



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

ORGANISATION	<u>Bulgaria Economic Forum</u>
Profile	<p>Bulgaria Economic Forum (BEF) is a non-profit legal entity founded in 1998 with the main objectives to promote the business environment of Bulgaria and Southeast Europe to potential foreign investors, to facilitate the dialogue between government and business, to develop local territorial attractiveness. It currently has 40 members which are key stakeholders in Bulgarian economic and social life. Its activity covers the territory of whole Bulgaria. BEF has offices in Sofia, Montana and Kyustendil. Its members are key industrial chambers and associations, significant companies, financial institutions, public organizations, etc.</p> <p>The main activities of Bulgaria Economic Forum are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · organization of international economic forums, conferences, seminars, business meetings, educational seminars and trainings for SMEs · publication and distribution of newsletters, brochures, reports, analysis, surveys and more; · organization of information campaigns in Bulgaria and abroad; · implementation of EU and other donors financed projects. <p>Bulgaria Economic Forum is an innovation support agency whose main objective is to encourage entrepreneurship and enhance the entrepreneurial skills of start-up and viable SMEs by developing and implementing various training programs for innovative support, as well as organizing regional, national and international business meetings and forums, thus creating favorable conditions for networking and SME development. BEF is an important supporting intermediary for services, innovations, new business models and digital technologies for SMEs that increase the competitiveness and efficiency of small businesses.</p>



Previous
experience in
European
projects

The organisation also plays an important role in promoting the funding opportunities, provided by different EU funded and other donor programmes. In the last 10 years BEF has participated in the implementation of more than 20 large-scale projects related to improving business conditions in different economic sectors; building and enhancing business capacities; training of entrepreneurs; promoting innovations among SMEs. Some of the implemented projects are listed below:

- Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 Programme – Project “i3 – Education for ideas, inventions and innovations for entrepreneurship”
- Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 Programme – Project “SmartRural - Smart Rural Entrepreneurship”
- Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 – Project “ISTER - Connecting hiSTorical Danube rEgions Roman routes”
- Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 – Project “ATTRACTIVE DANUBE - Improving Capacities to Enhance Territorial Attractiveness of the Danube Region”
- South East Europe Programme 2007-2013 – Project AGRO-START - SEE/D/0193/1.2/X
- South East Europe Programme 2007-2013 – Project Transnational Strategy for the Sustainable Territorial Development of the Danube Area with special regard to Tourism, DATOURWAY
- South East Europe Programme 2007-2013 – Project Adriatic Danubian Clustering, ADC - SEE/A/235/4.2/X
- EEA Financial Mechanism – project “Strengthening the capacity of the local authorities of the North-West Planning Region of Bulgaria for attracting foreign investors, institutional support for investments and IT solutions for administrative services” – InvestNorthWest”
- Bulgaria-Serbia IPA Cross-border Programme – Project “Establishment of a Bulgarian-Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Erasmus + -Project “Heritage Training for Young Adults – HETYA”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erasmus + - Project “Co-operating for Leadership in Tourism – CoLeadTourism” • Bulgarian Operational Programme Human Resources Development – several projects dedicated to building and developing entrepreneurial skills.
Interests for future projects proposals	improving business conditions in different economic sectors; building and enhancing business capacities; training of entrepreneurs; promoting innovations among SMEs
Project ideas	We have ideas in the fields of artificial intelligence and labour market; sustainable development; entrepreneurship
3 key words	Entrepreneurship, enhancing business capacities, sustainable development
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