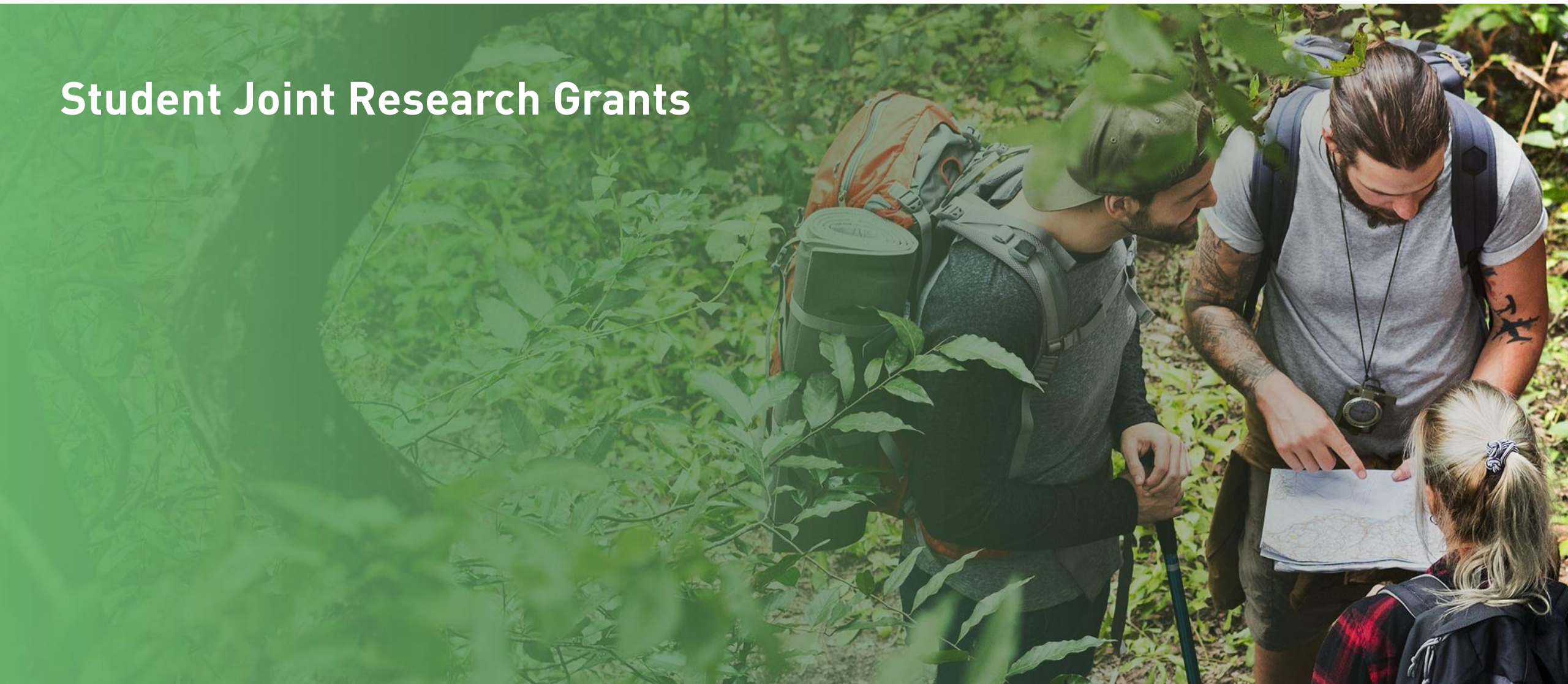


Revised LFM policies and strategies

LFMWB current activities



Student Joint Research Grants





Support for Academic Research:

- NCP funded 25 Bachelor and Master theses.
- Focus on integrated forest management and biodiversity conservation.

Impact on Students:

- Broadened academic and professional horizons.
- Enabled international collaboration and exchange.

Wider Environmental Contribution:

- Students actively engaged in environmental conservation efforts.
- The findings of the students engaged in research on forest fires played a crucial role in shaping the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans Programme.

Collaboration between Students from Western Balkan Countries and Switzerland



The SJRG initiative supports bachelor or master students.

