

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Financial and Investment Support for SMEs”

Sofia International Money Expo - SIM Expo 2025

SOFIA - REGIONAL FINANCIAL HUB

14 October, 2025, Bohemia Hall, 6th floor, TZUM, Sofia

PROGRAM

09:00–9:30	Registration and coffee
9:30–10:00	Official Opening <i>Moderator: Mr. Vladimir Tomov, Chairman of the Investment Council to the BCCI</i>  Mr. Doncho Barbalov, Deputy Minister of Economy and industry  Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov, President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry /BCCI/  Mr. Lachezar Petkov, Secretary General of the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion Agency /BSMEPA/
10:00–11:00	Financial instruments in support of SMEs <i>Moderator: Mrs. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice President , European Investment Bank (2019-2023)</i>  Mr. Teodor Radonov, representative office of European Investment Bank in Bulgaria  Mrs. Svetoslava Georgieva - Chairperson на European Innovation Council Fund, member of the Investment Committee of InvestEU  Mr. Alexander Georgiev, Executive Director, Fund of Funds  Mr. Tsanko Arabadzhiev, Executive Director Bulgarian Development Bank  Mrs. Larisa Manastirli, Director Financial Institutions, BSTDB
11:00–11:15	Coffee break
11:15–11:30	Big Funds for the small and medium-sized businesses – European SME financing programs  Mrs. Iliyana Ilieva, Director European Funds for Competitiveness, Ministry of Innovation and Growth
11:30–12:30	Equity Investment to support business growth

	<i>Moderator: Mr. Martin Gikov, Chairman of the Board of JEREMIE Bulgaria /till 08.2025/</i> ✚ Mr. Hristo Stoyanov, Regional Manager, EIF for Bulgaria ✚ Mr. Max Gurvits, Board member, Bulgarian Equity Venture Capital Association ✚ Mr. Stoyan Nedin, Managing Partner, Vitosha Ventures ✚ Mrs. Natalia Petrova, Managing Partner, Bayena Ventures ✚ Mr. Pavel Velkov, Managing partner, Morningside Hill ✚ Mrs. Elina Halatcheva, Managing partner, BrightCap Ventures
12:30–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–14:30	Foreign direct investments – benefits for the business and stimulus for the economy <i>Moderator: Mrs. Gabriela Dimitrova, Director “International Cooperation and International Organizations” in BCCI</i> ✚ Mr. Julian Balchev, Secretary General, Invest Bulgaria Agency ✚ Dr. Maria Hristova, Senior Executive Director, Invest Sofia Agency ✚ Mr. Efstathios Sideris, President of the Foreign Investors Council Greece ✚ Mr. Hristo Babev, Manager, Electrohold ✚ H.Ex. Abdulrahman Ahmed Aljaber, Ambassador of UAE to Bulgaria ✚ Mr. Ahmed Nasr, CEO BDS Holding, Antika World
14:30-15:30	Green and Social Investments <i>Moderator: Dr. Dochka Vasileva, Head of “Project information and financing” Division at the Fund of Funds</i> ✚ Mr. Deyan Gochev, Supervisor, “European Projects and Financial Instruments” Directorate of UBB and UBB Interlease ✚ Mrs. Kalina Angelova, Manager EU funds, Unicredit Bulbank ✚ Mrs. Diana Aladzhova, Partner Silverline Capital ✚ Mrs. Monika Stanisheva, Green Transition Forum ✚ Mrs. Maria Minkova, Executive Director, National Trust Eco Fund ✚ Mr. Martin Radosvetov, Compliance and ESG Director, SIS Credit
15:30-16:30	Presentations ✚ TZUM Project - Mr. Ahmed Nasr, CEO BDS Holding, Antika World ✚ Export Insurance - representative, Bulgarian Export Insurance Agency ✚ Tradewind Factoring - Mr. Rafi Shirinyan, Regional Credit and CEO Bulgaria, Tradewind

Working languages: Bulgarian and English with simultaneous translation