

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SEERC participates with Greek delegation at the Balkan Venture Forum in Sofia**

The South-East European Research Centre (SEERC), the research centre of the International Faculty of University of Sheffield, CITY College, in Thessaloniki organises a Greek delegation to participate at the Balkan Venture Forum (BkVF) in Sofia, on May 21-22, 2013. The delegation contains start-ups, SMEs, young and experienced entrepreneurs, innovation experts, support agencies, venture capitalist investors, and policy makers. The BkVF is the largest venture capital, private equity and investment forum in the region, (<http://www.balkanventureforum.org>). It gathers top startups, VC investors, serial entrepreneurs, and innovators from the Balkans, Europe and the USA. As a regional SEE event dedicated to innovative entrepreneurship, access to finance and business opportunities, the Balkan Venture Forum in Sofia takes place for the third time, after Skopje and Belgrade.

Apart from the excellent networking opportunity in Sofia as a vibrant startup hub, participants will be able to follow a program of startup coaching, startup competitions, keynote speeches, workshops and discussion panels.

Some of the confirmed participants and speakers are:

- **Jon Bradford** - founder/CEO at Springboard, TechStars, F6S;
- **Salim Virani** - founder at Leancamp, Founder-Centric;
- **Dan Lupu** - CEO at EarlyBird Venture Capital;
- **Phillip Moehring** - Principal at Seedcamp,
- **Maciej Zak** - Investment Director CEE at Intel Capital;
- **Giannis Papadopoulos** - CEO at Attica Ventures;
- **Vadim Tarasov** - Investment Director Bright Capital;
- **Oliver Holle** - CEO at Speedinvest;
- **Marius Ghenea** - Chairman at VentureConnect;
- **Yavuz Kaynar** - Principal Banker at EBRD Venture Capital;
- **Todor Breshkov** - Managing partner at LAUNCHHub accelerator VC fund;
- **Lyuben Belov** - Managing partner at LAUNCHHub accelerator VC fund;
- **Dilyan Dimitrov** - Founder at Eleven Startup Accelerator;
- **Hubert Cottogni** - Head of regional business development at European Investment Fund;
- **Peter Brodsky** - Director at SoundCloud;
- **Apostolos Apostolakis** - Founder of [e-shop.gr](http://e-shop.gr), [doctoranytime.gr](http://doctoranytime.gr), Taxibeat; and many more.

Participants of the BkVF will also be able to attend the [Pitching Competition for 36 selected startups](#).

In addition, there will be two partner events: **Seedcamp** on 22nd and **Leancamp** on the 23rd of May, to create an exciting startup festival alongside the Balkan Venture Forum.

Balkan Venture Forum is organized by Balkan Unlimited Foundation, and co-organized by the VIBE project. Balkan Venture Forum is one of the main objectives of the SEE Programme project VIBE (Venture Initiative in Balkan Europe) and is being co-financed by the European Union.

VIBE is an EU co-funded project in the framework of the 'SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme' with the primary objective to support facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region of South-East Europe. VIBE aims at fostering the creation and growth of innovative SMEs and start-up companies through a large array of actions.

SEERC ([www.seerc.org](http://www.seerc.org)) as the only Greek partner in the VIBE project fosters through this engagement its contribution to the developing innovation and startup scene in Greece.

More information about the Balkan Venture Forum and the full programme can be found at:

<http://www.balkanventureforum.org/programme-new/>

Interested parties are also most welcome to engage with the social media dedicated to the event:

<http://www.facebook.com/BalkanVentureForum>

<http://twitter.com/balkanventurefo>

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?trk=myg\\_uqrp\\_ovr&gid=4272414](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?trk=myg_uqrp_ovr&gid=4272414)

<http://www.balkanventureforum.org>