The collaborating students need to be enrolled in faculties from:

- Two different Western Balkan countries, or
- A student from a Western Balkan country and a student from Switzerland.

The Swiss students need to jointly collaborate with a student from the Western Balkans.

Western Balkans



The joint student research should be conducted in the Western Balkans region, which includes:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo*
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia and
- Serbia.

The research site should be within the Western Balkans to address region-specific challenges in landscape fire management.

Both students need to conduct the research in the same location in the Western Balkans.

Eligibility Criteria



- The students' field of study: LFM, environmental science, forestry, agriculture, climate studies, social sciences, or a related discipline.
- The students may be enrolled either **full-time** or **part-time**.
- The students may **not** be on **Leave of Absence** while using grant funding.
- Students need to demonstrate proficiency in English, as it will be the working language for collaboration and reporting.

Eligibility Criteria



- The joint research needs to be **guided by qualified mentors** from both academic institutions.
- Each student needs at least one mentor from their university of enrolment.
- One mentor can guide multiple students.
- Mentors should be available for consultation, training, and advice throughout the research.
- The local mentor should support both collaborating students.

Eligibility Criteria



- The collaborating students can follow the same or similar methodology for data collection.
- The collaborating students must have distinct thesis titles, allowing them to use the same research data while analyzing different aspects of the topic.
- The supported students must submit their theses to REA no later than 31 July 2026.
- The thesis needs to be submitted to REA in English (translated if necessary) and/or the local language.

**The number of applications for bachelor thesis or master thesis is not limited per faculty.*

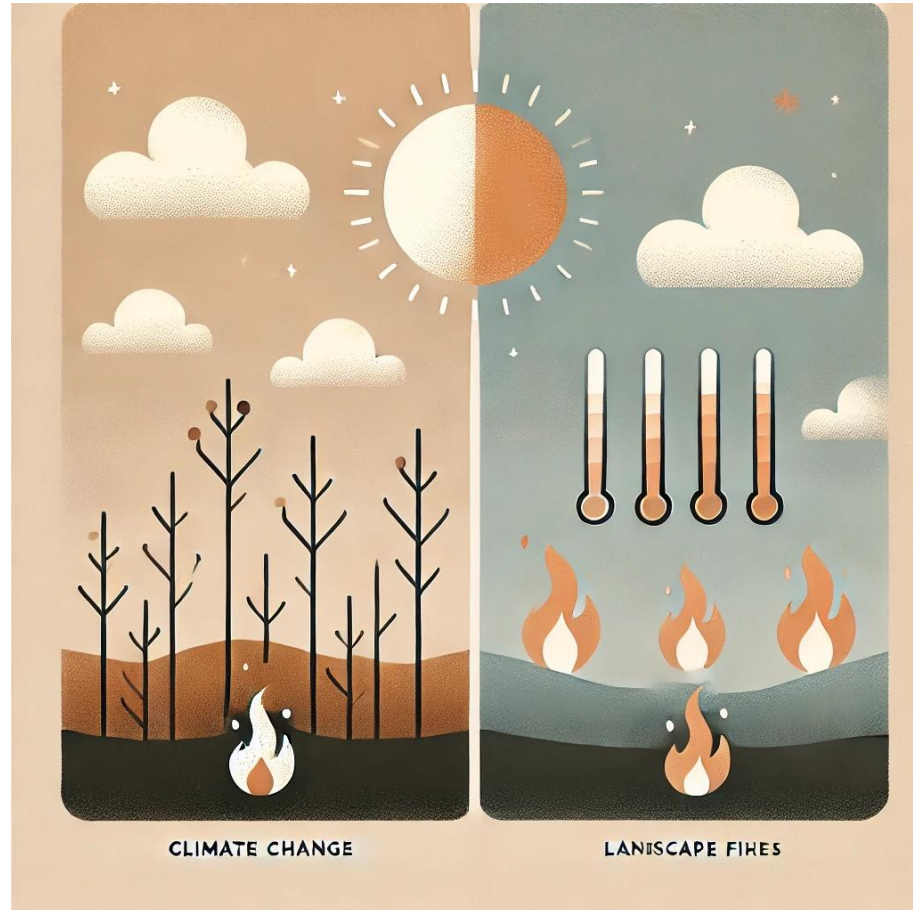
Priority areas of the call



Priority Area 1: Context-Specific Solutions for Advancing LFM in the Western Balkans

- Emerging Technologies in LFM.
- Effectiveness of Prevention Practices.
- Cross-Regional Technology Transfer.

