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## NEWSLETTER NO. 160

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## FIPA ACTIVITIES



REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL PARK HUB 387 VISITED FIPA













### REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL PARK HUB 387 VISITED FIPA

Director of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of BiH (FIPA) Gordan Milinić talked with Executive Director of the Technological Park HUB 387 Jovana Musić about the possibilities for joint cooperation on finding potential investors for the IT sector of BiH.

The Technology Park started operating in BiH in 2014 with the aim to gather small local IT companies and freelancers. The companies currently operating within the HUB have 80 employees. The three companies that had at the very beginning, one or two employees, and now have 100 workers.

Currently, several major IT projects are under development: "Smart Bee Hives" and "Balkans-VIBE", which could be nominated and presented to foreign investors.

The meeting concluded that the current practice and work on the promotion of BiH's investment opportunities show that the BiH IT sector is very interesting to foreign investors, and that in the coming years the expansion of foreign investments is expected in this sector.





### FIPA VISITED ZEOCHEM LTD ZVORNIK

Within the post-investment support program to existing foreign investors in BiH Aftercare, company Zeochem Ltd Zvornik was visited on March 26, 2019. The company represented by Director Zoran Petković is 100% Swiss owned company.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina they have been operating since 2016 and have 42 employees, and they are planning new investments and employment in the next three years. Mr Petković pointed out that the official start of the factory was at the end of 2017.

The workforce, the geographical position and the availability of raw materials are the three main factors that prevailed when selecting a site. Considering that in the past two years the company has achieved excellent business results, the Swiss investor, who operates on several continents and in several countries of the world, decided that, in terms of possible expansion of production and investment in new production facilities, the future primacy will be put on production in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is a chemical industry, and the main productions are molecular sieves and chromatography gels. As it is a very rare production of powdered products, it was very easy to find clients abroad, and the main export destinations, except Switzerland, are China, America, Germany and other European countries. The investor is satisfied with the business environment in our country, so the expansion of production and employment of new workers is a priority in the coming period.





Director of the Foreign Investment promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIPA) talked with Director of Origin Group Jasna Korda about the participation of FIPA at the 48th IFTDO conference, which will be held in Sarajevo from 24 to 26 June 2019 on the topic: "Development human resources in the era of digital transformation".

The International Federation of Training and Development Organization (IFTDO) was established in 1972 in Geneva, Switzerland, with the aim to develop and maintain a global network dedicated to the recognition, development and transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies in order to enhance personal growth, productivity and sustainable development.

This year's IFTDO conference will focus on the seriousness of the digital impact on business, which has led to evolution in the behaviour of human resources and the development process and transformed the way we work together in. The three-day conference will gather over 400 participants from more than 50 countries around the world.

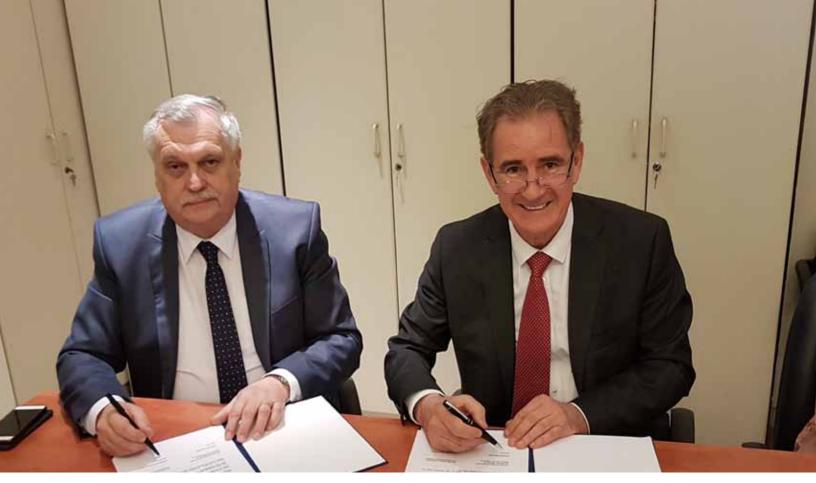
Attendees at the conference will be able to exchange their experiences and hear presentations of 20 experts coming from 16 countries. The importance of IFTDO is also confirmed by the fact that they have their representative in the United Nations. It is envisaged that FIPA will actively participate in the conference with the organization of meetings with several leading leaders in the business world, who will be the main speakers of the conference.





