



Balkan Venture Forum Tirana, 2013

Fourth Balkan Venture Forum in Tirana, Albania shows continued importance of transnational cooperation and matchmaking among entrepreneurs and investors across the South-East Europe region.

Brussels, November 18, 2013 – The Balkan Venture Forum Tirana on November 14 & 15 set the stage for regional entrepreneurs to connect with international investors and business partners. The fourth event in a series, the Forum sought to invigorate regional (future) entrepreneurs to look across national borders and bring their high-tech business solutions to regional and global markets.

The opening address by Mr. Niko Peleshi, Deputy Prime Minister to the Republic of Albania, highlighted the novelty of an investment-oriented event looking into young high-tech enterprises in Albania and the region. But active support to entrepreneurs, through business acceleration and international outreach programs, is paving the way for a new generation of business innovators.

The Forum celebrates entrepreneurship and supports twenty-eight Balkan-based entrepreneurs to connect with international investors and business partners. Each was selected by an international jury and chosen to showcase their business propositions in a short 8-minute presentation. Under the format, presenters need to convince their jury panel just why their company will become an international success and moreover, why investors should invest their money to help them achieve their goals.

Other programme elements included keynote speeches and panel discussions topics on how to access international funds and how to build an international company. Internationally celebrated speakers such as Baybars Altuntas, leading business angel investor and panel member of the Turkish version of acclaimed 'Dragon's Den' television programme, highlighted that it takes a particular mindset, determination and continuous adaptation to grow your company from an idea into an internationally competing business. The event was closed by Mrs. Milena Harito, Minister for Innovation and Public Administration of the Republic of Albania.

The Balkan Venture Forum series of events is organized by *Balkan Unlimited*, a foundation dedicated to the advancement of entrepreneurship, innovation, venture capital and partnership in the Balkans; *Crimson Capital*, an international leader in emerging market development and *Europe Unlimited*, Europe's largest network of innovative companies and venture capital investors.

With three previous editions (Skopje, Belgrade & Sofia), the Balkan Venture Forum series has gathered over 1.000 relevant industry participants. For more information, please visit <http://www.e-unlimited.com/bkvftirana>.

The Balkan Venture Forum in Tirana was supported by the SEE Programme project VIBE (Venture Initiative in Balkan Europe), which is being co-financed by the European Union. The support of the Forum is one of the main objectives of VIBE, which is a regional eco-system accelerator that takes on the challenge of developing the innovation and entrepreneurship system in the SEE. It does this through high-impact actions that enable a key financing process for innovation and entrepreneurship, which is crucial to the development of a knowledge-based economy in the SEE region.



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