Priority Area 2: Relation between Climate Change and Landscape Fires



- Link between climate change and fires.
- Vulnerability of habitats to fires due to climate change.
- Impact of climate change on fire seasons.
- Resilience of native species to fires in a changing climate.
- Mitigation of carbon emissions.
- Adaptive silviculture for climate change and fire resilience.
- Vulnerability of rural women to climate change and landscape fires.

Priority Area 3: Prevention, Preparedness, and Postfire Management



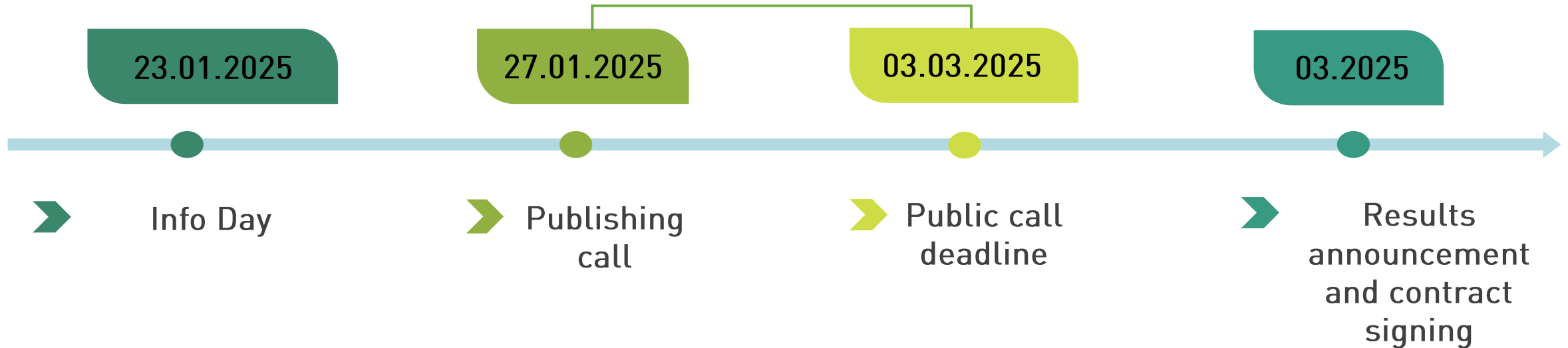
- Community-based fire prevention.
- Fuel management techniques.
- Post-fire management.
- Fire-sensitive land use planning.
- Impact of silvicultural management on fire resilience.
- Controlled grazing for fuel reduction.
- Agricultural practices and agroforestry concerning LFM.
- Improving waste management to mitigate fire risks.

Priority Area 4: Bridging the Gap between LFM Practices and Policies in the Western



- Policy and regulatory framework analysis.
- Governance models for effective decision-making and coordination in fire management
- Integration of scientific research related to LFM in the policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Cross-border cooperation for LFM policies in the Western Balkans.

Application process



Both students are required to provide the following documents:

- Confirmation of Enrollment at their respective faculties (in English or translated to English).
- Confirmation of student collaboration (signed by both students and the mentors from the respective faculties) (in English). – **Template will be provided.**
- A Thesis Concept and Methodology (outlining the research objectives and approach) (for each student separately) (in English). – **Template will be provided.**

The host student should apply for both collaborating students via email to the following address: info@lfmwb.net


Guidelines and templates

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

LANDSCAPE FIRE
MANAGEMENT
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

MAPMAXEM
PHARMAEM

Guidelines for Student Joint Research Grants within the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans Programme



January 2025

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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Letter for Collaboration between/among Applicants in the Frame of the Student Joint Research Grants Initiative

This letter needs to be signed by the collaborating students and the mentors from the respective faculties.