Within preparations for the diplomatic mission, newly-appointed BiH diplomats Milica Ristović-Krstić, BiH Ambassador to Greece, and Dragan Mihaljević, Consul General of BiH in Milan, visited FIPA in order to have information about the competences of the Agency, foreign investment inflows, and current activities in the field of economic cooperation with the mentioned countries.

FIPA Director Gordan Milinić presented the competencies and activities of the Agency in the field of foreign investments, work and support to foreign investors in BiH, and the successful cooperation of FIPA with the relevant institutions from local to state level in the field of promotion of the country and attracting investments. Speaking about the importance of economic diplomacy in the field of affirmation of BiH image as investment location, Director pointed out that it is very important, after establishing contacts with foreign business communities in the countries of reception, to send a message that investors who decide to invest in BiH, can count on the support of FIPA in all stages of investment. According to the official data of the Central Bank of BH, the total investments from the Republic of Italy until December 31, 2017 amounted to 602.7 million BAM, and the share of investments from Italy was 4.5% in the overall state of the FDI in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most important Italian companies in Bosnia and Herzegovina are: Dubicotton Ltd Kozarska Dubica, Sportek Ltd Kotor Varos, RS Invest Plus Ltd Banja Luka, Olip-Bosna Ltd Travnik, etc. Total foreign direct investments from the Republic of Greece to BiH are estimated at less than 5 million BAM. One of the most important Greek companies in BiH is Alpro a.d. Vlasenica, which operates within the Alumil group from Greece. There are also companies Termometal Ltd Banja Luka, Maria Parket Ltd Srbac, Aktor Mostar, and others. It was additionally emphasized the importance of organizing business meetings between BiH and foreign businessmen in order to strengthen economic ties and investments, that activities of the newly appointed diplomats will be focused on.





### ROMANIAN BUSINESS DELEGATION TO FIPA

Director of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency Gordan Milinić spoke with a business delegation from Romania, led by President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Prahova Aurelian Gogulescu on the possibility for economic cooperation between the two countries, with a focus on foreign investments.

Mr Milinić met the Romanian delegation on the activities and responsibilities of the Agency, and generally on cooperation with foreign investors, the support it provides in the investment process, and after the investment has been completed.

At the meeting, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two institutions with the aim to connect entrepreneurs, establish partnerships, strengthen economic cooperation and increase investments.

Total amount of Romanian investments in BiH amount to 3.4 million BAM, and the most important Romanian companies in BiH are engaged in services, production and trade.

The Romanian delegation was represented by businessmen from the fields of metal industry, tourism, production of mining equipment, marketing services and printing, etc.

FIPA has been successfully cooperating with the Prahova Chamber of Commerce for several years now. In 2017, the Second Business Forum in Romania was held where the representative of FIPA, in the presence of Romanian businessmen, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Romania, had a presentation on investment opportunities for investing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result of that presentation, it was organized today's visit of the Romanian delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina.





## Newly appointed Ambassadors of BiH at preparations in FIPA

The Director of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of BiH (FIPA) Gordan Milinić received the newly-appointed ambassadors of BiH in Germany, Hungary and the OSCE Permanent Mission to the OSCE and the UN Office in Vienna Jadranka Winbow-Negodić, Biljana Gutić-Bjelica and Siniša Bencun for preparations for their work on the plan of attracting foreign investments in BiH. In addition to presenting the work of the Agency in the field of attracting investments and promoting BiH as an interesting site for foreign investors, Mr Milinić emphasized the importance of pro-active activities of the economic diplomacy to attract new investors and to promote the BiH economic opportunities and boosting exports. Talking about the work of FIPA on animation of the BH economic diplomacy in the past three years, he confirmed that this activity led to the organization of a number of economic events attended by numerous foreign investors, which resulted in the opening of companies in BiH and the employment of the local population.

It was further emphasized that much more joints efforts and work of the authorities should be invested in order to feel the effects of this kind of activity everywhere in the country. The Ambassadors were informed, among other things, about the current economic cooperation between BiH and the mentioned countries, with a focus on investments realized so far in our country and about announced investments.

