

Dear Sir/Madam,

The European Commission Directorate General for European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), in cooperation with the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia and the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum (WB6CIF), has the pleasure of inviting you to a regional information event: **“Open4Business - Made in the Western Balkans - Supported by the EU”,** to be held on 5 October in Skopje, at Hotel Aleksandar Palace, Bul. 8mi Septemvri br. 15.

The event is divided in two parts: a morning session that will take place in a single location (Skopje), with remote connections to other venues in the five capital cities across the region. The afternoon session is dedicated to matchmaking and will occur physically in all capitals at the same time (more details on the venues in the attached draft agenda).

The event will raise awareness of opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the region, with a particular focus on the Western Balkans Investments Framework (WBIF). At the event you will learn about how to access financing programmes, grants, technical assistance and advisory services that are available through the WBIF from financial institutions with financing from the EU. Moreover, some micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will share their experience on how they benefitted from those opportunities.

After a morning of panels and roundtable discussions in Skopje, MSMEs will have an opportunity in the afternoon session to participate in face-to-face pre-arranged ‘matchmaking’ meetings with local financial institutions in all the capital cities of the region. This is an exceptional opportunity to get tailored guidance on how to apply for the most appropriate programmes co-financed by the EU.

A detailed draft agenda of the event is enclosed. Participation to the event is free of charge. I invite you to register until October 4 through the following link: <https://open4business-made-in-western-balkans.b2match.io/>

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 5.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]
Holger Schröder
Head of Unit

Encl: draft agenda

In cooperation with