Date:

Name of the call: Student Joint Research Grants within the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) Programme

We, the undersigned students and representatives of (Name of both Faculties/Universities), hereby confirm our commitment to collaborate under the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) Student Joint Research Grants.

Students Information:

Student: <input type="text"/> [Full Name] Faculty/University: <input type="text"/> Field of Study: <input type="text"/> [Major] Email: <input type="text"/>	Student: <input type="text"/> [Full Name] Faculty/University: <input type="text"/> Field of Study: <input type="text"/> [Major] Email: <input type="text"/>
Signature: _____	Signature: _____

Both students agree to actively contribute to the research project and adhere to the guidelines of the LFMWB Programme. This collaboration is supported by the respective faculties.

Faculty Confirmation:

Faculty Representative – Mentor: <input type="text"/> [Full Name] Position: <input type="text"/> [Title] Faculty/University: <input type="text"/>	Faculty Representative - Mentor: <input type="text"/> [Full Name] Position: <input type="text"/> [Title] Faculty/University: <input type="text"/>
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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Thesis Concept and Methodology for the LFMWB Student Joint Research Grant Application

Date:

Name of the call: Student Joint Research Grants within the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) Programme.

Faculty/University: <input type="text"/>	
Country: <input type="text"/>	
Student: <input type="text"/> [Full Name]	Mentor: <input type="text"/> [Full Name]
Field of Study: <input type="text"/> [Major]	Position: <input type="text"/> [Title]
Email: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>

Thesis Title:

Research location: (Research scope and country in the Western Balkans)

1. Introduction
Provide a brief overview of the research topic, its significance, and the context in which the research is being conducted. Specify the impact on the priority area of the call or the LFMWB overall.

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Research Objectives
Clearly outline the main objectives of the research. Specify what the research aims to achieve and the questions it seeks to answer.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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Thesis Concept and Methodology

Date:

Name of the call: Student Joint Research Grants within the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) Programme.

Faculty/University: <input type="text"/>	
Country: <input type="text"/>	
Student: <input type="text"/> [Full Name]	Mentor: <input type="text"/> [Full Name]
Field of Study: <input type="text"/> [Major]	Position: <input type="text"/> (Title)
Email: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>

Thesis Title:

Research location: (Research scope and country in the Western Balkans)

1. Introduction

Provide a brief overview of the research topic, its significance, and the context in which the research is being conducted. Specify the impact on the priority area of the call or the LFMWB overall.

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Research Objectives

Clearly outline the main objectives of the research. Specify what the research aims to achieve and the questions it seeks to answer.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Methodology

Describe the research methods and approaches that will be employed to achieve the objectives. Include details on data collection, analysis techniques, and tools or technologies that will be used.

Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Timeline

Provide a timeline for the research activities and deadlines.

Click or tap here to enter text.

5. References (optional)

Include any references cited in the proposal.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Max. 5 pages



Bachelor Thesis: Each selected bachelor student will receive grants of up to 2,500 CHF

Master Thesis: Each selected master student will receive grants of up to 3,500 CHF

Initial Payment
40%

- of the total grant will be disbursed at the start of the research project to cover initial expenses.