They expressed their willingness to work among other things in order to establish contacts with chambers of commerce and other associations of economic character, as well as businessmen in the countries of reception in order to contribute to the strengthening of the BiH economy. FIPA will provide all necessary information in order to timely inform the foreign business community about investment opportunities, including all sectors of the economy that are promoted as attractive for foreign investments.





Within the participation of the FIPA delegation at the FOTEG International Fair in Istanbul, representatives of the FIPA, led by Director Gordan Milinić, and the Consul of BiH in Istanbul, Rabija Mašić, organized a meeting with Senem Cesmecioglu Erdogan, Director of International Relations at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

On that occasion, it was agreed to organize an event called Days of BiH in Istanbul, at which the attractive economic sectors, business environment and investment opportunities in BiH for more than 200 Istanbul companies will be presented at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. A special focus will be put on metal processing, the tourist sector and food production.

Ms Erdogan agrees that in addition to good friendly relations, Turkish businessmen do not have the opportunity to find out a more detailed realistic situation when it comes to profitability of business and business opportunities in BiH, and that during the organization of this event, the focus should be placed on competitive and comparative advantages for investing, tax system, infrastructure, investment sites, business operations, etc.

Istanbul Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest chambers of commerce in the world, with a registered membership of 450,000 companies.





# REPRESENTATIVES OF MUSIAD AT A MEETING IN FIPA

Considering the announcement of the IBF Annual Business Forum which is to be held in October 2019 in Sarajevo, in organization of the MUSIAD Economic Association of Turkey, the delegation of this Association, led by the Founder and President Erol Mehmet Yarar, visited the Foreign Investment promotion Agency of BiH (FIPA) in order to get more familiarized with the work and services provided by the Agency, the business and investment opportunities in BiH, and attractive sectors for Turkish investors. MUSIAD was founded in 1990, it represents 46,000 companies employing 1,600,000 workers, and has 11,000 members. Within MUSIAD, IBF-Annual Business Forum is being organized, which brings together 42 business organizations from 25 countries of the world. In October 2019, the forum will be held in Sarajevo and will gather around 1,000 investors into three main groups. These are Turkish investors, Arab investors from the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), and investors and members of MUSIAD from Europe. Mr Yarar pointed out that Turkish investors are interested in investing in the health sector, the production of medical equipment, agriculture with a focus on animal breeding and meat processing, management of tourist centres, and the energy sector. FIPA was invited to propos attractive sectors and projects for Turkish investors, and to link businessmen at the forum. Representatives of FIPA have introduced Turkish businessmen with competencies and services that the Agency provides to foreign investors, investment opportunities, currently available investment projects, and incentives and facilities for foreign investors.

It will also be actively engaged in providing all the necessary information on the listed sectors. FIPA welcomes every aspect of the gathering of businessmen, since it contributes to the establishment of new partnerships and the improvement of the image of the country, and in that sense will give full support and contribution to the organization of such event.





The delegation of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of BiH (FIPA) is participating at the International Food Technology Fair "FOTEG", which is being held in Istanbul from 7 to 10 March 2019 in order to negotiate with potential foreign investors on investment in BiH.

On the first day of the fair, the FIPA representatives negotiated an investment with the company "KROMEL", owned by Ismet Caliskan, and it was agreed a visit to BiH for further negotiations. Contacts were also established with several other companies, which will be connected with project owners in BiH. During the presentation of the BiH potentials, the advantages that BiH offers to foreign investors were highlighted, ranging from significantly lower operational taxes and favourable taxes, through available locations for renting and construction of processing plants, unprocessed land, export opportunities to the region and the EU, etc..

It was noted that the foreign business community should know more about opportunities in BiH, and that additional efforts should be made to promote the country's profitability for foreign capital and to improve the image of the country.

The fair, among other things, enables creating trade and investment partnerships.

FIPA had the opportunity to meet with a large number of Turkish, German and Italian companies in the field of food technology such as: technology of processing and production of food, packaging, logistics, food safety, etc.





# FIPA VISITED THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SREBRENICA

The representatives of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA), led by Director Gordan Milinić, visited the Municipality of Srebrenica in order to obtain information about investment opportunities in this area, with a focus on investment projects, business zones and facilities, as well as construction and agricultural land for which the Municipality is looking for foreign investors.

