

SEERC announces the possibility for Greek start-ups and innovative SMEs to participate at the 5th Balkan Venture Forum in Bosnia & Herzegovina on May 15-16, 2014

Continuing the success story of the former events of this prestigious investment forum SEERC, the research centre of the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield - CITY College in Thessaloniki, in the framework of the 'EU project VIBE – Venture Initiative in Balkan Europe' once more encourages Greek start-ups and innovative SMEs to register for the **fifth Balkan Venture Forum in Bosnia & Herzegovina on May 15-16 2014**.

The Balkan Venture Forum (BkVF) is the region's leading investment and innovation forum that has attracted so far a total of more than 1500 attendees. This May the BkVF will visit the vibrant start-up scene of Bosnia& Herzegovina, where innovative business ideas will meet investors, support agencies and policy makers from the region, Europe and beyond. The event will take place at Jahorina near Sarajevo. Participants will include start-up companies, established SMEs, new and experienced entrepreneurs, support agencies, innovation experts, policy makers and a wide array of high-level international venture capitalists and investors.

Besides the diverse and rich programme of interesting panels, speeches, networking and match-making opportunities, the event will also include a **pitching competition** where 40 selected start-ups will present their venture in front of expert panelists, competing for investors' interest as well as exclusive prizes and benefits. Very much encouraged are financing opportunities in the fields of ICT, life science (bio-medicine, bio-tech, health, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices), as well as renewable energies, energy efficiency and green concepts.

On May 14, 2014 start-ups have the opportunity to participate at a **half-day coaching session** for increasing their investor and growth readiness.

SEERC supports for a limited number of selected start-ups from Greece the participation at the BkVF in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Please obtain more information regarding the BkVF from the [VIBE website](#) and from: Andreas Baresel-Bofinger and Fotini Kandiliari, SEERC – South-East European Research Centre, Thessaloniki, Greece, tel +30 2310 253477-8, email: abofinger@seerc.org or fkantilari@seerc.org.

The application for the BkVF in Bosnia & Herzegovina can be done [here](#). The **application deadline for the pitching competition is March 31, 2014**.

The 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 (www.vibeproject.eu) is a project co-funded by the EU 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 - the South-East European Research Centre (www.seerc.org) is the Greek partner in the VIBE project.