



MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY AND TRADE



CZECH REPUBLIC
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



CZ-RS SME TRADE BRIDGE
CrossClustersNETworking



Република Србија

Министарство
трговине, туризма
и телекомуникација

REPORT ON THE FIRST CZECH-SERBIAN CROSS-CLUSTERS SME TRADE FORUM IN NIS-SERBIA

The first CZ-RS Cluster Forum was held in Nis, Serbia on 13th of October 2016.

Within the accompanying business matchmaking event between Czech Republic and Serbia in Novi Sad in September 2015, under the patronage of the Czech Prime Minister Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka and Serbian Prime Minister Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, supported by the Czech and Serbian Chambers of Economy, the MoU between the Czech National Cluster Association and the Serbian Cluster House had been ceremonially signed.

The six-month project CZ-RS CrossClustersNETworking SME Trade Bridge, based on the setting up of trade cooperation between export oriented SMEs in Czech and Serbia using the clusters as an efficient tool for transnational connections, started in May 2016. The mission of the project is to encourage cross-border cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises - members of the export-oriented clusters through trade cooperation, joint ventures and investments, exchange of knowledge, transfer of know-how and access to new markets.

The project is implementing in the framework of Aid for Trade Programme – Serbia, co-funded by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, the Check Development Agency, the Serbian Cluster House and non-financially supported by the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications of the Republic of Serbia and the Czech Embassy in Belgrade.

The Forum had been opened by representatives from national and regional officials from Serbia:

- Mr. Milija Miletić, Deputy of National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
- Mr. Zeljko Stojanovic, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunication of the Republic of Serbia
- Mr. Milan Krstić, Mayor of the Medijana Municipality, Niš, Serbia
- On behalf of the President of Kursumlija Municipality Mr. Dragan Simić, cluster manager, Tourism Cluster Radan, Kuršumljia Municipality, Serbia

The Forum gathered 12 representatives of the Czech clusters and companies and over 70 Serbian clusters and SMEs in the following areas:

EU funded projects. Food processing. Wellness and Health Tourism. Metal sector. Machinery industry. Packaging, chemical industry, bio medicine, recycle industry/waste collection and treatment. Energetics, ecology, oil and gas processing. Wood-processing, Furniture production. Nanotechnology - Agriculture and Food Industry, Chemical Industry (Plastic Material Production), Textile industry – functionalized membranes, application of special composite Nano fibrous yarns.



The Importance of Clusters for the Trade and SMEs Development
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<http://cz-rs-clusnet.clusterhouse.rs/>



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The Cluster House hosted almost 100 SMEs and clusters in Nis, Serbia and contribute to over 60 B2B, C2B and C2C matchmaking meetings.

During the CZ-RS Cluster Forum in Nis, representative of the Serbian Business Women Association and their members supported by the Cluster House initiated the first Serbian Women Cluster Initiative.

October 14, 2016 Check delegation attended the Tourism Cluster Learning Trip „David’s Town“ UNESCO protected location within the frame of the Torusim Cluster Radan Kursumlija, South Serbia, with the aims of getting better overview of the development of cluster-based value chain, hearing the Serbian cluster best practice and to contribute to the further internationalization of the clusters and SMEs cooperation in this part of Serbia.

Forum had been followed by the following media:

- National TV RTS 1 <http://www.rts.rs/page/stories/ci/story/56/srbija-danas/2492052/forum-ceskih-i-srpskih-privrednika-u-nisu.html>
- Jutro Online - Interview with Dr. Danka Milojkovic - (TV KCN 12.10.2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxNYK_zApok)
- Ni Naissus Info internet magazine <http://www.naissus.info/vesti.htm>
- Pi kanal <http://www.pikanal.rs/2016/10/14/slobodna-zona-pirot-poslovni-forum-ceske-i-srbije/>
- Niske vesti <http://niskevesti.rs/ekonomija/item/13168-prvi-forum-srbija-ceska-oborio-rekorde-preko-100-ucenika>
- Pirot-online <http://www.pirot-online.net/vesti/plus-online/slobodna-zona-na-srpsko-albanskom-i-srpsko-ceskom-poslovnom-forumu/>
- Juzne vest internet magazine 11.10.2016 <http://www.juznevesti.com/Ekonomija/Poslovni-forum-srpskih-i-ceskih-privrednika.sr.html>
- Regional Chamber of Economy Pancevo <http://www.rpkpancevo.com/vesti/najavedogadaja/1682-poziv-za-ucisce-na-cz-rs-biznis-forumu-b2b-i-izlozba-u-nisu-13-oktobra-2016-od-9-30h>
- ECCP news
- Global TCI Network Newsletter
- Balkan Black Sea Cluster Network FB
- Post on the LinkedIn DM profile

The special significance of this event is that it was organized during the week when the Serbian Prime Minister with Ministries spend a week in the City of Nis with the aim to better understand needs and challenges of Serbian people from the South East Serbia which is the poorest part of Serbia but with huge capacities in agriculture and food processing, textile, construction, wood processing and furniture production, metal, energy and IT.



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Photos from this event are available on the link <http://cz-rs-clusnet.clusterhouse.rs/en/galerija/>

Annexes:

1. List of Serbian participants_Forum in Nis_13.10.2016 (scanned original)
2. List of Czech participants_Forum in Nis_13.10.2016 (scanned original)
3. AGENDA_CZ-RS FORUM in Nis 13.10.2016
4. C2C C2B B2B meetings schedule

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In Niš, October 17, 2016

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