The Mayor of Srebrenica Mladen Grujičić pointed out that the Municipality allocates 70,000 BAM as incentives for small and medium enterprises and 30,000 BAM for craft activities.

The area of Srebrenica has significant opportunities for stronger tourism development in the region of eastern Bosnia, especially highlighting the healing sources of Banja Guber, which it is looking for a foreign investor, hunting ground of Sušica, the Drina river, the Lake Perućac and other sites that should be improved for a significant development of tourism. There are also potentials for the development of agriculture with the focus on the production of organic food that also need investors and the potential of the wood industry.

It was pointed out that with the healing sources of Banja Guber and the reconstruction of existing and construction of new tourist facilities, Srebrenica could once again become one of the more attractive tourist destinations in this part of BiH.

FIPA will further engage in the search for a foreign investor for Banja Guber, as well as for the promotion of other projects in Srebrenica through its project base, as well as through direct meetings with investors interested in investing in these sectors.

## FIPA BUSINESS NEWS

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FIPA IS CO-ORGANIZES INTERNATIONAL B2B MEETINGS MOSTAR 2019 WITHIN MOSTAR FAIR 2019













### FIPA IS CO-ORGANIZES INTERNATIONAL B2B MEETINGS MOSTAR 2019 WITHIN MOSTAR FAIR 2019

INTERA Technology Park Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) with co-organizers and partners and with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network, is organizing International B2B meetings on April 9th 2019, starting at 14:00 in the conference room no. 3, Pavilion No.1 of Mostar Fair.

Make it easy and quick to find new customers, suppliers, partners or just new business contacts from countries in the Western Balkans region or beyond (Italy, Hungary, Austria, Turkey, China, etc.). Learn how to access funds from the EU programmes "SME Instrument" and "COSME".

By quick signing up on B2B platform, create your own business / partner profile and ultimately book a meeting with companies of your interest. Participation in these B2B meetings is free of charge, and a confirmed registration is, at the same time, a ticket to the Mostar Fair. Learn more details and register now at:

http://mostar2019.talkb2b.net/





# SREBRENICA: A FACTORY WAS OPENED, 40 EMPLOYEES WERE EMPLOYED

MMS Fashion Company from Serbia opened a production facility for women's fashion program in Srebrenica. The plant is open in premises of the former company "Vezionica" that have been previously adapted.

The plant will employ about 40 workers.





# CALL FOR GRANTS TO INVESTORS OF THE BIH DIASPORA: MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT UP TO 50,000 BAM

The 4th public call for grants was opened as part of USAID's "Diaspora Invest" Project. This is a grant program that supports small and medium enterprises. The condition is that companies are not older than three years, and that they are partly or entirely owned by Bosnian-Herzegovinian diaspora investors, or have a proven, lasting business link through members of the BiH Diaspora.

The invitation is open from 26.02.2019 until 01.04.2019.

Application and details of call you can find at www.grant.diasporainvest.ba





The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will have its annual investment conference this year in Sarajevo from May 7 to 9, with a focus on linking the economies to a stronger growth of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is estimated that around 3,500 guests, out of which 2,000 high officials, governors and diplomats and 1,500 representatives of the business community will participate at the conference.

BiH will be given the opportunity to host one of the biggest events in the past 20 years, as it will be a meeting of the finance ministers, the central bank governors of 67 member states of this big financial institution, and there will be representatives of the European Commission, the EBRD's management and others. Within the summit, it will be held several connected events related to the EBRD's business activities, namely the governor's meeting, and the presentation of BiH as a separate event. Also, it will be a meeting of large world donors, and a session dedicated to the civil sector.

Considering that FIPA participates in the organization and coordination of activities on the preparation of the summit, on this occasion, it will present potentials of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on infrastructure and energy sectors, IT industry, tourism, auto and metal industry to potential investors.

Being the crossroads of many civilizations, Bosnia and Herzegovina is rich with archaeological remains, from the Neolithic, Roman, Illyrian and Medieval Periods.

The most specific and well known are the hand-carved tombstones (stećak) that date back over 700 years to the Middle Ages. These unique monuments of ancient native artistic tradition, which are scattered all around Bosnia and Herzegovina, have become almost a national symbol. In addition, there are numerous remains of Medieval towns and castles from same period.



