



Brčko, December 20, 2024

## **The First Cross-border Startup Business Forum of the NESESER Project**

The First Cross-Border Startup Business Forum of the NESESER project was held on December 16 and 17, 2024 at the Youth Center of the Brčko District, which brought together top experts, entrepreneurs, representatives of the executive and legislative authorities, the civil sector, as well as businessmen and numerous citizens.

The Forum was opened by the Mayor of the Brčko District of BiH, Mr. Siniša Milić, who pointed out that this forum is an important step towards strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit with a special emphasis on empowering young people and women in the management of startup projects.

"This two-year project has opened the door to innovation and new business opportunities and strengthened cooperation between the Brčko District of BiH and Loznica. We in Brčko already have some experience in the field of self-employment projects and we have been doing this for many years in the field of economy and agriculture. I believe that these experiences from this Business Forum will help us to significantly improve our budget-funded program," said Milic.

Indira Lević Muharemović, NESESER Project Manager, said that, among other things, the aim of the organized forum was to collect impressions of the two-year work.

"As part of this project, there were 10 start-ups in Brčko and 10 in Loznica. This is the last and last activity of this project, but also the announcement of the continuation of the project, so in the next two years we will continue to socialize and help our entrepreneurs, startups", said Lević Muharemović.

Nenad Jevtović, director of the Institute for the Development of Innovations emphasized that through this project, two business and business incubators were formed.

"This forum comes as a consequence and as the end of this project, where knowledge will be further exchanged and new long-term plans will be made for cooperation between Brčko and Loznica, but also for wider cooperation. For the first time, young people in Loznica have been given the opportunity to have an institution, a place and support where they gather and where they can exchange experiences and knowledge with their partners," said Jevtović.

The NESESER (Newly established Start-up Enterprise SERvices) project is co-financed by the European Union under the Financial Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

The project is co-funded by the European Union



through the Serbia-BiH Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (2014-2020), and implemented by the Development and Guarantee Fund of the Brčko District of BiH (RGFBD), in partnership with the City of Loznica and the Institute for Development and Innovation from Belgrade. An agreement on co-financing by the European Union was signed with the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia - Sector for Contracting and Financing of Programs from EU Funds. The aim of the project is to improve the entrepreneurial environment for startups led by young people and women, with an emphasis on self-employment and cross-border cooperation. The project contributes to economic growth and employment in the Brčko District of BiH and Loznica by strengthening the entrepreneurial skills of vulnerable groups.



16.12.2024. Mayor of Brčko District Siniša Milić at the opening of the First Cross-Border Startup Business Forum of the NESSEER Project



16.12.2024. Indira Lević Muharemović, NESESER Project Manager



16.12.2024. The First Cross-Border Startup Business Forum of the NESESER Project, Brčko District of BiH

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