

Interreg

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Balkan-Mediterranean BALKANMED E-BP

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**PROJECT
BALKANMED
E-BUSINESS
PAGES**



E-BUSINESS PAGES IN MEDIA

In this issue

The BalkanMed e-Business Pages Project was promoted in the local and national media of the participating countries. On 31st October, 2017 a kick-off press conference was held in “Tafaj” Hotel in Tirana, Albania. The representatives of the Centre for Competitiveness Promotion (CCP), in presence of media highlighted the situation of the business cooperation between five participating countries in the Programme and the importance of the

cross-cooperation between Albanian SMEs and the other companies from partners’ countries in this project.

In response to the journalists’ questions, the CCP’s representatives outlined the expected results and contribution of the project to the business cooperation between the SMEs in the eligible area and explained how the developed platform will differ from similar business websites. The press conference was pre-

sented in TV media ABC News, Fax News and other online media. On 20th of November, GAUSS Institute held a press conference in Bitola for the promotion of BalkanMed E-Business Pages project. The Press Conference attracted significant interest among journalists from local and national media. The activity was broadcasted in some local media.

Also, on 20th of December the Hellenic Man-

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For further information:

<http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/approved-project/27/>
<https://www.facebook.com/BalkanMedEBusinessPage>



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NEWS FROM REGIONS ON THE PROJECT

Cooperation Agreement between Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The governments of Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia signed cooperation agreements on energy, infrastructure and telecommunications.

Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will decrease roaming charges, according to a Memorandum signed by the transport ministers of the two countries Ivaylo Moskovski and Damjan Mancevski, at a joint governmental session on Thursday, 23 Nov 2017.

The governments of both coun-

tries agreed to jointly encourage mobile operators to significantly reduce international roaming tariffs.

During the joint session held in Strumica, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and headed by the Bulgarian and Macedonian Prime Ministers, Boyko

Borissov and Zoran Zaev, the two cabinets signed agreements on foreign policy, transport and telecommunications, investment, energy, infrastructure, defence, tourism, and reactions to disasters. The two countries agreed, amongst other things, to cooperate on construction of a new gas interconnector and the pan-European corridor eight connecting the Albanian city Durres

with Varna on the Bulgarian Black Sea, as well as a railway linking the capitals of Sofia and Skopje. It is hoped that the agreements reached will soon contribute to the increase in business cooperation between the two countries, as well as to the improved connectivity in the Balkan area, to regional development and long-term benefits for the local community.

Balkan Barometer Reports platform.

Published for the first time in 2015, the study surveys 7,000 citizens and 1,400 businesses in seven SEE economies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), on a wide range of issues dealing with the political, socio-economic, busi-

High-Level Forum on Promoting Integration of Western Balkans held in Sofia on 7th

Sofia was a Host of a High-Level Forum on Promoting Integration of Western Balkans. On December 7th, in Sofia the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and the World Bank Chief Executive Officer Kristalina Georgieva opened a forum aiming to develop tangible ways for driving forward growth and development in the Western Balkans

countries and for facilitating their EU accession. Participants in the forum were the Presidents Hashim Thaci of Kosovo and Filip Vujanovic of Montenegro, Prime Ministers Edi Rama of Albania, Zoran Zaev of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ana Brnabic, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Minister Mirko Sarovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as EU European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Commissioner Johannes Hahn. At the forum Bulgaria defined the European integration of the Western Balkans as one of its main priorities during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU starting on 1st January 2018. "It is important for Western Balkans leaders to come together to advance economic cooperation across



DOING BUSINESS 2018

World Bank's latest global business ranking holds encouraging news for some Balkan countries, such as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria which made it into the top 50 of the Doing Business Report for 2018. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the highest

performing Balkan economy, ranked in 11th place among 190 economies worldwide in terms of quality of its business regulations.

In its 2018 edition, the Doing Business reports focuses on the area of reforms designed to create jobs. The bank's study has concluded that entrepreneurs in 119 economies out of 190 saw improvements in their local regula-

tory framework in 2016-2017.

The report measures the quality of regulations in 11 areas of business life, including starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

The table below is prepared on

	INDICATORS /5 COUNTRIES	BULGARIA	GREECE	CYPRUS	F.R.Y. MACEDONIA	ALBANIA
	Ease of doing business rank (1-190)	50	67	53	11	65
	Overall distance to frontier (DTF) score (0-100)	71.91	68.02	71.63	81.18	68.70
	Population	7,127,822	10,746,740	1,170,125	2,081,206	2,876,101
	GNI per capita (US\$)	7,470	18,960	23,680	4,980	4,250
1	Starting a business (rank)	95	37	50	22	45
2	Dealing with construction permits (rank)	51	58	120	26	106
3	Getting electricity (rank)	141	76	67	53	157
4	Registering property (rank)	67	145	92	48	103
5	Getting Credit (rank)	42	90	68	12	42
6	Protecting minority investors (rank)	24	43	43	4	20
7	Paying taxes (rank)	90	65	44	29	125
8	Trading across borders (rank)	21	29	45	27	24
9	Enforcing contracts (rank)	40	131	138	35	120
10	Resolving insolvency (rank)	50	57	21	30	41

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