Mostar Old Bridge, in the Old Town in the Very Centre of Mostar, was built in 1566, by the Ottoman architect, Mimar Hajrudin, who erected this stone bridge in what was then just a small Turkish outpost in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

THE BRIDGE SPANS THE EMERALD GREEN WATERS OF THE NERETVA RIVER AND CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "STARI MOST", OR OLD BRIDGE. THE OUTPOST GREW INTO A CITY AND WAS EVENTUALLY NAMED AFTER THE BRIDGE - MOSTAR, OR "KEEPER OF THE BRIDGE." TODAY, THIS BRIDGE IS INCLUDED IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST. (READ MORE ON: WWW.UNESCO.ORG)



Počitelj is a unique settlement, listed as a potential unesco heritage site. The Hadi-Alija Mosque has been reconstructed as well as the Šišman-Ibrahimpašina medresa and the Gavran Kapetanovi house, all of which are open to visitors.

THE MOST STRIKING OBJECT IN POČITELJ IS THE SAHAT-KULA, A SILO-SHAPED FORT THAT TOWERS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL ABOVE THE TOWN. IT HOUSED WATCHMEN AND MILITARY TO GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE INVASION FROM THE NERETVA VALLEY. BESIDES ITS STUNNING ORIENTAL ARCHITECTURE AND OTTOMAN FEEL, POITELJ HOSTS THE LONGEST OPERATING ART COLONY IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE.



National Park Hutovo Blato, an oasis of Peace, is situated in Southern Herzegovina and is a protected zone and important bird reserve.

THIS UNIQUE SUB-MEDITERRANEAN SWAMP OF SUPERB BEAUTY AND IMPORTANCE ACCOMMODATES BIRDWATCHERS, NATURE LOVERS AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ALIKE.

(READ MORE ON: WWW.BHTOURISM.BA)



Međugorje is located in the mountains near Mostar.

THE SMALL TOWN IS INCREDIBLY POPULAR WITH CATHOLIC PILGRIMS - MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS HAVE VISITED THE SITE SINCE 1981, WHEN A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE BEGAN REPORTING SEEING VISIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY ON A NEARBY HILLSIDE.

(READ MORE ON: WWW.MEDJUGORJE.HR)



Perućica in Sutjeska National Park, is one of only two remaining mediaeval forests in Europe.

It is often described as an ancient outdoor museum with a magical forest of beautiful 50-meter high spruce and beech, 200 to 300 year old, trees. The forest is a true gem in terms of wildlife and the large number of endemic plants.

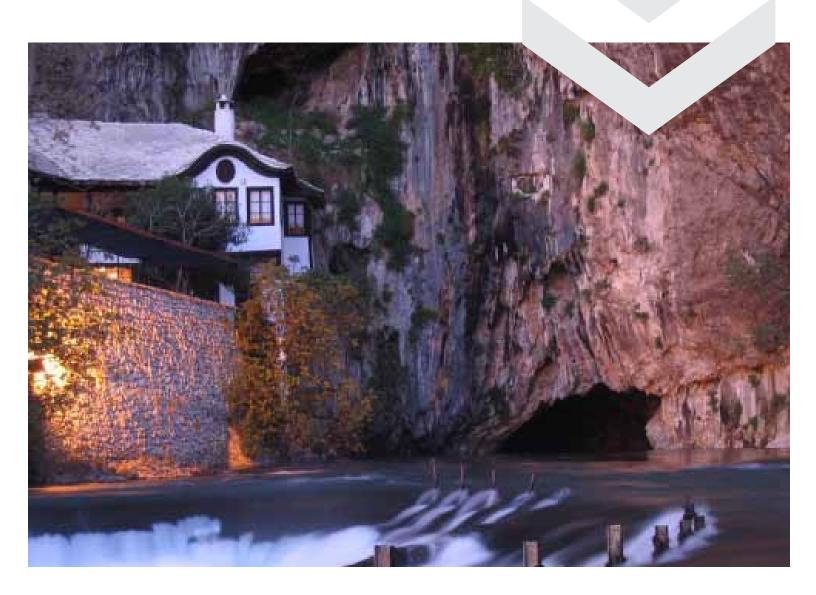
(READ MORE ON: WWW.GREENVISIONS.BA)



Blagaj Buna is one of the finest examples of an underground karst river. It flows out of a 200 m cliff wall to become the Buna River.

