



Bulgaria-Serbia IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO006

Project number: 2007CB16IPO006-2011-2-167
Project name: THE BALKAN CLUSTER
Project partners:
▪ **Lead partner:** Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development, Bulgaria
▪ **Project partner 2:** Cluster House - Nis, Serbia
Budget: 117 918.77 €
Project duration: 12 months

Project description:

The project envisioned and achieved the following results:

- Establishment of “The Balkan Cluster” - a platform for collaboration of clusters, SMEs and supporting institutions in the cross-border region of Bulgaria and Serbia, aiming at improving the cluster-based economic development of the regions of Sofia City and Nisava, Pirot, Jablanica and Pcinja Districts: <http://balkancluster.clusterhouse.rs;>
- Creation and development of business development networks between companies and cluster organisations from Bulgaria and Serbia;
- Increased cross-border cooperation capacity of the firms - cluster members in both regions, based on cluster development training programme, information and promotion activities;
- Improved popularisation and publicity of the clusters development in Bulgaria and Serbia;
- Increased opportunities for sustainable cluster-based economic development, using the businessmen-to-businessmen matchmaking events, aiming at export-import and investment promotion, better access to regional and global markets, joint venture projects for boosting innovations and R&D activities, improving competitiveness;
- Increased awareness of the public sector, related to the significance of clusters for sustainable economic development and cross-border cooperation, and overall improvement of the public–private dialogue in the region.

The project was successfully completed in April 2016.



The Programme is co-funded by the
European Union.



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The Balkan Cluster



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