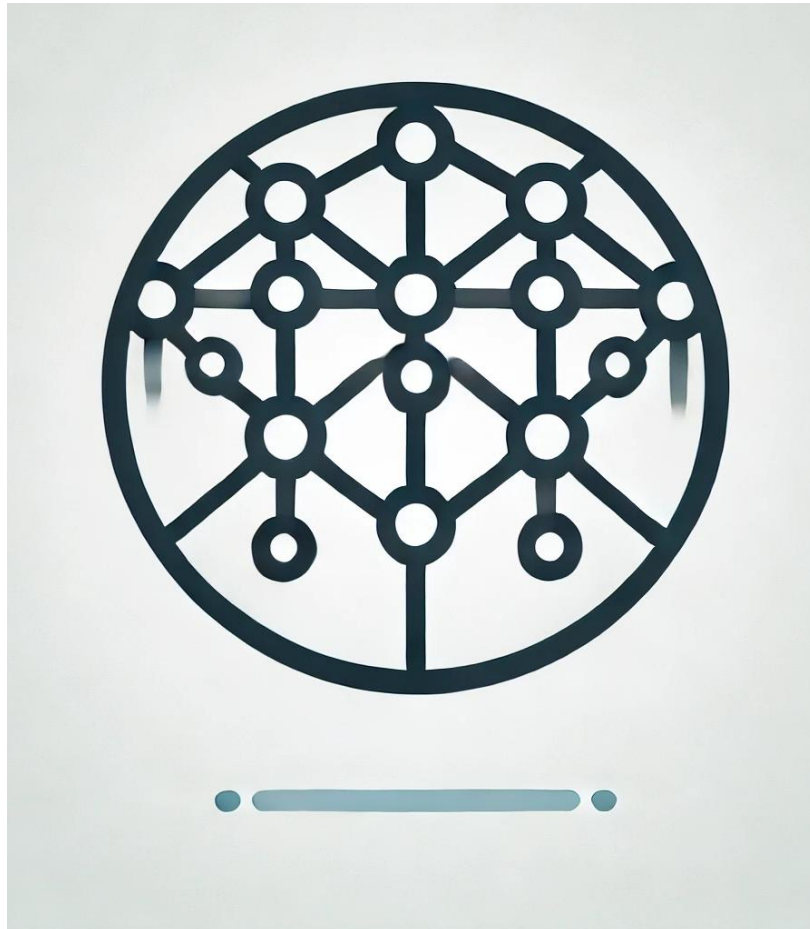
Intermediate Payment
40%

- of the total grant will be disbursed halfway through the research project upon **submission of a progress report and approval by the REA.**

Final Payment
20%

- of the total grant will be disbursed upon completion and **submission of the final bachelor/master thesis to REA.**

Next Steps: Fostering Collaboration Through MC Teams



You're starting a new conversation

Type your first message below.

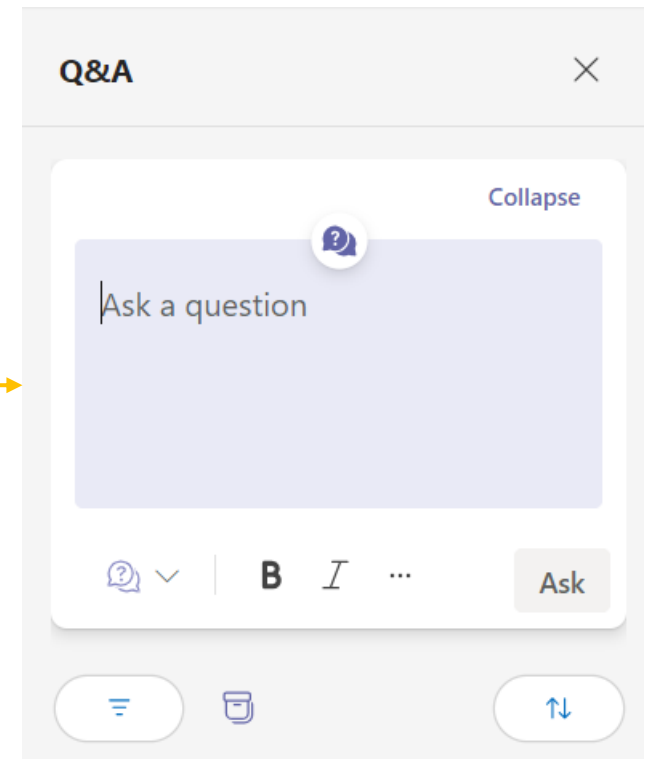
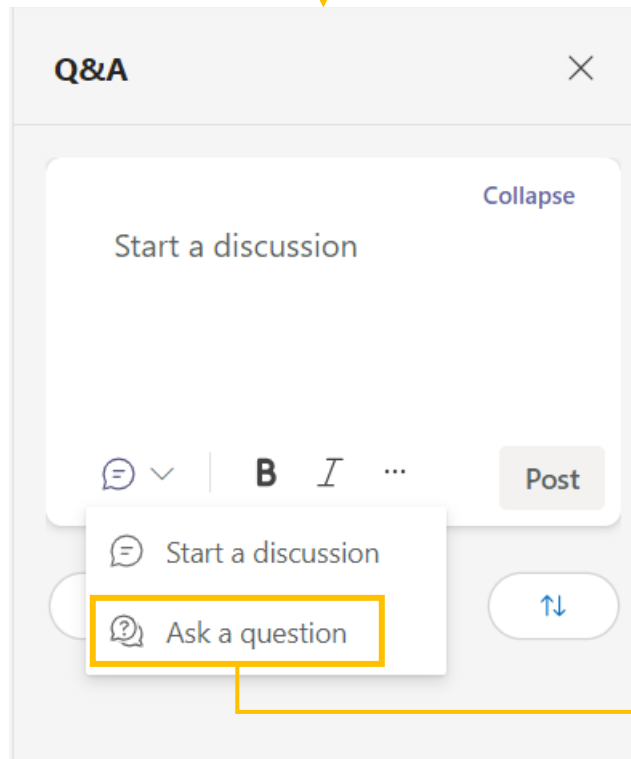
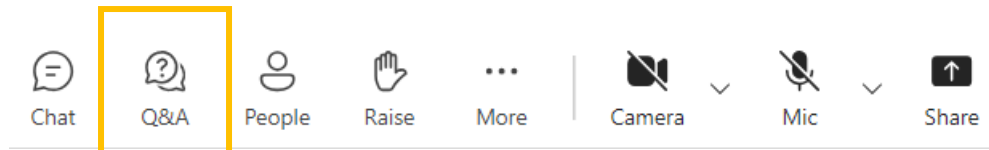
Type a message



