

---

# Entrepreneurship in Kragujevac!

Last Updated Wednesday, 08 July 2009

As part of the European SME week, a two-day international conference on entrepreneurship took place on 7&8 May in Kragujevac, Serbia.

This conference "EU Accession - Possibilities for Small Medium-sized Enterprise Development in South East Europe", focusing on the importance of EU integration for the SME sector as well as on economic growth, was a great success.

The conference "EU Accession - Possibilities for SME Development in South East Europe", organised by Business Start-Up Center Kragujevac and SPARK together with local partners, was one of the events that took place during the Kragujevac European Entrepreneurial City Event on account of the first European SME Week festivities. Aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, the SME Week is initiated by the European Commission and is being held throughout Europe between 6-14 May.

During the conference, issues related to EU accession, SME development and the economic crisis were addressed, thereby emphasizing the importance of EU accession for the sustainability of SMEs. EU-accession will contribute to the improvement of financial and non-financial assistance and will support the development of the business environment. Because of the recent financial and economic crisis, particular attention should be given to the sector of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises since these businesses depend on bank credit and have limited possibilities to alternative sources.

The Serbian government through the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development reported on the conference. Radio-television Kragujevac (RTK) also communicated the success of the conference on their site.

## Agenda

This is the detailed agenda. Read below some of the speeches and presentations that were given during the conference:

- Introductory speech- Michel Richter - Co-Director of SPARK
- Introductory speech - Igor Brkanovi - Deputy Minister for Economy and Regional Development, Serbia
  
- Carl James, Enterprise and Innovation Policy - "EU Innovation Policy & SMEs"
- Gligor Stojkov, Director of FaSTO Group - "Assessment of the Framework Conditions for Business as a basis for Development of SME Competitiveness"
- Onno Roukens, CBI Expert - "CBI: A Springboard into Europe"
- Prof. Dr. Zoran Jeremic, Former Director of the Belgrade Stock Exchange - "Causes and Effects of the Financial

---

## Market Crises"

- Nermin Begovic, M. Sc., Cluster Business Development Manager - "Entrepreneurial Initiatives"

More information on the Kragujevac European Entrepreneurial City Event is available at [www.smeweekkg.org](http://www.smeweekkg.org).