

October 2013

LATEST UPDATE - CHANGE OF APPLICATION DEADLINE

SEERC supports start-up pitching at the 4th Balkan Venture Forum in Tirana on November 14-15, 2013

Building on the highly successful participation of Greek start-up companies at the 3rd Balkan Venture Forum (BkVF) in Sofia in May 2013, SEERC, the South-East European Research Centre, in Thessaloniki once more encourages Greek start-ups and other interested stakeholders to register for the **fourth Balkan Venture Forum in Tirana, Albania, on November 14 -15, 2013.**

The Balkan Venture Forum is the region's leading venture and innovation forum. This November Tirana will be a regional innovation hotspot where innovative business ideas will meet investors, support agencies and policy makers from the region, Europe and beyond.

Besides the diverse and rich programme of interesting panels, speeches, roundtables, networking and match-making opportunities, the event will also include a **pitching competition** where start-ups can 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.

The event will have the full support of the thriving Albanian entrepreneurial community.

SEERC supports the participation of Greek start-ups by offering to a selected number of companies to organise and cover the cost for transportation (bus Thessaloniki-Tirana-Thessaloniki), participation (entrance ticket fee) and accommodation (2 nights in Tirana). The offer applies for one representative of each start-up.

Please obtain more information regarding the BkVF and the offered support 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 Tirana can be done at: <http://www.balkanventureforum.org/>. Due to strong request the **application deadline for the pitching competition has been extended to October 25, 2013**. In exceptional cases companies can also contact Ms.Nadia Hasnaoui: nadia@e-unlimited.com before Friday 16.00h (CEST) for applying for the pitching competition and they will have time until Sunday midnight to update their profile.

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.