Questions and Answers Session



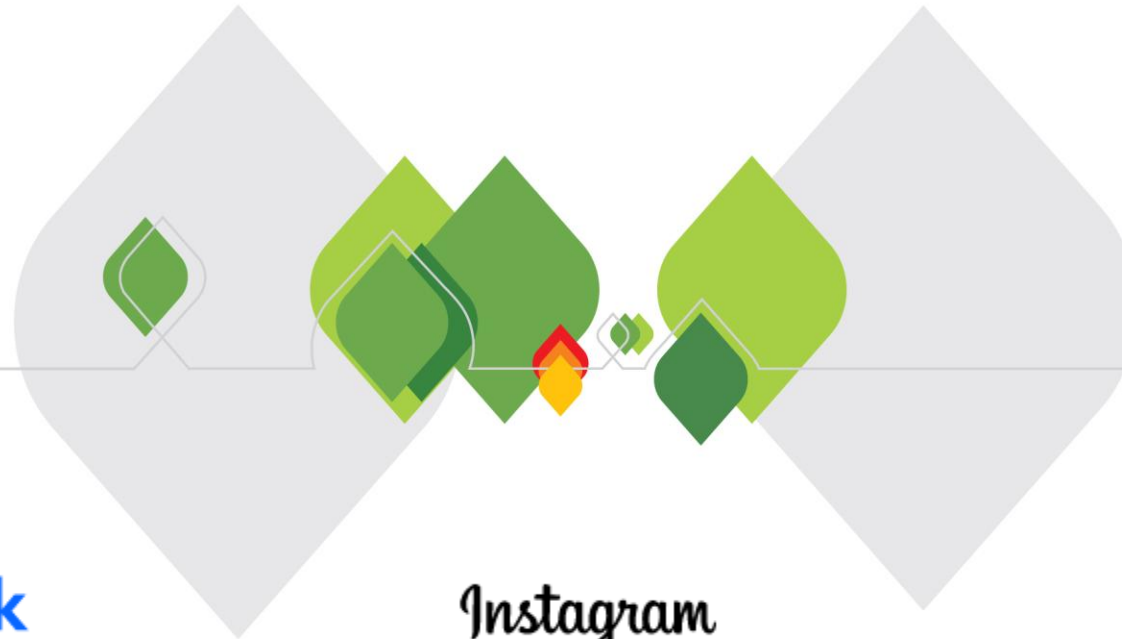
Questions After the Webinar
can be sent to:
marija.sterjovska@lfmwb.net
or
info@lfmwb.net



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For more information, please visit the official website of the LFMWB Programme:

www.lfmwb.net



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