

4th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development



H.E. Dr. Gjorgje Ivanov
President of the Republic of Macedonia

Dear participants,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you in the Macedonian and Balkan pearl, our spiritual and cultural centre, the city of Ohrid.

I am pleased that the regional initiative started in 2008 in Macedonia as an International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development continuously confirms its international character. The success of this venture is further affirmed by this 4th Conference which offers an excellent opportunity to participants from more than 30 countries to share best practices and experiences, to gain insight in the cutting-edge knowledge and to learn the latest achievements.

At a time when the world still recovers from the global economic and financial crises, it is more than obvious that the only manner in which we can successfully overcome the crisis and create sustainable economy based on free market, competitiveness and quality, is to encourage the successful work of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are the driver of economic development of every prosperous country.

The promotion of innovations and the dedication to entrepreneurship are the prerequisites for creation, development and promotion of the SME sector. Hence, I believe that the business environment encourages the exchange of knowledge and experience and is essential for the success of every national economy, while opening the doors to regional collaboration and development.

The 4th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development represents a platform for such exchange and triggers the synergy among the scientists, the policy-makers and the business practitioners, on national and regional levels. It also encourages innovation as one of the most profitable investments. These efforts surely contribute to the fulfilment of the vision of Innovation Europe and symbolize the dedication of the Republic of Macedonia to the European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

Therefore, I wish the participants of this important international conference successful work and fruitful cooperation.

Dr. Gjorge Ivanov