

INVITATION

Regional Event “A click away from entrepreneurship!”

20 October 2021

ONLINE (ZOOM Platform)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-yvqz0sHdAiH9ztzGI0kk-3ZCvZhcgu>

It is our pleasure to contact You with a kind invitation to participate at our **Regional Event “A click away towards entrepreneurship!” organized online on October 20, 2021, at 10:00 – 12:30 (CET).**

In this event Partners Albania will be delighted to share with you the latest exciting opportunities for start-up development that are in place in the Western Balkan Region, by bringing together all the stakeholders, representatives from donor community and public authorities, venture capital firms, business angels, entrepreneurship hubs, acceleration programs, supporting organizations, role models startups and civil society organizations from the Western Balkan 6 countries.

Distinguished speakers in the event will discuss the opportunities, supporting mechanisms and the important role that start-ups and new enterprises can play in the region’s future economy and society. They will provide insight and discuss on national legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and existing supporting instruments for start-ups and entrepreneurship and their effectiveness, on funding, networking, and investment opportunities, as key elements for empowering the start-ups ecosystem.

In this regards, [Dua Partner Invest](#) platform, the latest initiative of Partners Albania in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation, will be officially introduced to a wide audience. This virtual hub serves to WB6 start-up community, boosting connections, outreach, and facilitating access to funding opportunities.

We would highly appreciate your participation in our event in order to enhance collaboration in the region!

Regional Event “A click away from entrepreneurship!”

20 October 2021

ONLINE (ZOOM Platform)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-yvqz0sHdAiH9ztzGI0kk-3ZCvZhcgu>

AGENDA

- 09:45 – 10:00** **Participants joining and the video of Dua Partner Invest teasers on the background**
- 10:00 – 10:45** **Panel 1: EU strategies and mechanisms in support of star-ups and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkan Region**

The European Union is the primary political and economic partner and biggest investor in the Western Balkans, with thousands of projects that support creative and innovative ideas, create business opportunities, facilitates regional cooperation, and improve people’s lives. Speakers of this panel will share and discuss with the audience on these opportunities, supporting mechanisms and the important role startups and new enterprises can play in the region’s future economy and society.

The language of the panel will be English. Translation in Albanian, Macedonian, and Serbian will be provided.

Moderator – Ms. Juliana Hoxha, Director, Partners Albania for Change and Development

Speakers:

- ❖ Ms. Juliana Hoxha, Director, Partners Albania for Change and Development
- ❖ Mr. Patrick Klein, Head of Sector, Social Economy and Social Enterprise, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission
- ❖ Mr. Roberto Estelles Colom, Programme Manager, Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations at European Commission (DG NEAR), European Commission
- ❖ Ms. Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova, Head of Program Department, Regional Cooperation Council

Questions and Answers

- 10:45 – 10:50** **Transit to the 2nd Panel – Parallel Sessions**
- 10:50– 11:35** **Panel 2: Public Policies and Mechanisms in enabling a favourable environment for start-ups and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkan countries**

Startups need favorable and fair conditions to grow at every stage of their life cycle. Providing the best framework conditions can help promising startups to grow. Development of appropriate legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks for the operation of social economy enterprises and organizations, is one of the main recommendations of the European Social Economy Summit *Mannheim 202*, too. Speakers of this panel, government' representatives and supporting organizations from all WB countries, will provide insight and discuss on national legal and regulatory framework, policies and existing supporting mechanisms for startups and entrepreneurship and their effectiveness.

The session will be hosted in two parallel break out rooms:

BR1: Representatives from Albania, Kosovo*, and North Macedonia

The language of the panel will be English, Albanian, and Macedonian. Translation will be provided accordingly.

Moderator – Mr. Shkëlzen Marku, Co-founder and Managing Director, Yunus Social Business Balkans

Speakers:

- ❖ Ms. Edona Bilali, Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, **Albania**
- ❖ Government representatives from **Kosovo** (TBC)
- ❖ Mr. Jumni Ademi, State Counselor for Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Economy, **North Macedonia**
- ❖ Ms. Klotilda Kosta, Director of Programs, Partners Albania for Change and Development, **Albania**
- ❖ Mr. Uranik Begu, Executive Director, Innovation Center, **Kosovo**
- ❖ Mr. Igor Madzov, Founder and President, StartupMacedonia, **North Macedonia**

Questions and Answers

BR2: Representatives from Bosnia & Hercegovina, Montenegro and Serbia

The language of the panel will be English, and Serbian. Translation will be provided accordingly.

Moderator: Ms. Nikica Kusinikova, Executive Director, Association Konekt

Speakers:

- ❖ Mr. Nevzet Sefo, Expert Advisor, Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, **Bosnia & Hercegovina**
- ❖ Ms. Marijeta Barjaktarovic Lanzardi, Head of the Main Office for Innovation and Technological Development, Ministry of Economic Development, **Montenegro**
- ❖ Ms. Milena Kostadinovic, Operations Manager, Innovation Fund, **Serbia**
- ❖ Ms. Sejdefa Basic, Collective Impact Director, Mozaik Foundation, **Bosnia & Hercegovina**
- ❖ Mr. Igor Milosevic, Program Developer, ADP-Zid, **Montenegro**
- ❖ Ms. Dina Rakin, Director, Coalition for Solidarity Economy Development, **Serbia**

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Questions and Answers

11:35 – 11:40 **Transit to the 3rd Panel**

11:40– 12:15 **Panel 3: Perspectives of different actors from the start-up’ ecosystem**

Startups have a proven capacity to develop breakthrough innovations in response to world needs, create new jobs and build synergies with traditional industries. In order to do so, targeted and meaningful support across the region is key to capture the opportunities presented is needed. Access to finance and knowledge is rated as one of the biggest barriers for startups in the region today. Speakers of this panel will give short input talks and discuss on funding, networking, and investment opportunities, as key elements for empowering the start-ups ecosystem. The following conference session will be interactive.

The language of the panel will be English. Translation in Albanian, Macedonian, and Serbian will be provided.

Moderator: Mr. Patrick Bosteels, Co-Founder and Program Manager, Now-Sprint! Startup Accelerator

Speakers:

- ❖ Ms. Alina Moldovan, Project Coordinator, Impact Vienna Hub
- ❖ Mr. Stevica Kuharski, Principal, FilRouge Capital
- ❖ Ms. Ardiola Hristic, Principal, Regional Coordinator Local Consultancy in the Western Balkans, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- ❖ Ms. Marta Bruschi, Senior Expert, Network & Community Engagement at Diesis Network, Co-Director, Networks & Convenings at IAVE

Questions and Answers

12:15 – 12:25 **Concluding remarks from the thematic discussions and the kick-off event**

12:25 – 12:30 **Featured video of start-ups members of Dua Partner Invest.**