



CAPABILITY STATEMENT –BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE KRAGUJEVAC

Summary:

Business Development Centre Kragujevac (BD Centre) is a non-profit organization established in 2010th, by the team of dedicated professionals – experts in local economic development, with one main purpose: to contribute to local economic development of Serbia and its EU integration processes, through promotion of youth entrepreneurship, creating conditions for entrepreneurship development, improving employability chances of youth and other vulnerable groups (women, migrants, Roma, people with disabilities), participation in employment policy making processes and monitoring of policies implementation. BD Centre is situated in Kragujevac and operates mostly in Central Serbia, but also within the Serbia and the region.

BD Centre core team was created during implementation of four year regional project “Southeast European Business Start-up Network Project (SEBSN)”, implemented by the Dutch non-governmental organization SPARK, and financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The overall goal of the project was local economic development, through entrepreneurship development and jobs creation. After the project completion, in 2010th local project team decided to found local association of citizens SPARK Business Start-Up Centre, renamed in Business Development Centre Kragujevac in 2014th.

Today, Business Development Center Kragujevac became a respected organization with distinctive expertise in the field of youth employment and entrepreneurship development, development of human capital in Serbia and competitiveness of human resources, i.e. the economy in the environment.

Capability and expertise:

- Youth employment and entrepreneurship development and promotion
- Non-formal education and training in the areas of business and entrepreneurial skills;
- Provision of consultancy services for the preparation and implementation of project proposals, monitoring and evaluation, start-up and business development, human resources development, development of SMEs;
- Development and implementation of mechanisms for financial support to start-up businesses;
- Strengthening the capacity and networking local stakeholders – civil, public and business sectors through training, consulting, support the preparation and implementation of projects.
- Influencing local and national policy through advocacy projects and facilitation of dialog at local level.

Organizational Resources:

The core of the organization is made of experienced, professional, dedicated and reliable team of 4 employees (3 masters in economics and 1 psychologist). Resources also include network of experienced local and regional experts in various fields, as well as occasional project field officers.

Past performance:

BD centre has developed and implemented over 20 projects so far, mostly in the field of employment and entrepreneurship of youth and other vulnerable groups. By implementing these projects and provision of technical and financial support, BD Centre directly contributed to employment of over 250 people and starting over 60 businesses.

Key donors and clients: EU Delegation to Serbia, The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade, USAID, OSCE Mission to Serbia, Solidar Swiss, Serbian Office for cooperation with Civil Society, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sports, SDC Suisse Cooperation Agency, Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction of Serbian Government.

Partnership and cooperation:

BD Center has been cooperating with different stakeholders from Serbia and abroad, and from different sectors – public, private, civic. Some of our partners and associates are: local government units: Kragujevac, Svilajnac, Topola, Knjic, Gornji Milanovac, Kraljevo, Cacak; Faculty of Engineering Sciences from Kragujevac University, ICT Cluster of Central Serbia; Regional agency for economic development of Raski and Moravicki district; NGOs: SPARK Netherlands, Sunce, Group 484, IDC, Business Innovation Programs, Center of Employers` Initiative Kosovo, Business Service Center Strpce Kosovo; companies: Sunce Marinkovic Kragujevac, Mobilis llc Belgrade, Balance Consulting Kragujevac, ICT Cluster of Central Serbia.