

## PROJECT

# »South-East European Co-Operation of Innovation & Finance agencies« (SEE-IFA Network)

## About SEE-IFA

The SEE-IFA network is a network of European national and regional innovation & finance agencies, authorities and universities. The network aims to strengthen the capacity of IFA project partners to effectively provide innovation and technology support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs).

## The Partners

The SEE-IFA network unites eleven partner organisations from ten different countries. SEE-IFA participants are representatives from **Austria** AWS (Austria Wirtschaftsservice); **Bulgaria** EPF (Euro Perspectives Foundation); **Croatia** AZRA (Varazdin County Development Agency); **Greece** GEORAMA; **Hungary** TETALAP (Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation); **Italy** FINLOM (Finlombarda) and RegVEN (Veneto Region – Industry Department); **Macedonia** FYROM, FME (University »Ss. Cyril and Methodius«); **Romania** AMCSIT (Management Agency for Scientific Research, Technology Transfer and Innovation – Politehnica); **Serbia** RDA Banat (Regional Agency for Socio-Economic Development – Banat) and **Slovenia** SID Bank (SID – Slovene Export and Development Bank, Ljubljana).

### Innovation and MSMEs

- Innovation is crucial for competitiveness and for future growth
- Micro, small and medium enterprises are faced with structural deficits in the innovation system
- Micro, small and medium enterprises need support to improve their innovation capacity.

## The Mission

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are faced with structural deficits. The SEE-IFA Network addresses the entire range of deficits, from networking, access to relevant information, support of know-how transfer, training, development of feasibility studies, assessment of frameworks and needs and design of concrete instruments and agencies.

The mission of the SEE-IFA project is to transfer innovation-boosting know-how to the South East European countries. The overriding project goal is to strengthen the capacity of innovation systems in the partner countries by furnishing a know-how platform (SEE-IFA Network) and establishing institutions and programmes to promote innovation in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The project is designed to facilitate access to funds for innovative projects by MSMEs and to increase the service-provider quality of national agencies.

The specific missions of the project are to identify needs and gaps in all SEE-IFA partner countries, to improve the exchange and transfer of know-how, the development of a patent and licence fund, to set up new innovation & finance agencies and to increase the capacity of local players (for further information see [www.see-ifa.eu](http://www.see-ifa.eu)).

## About SEE

SEE-IFA is a SEE project. The South East Europe programme (SEE) is an EU-financed instrument. It aims to improve integration and competitiveness in the SEE area. It concentrates on the following priority areas: Innovation, Environment, Accessibility and Sustainable Urban Development (for further information see <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en>)

### Facts & Figures

Partners: 11  
Countries: 10  
Project lead: austria wirtschaftsservice | Vienna  
Budget: EUR 2.7 million  
Start: March 2009  
Overall duration: 34 months

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