Unsurprisingly, the Ottoman sultan was impressed, and ordered a tekija to be built right next to it. This 16th century house/monastery was built for the Dervish cults and is still one of the most mystical places in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(READ MORE ON: WWW.BHTOURISM.BA)



Rakitnica River Canyon is one of the deepest and most profound gorges in Europe. It is a natural wonderland. The entire length of the canyon is lined with endemic types of flora and fauna. Bears, wolves, wild boar, pine martins, and wild goats all take refuge in this difficult to access canyon.

As many as 32 endemic plants, flowers, and trees can be found in this tiny region of the Dinaric Alps. The crystal clear water, fed by the high mountains above, is potable width=100% for the whole length of the canyon region.

(READ MORE ON: WWW.BHTOURISM.BA)



V JETRENICA CAVES, NEAR THE SMALL TOWN OF RAVNO AND THE MEDIEVAL ORTHODOX MONASTERY OF ZAVALA IS THE LARGEST CAVE SYSTEM DISCOVERED IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. THIS EXTENSIVE CAVE SYSTEM HAS OVER 6 KILOMETRES OF CHANNELS, AND THE STUNNING MAIN CHANNEL STRETCHES OVER 2.5 KILOMETRES.

Amongst the many archeological discoveries are the ancient cave drawings of bears and leopards that are estimated to be over 10,000 years old. The many small lakes in the caves are home to endemic types of shellfish only found in deep underground aquifer systems. (Read more on: www. bhtourism.ba)



Archaeological excavations began recently near Sarajevo in the Visoko Valley at what some believe to be a newly discovered pyramid complex, the first such monumental ancient structures found in Europe.

In 2005, Semir Osmanagić put forward his theory that a 100-meter geometrically-shaped hill with evenly shaped sides and corners that point north, south, east and west is an ancient man-made structure.

(READ MORE ON: WWW.PIRAMIDASUNCA.BA)





### ABOUT US:

#### FIPA MISSION:

FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY (FIPA) OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH) IS A STATE AGENCY ESTABLISHED WITH THE MISSION TO:

- -ATTRACT AND MAXIMIZE THE FLOW OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INTO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, AND ENCOURAGE EXISTING FOREIGN INVESTORS TO FURTHER EXPAND AND DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESSES IN BIH.
- -FACILITATE THE INTERACTION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AND HAVE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN POLICY AD-VOCACY IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- -Promote a positive image of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country that is attractive to foreign investors.

### FIPA SERVICES

CLUDING:

The Agency offers practical assistance in dealing with government institutions, by working directly with investors and, more structurally, by assisting the government in improving the legal framework for foreign investments. FIPA also assist investors to develop contacts with the public and private sector.

THE FACT-SHEETS WITH INVESTMENT-RELATED INDICATORS, MATCHMAKING AND SECTOR STUDIES, ELABORATED BY FIPA'S EXPERTS AND INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS, ENSURE THAT INVESTORS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT BIH PRESENTS. MOREOVER, FIPA WORKS ALONGSIDE THE EMBASSIES AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA THAT CAN ALSO HELP YOU EXPLORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COUNTRY. FIPA PROVIDES DATA, INFORMATION, ANALYSIS AND ADVICE ON THE BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT, IN-

- -THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT
- -INVESTMENT INCENTIVES
- -ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS TRENDS

FIPA IDENTIFIES AND PRESENTS AVAILABLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- -INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT-PHASE OR READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
- -COMPANIES IN THE PROCESS OF PRIVATISATION
- -LOCAL COMPANIES SEEKING FOREIGN PARTNERS

FIPA ASSISTS BOTH POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND THOSE THAT HAVE ALREADY INVESTED IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH:

- -EFFECTIVE NETWORKING WITH BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR
- -LINKING WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS TO FACILITATE INVESTMENT AND BUSI-NESS DEVELOPMENT
- -COOPERATION WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO PROMOTE AND ENHANCE THE IN-VESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FIPA'S SERVICES, WHICH ARE ALL FREE OF CHARGE, CONTACT US DIRECTLY.

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