

European Investors Council Monthly Newsletter



The November 2022 edition of the European Investors' Council Newsletter you will be able to read an exclusive interview with Her Excellency Danijela Barišić, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of Kosovo, on economic ties between our two states. Moreover, throughout this edition, you can read news about EIC activities, events and meetings related to the promotion of foreign direct investments in Kosovo, and the improving of the business environment in the country. News about our members' achievements, social responsibility and awareness campaigns can also be found throughout this edition, along with other important and relevant news of the month.



EIC participates in the Western Balkans Investment Conference

The CEO of the European Investors Council, Mr. Emrush Ujkani, participated in the Western Balkans Investment Conference, as a panelist for the discussion - FDI in the Western Balkans 6.

In this panel, Mr.Ujkani shared his views on further promoting the rule-of-law principle in the Western Balkans Region, and its importance in increasing the region's attractiveness for FDIs.

Moreover, Mr.Ujkani also shed light upon the positive experiences of foregin investors in Kosovo.

This Conference was jointly organized by the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum (WB6 CIF) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with the aim of gathering European investors from the region and beyond, to present opportunities and benefits of investing in the region.

EIC Members meet representatives of EU Member State Missions in Kosovo, UK, Swiss and Norway

On November 10th, the European Investors Council organized the second meeting for this year with EU Member State missions in Kosovo, UK, Swiss and Norway. The discussion throughout this meeting focused on strengthening the cooperation and working together to address any issues that investors coming from these countries are facing in Kosovo.

EIC members, together with the Acting Director of Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency (KIESA), Mr.Zef Dedaj, also brainstormed on ways to unlock the Foreign Direct Investments potential in Kosovo in the future.



EIC discusses Kosovo private sector and economic development with representatives of DG NEAR, ECFIN and EMPL

The European Investors Council, along with other private sector representatives, held online meetings with representatives of the European Union's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN), and Directorate-General for Employment (DG EMPL).



These departments are currently on a mission to evaluate the Program of Economic Reforms 2023-2025, therefore, throughout this meeting the private sector was consulted on economic, private sector and trade issues.

EIC meets representatives of the French Embassy's WB Regional Economic Office

The Chief Executive Officer of the European Investors Council, Mr. Emrush Ujkani, met with representatives of the French Embassy's Western Balkans Regional Economic Office, Mr. Pierre Grandjouan, Head of the Western Balkans Regional Economic Office for France, and Ms. Céline Héricher, deputy Head of the Western Balkans Regional Economic Office for France.



Throughout this meeting, Mr. Ujkani highlighted the opportunities for investment in Kosovo, while at the same time thanking the French Embassy for the great cooperation with EIC. Earlier this year, the European Investors Council signed a memorandum of understanding with the French embassy, aimed at promoting economic cooperation between the two countries, contributing to trade, investment, and economic expansion between France and Kosovo.



EIC participates in World Bank's consultation meeting for its new Country Partnership Framework 2023-2027

The World Bank Group has launched the preparation process for its new Country Partnership Framework for Kosovo for the period FY 2023-2027. In this context, the European Investors Council participated in the process of consultations on the key challenges and opportunities for Kosovo's development and the role the WBG could play to support Kosovo's goals. Along with other private sector representatives, in this meeting the EIC shared inputs and feedback about Kosovo's development constraints and priorities.

EIC participates in the Slovak Industry Vision Day

On November 24, the Chief Executive Officer of the European Investors Council, Mr. Emrush Ujkani, participated in the Slovak Industry Vision Day. This event allowed us to learn more about innovative ideas and exchange knowledge with specialists and discuss technologies of the Slovak business community.



Interview with Her Excellency Ms. Danijela Barišić, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of Kosovo

1. The Western Balkans region overall is proving to be attractive for investors and economic actors. From your current perspective as Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of Kosovo, do you find that Kosovo is a place of interest for Croatian investments in the near future?

Kosovo is already a place of interest for Croatian companies because more than 100 Croatian companies have been present here and some of them for a long time. According to statistical data published by the Croatian Statistic Agency we can see a continuous increase in trade exchange for the last several years. For example, in 2021 Croatian export to Kosovo was 113 million Euros and import 6,5 million Euros. Also, Croatian exports increased in the period from January to August this year in comparison to the same period 2021 for 22%. The direct investments from Croatia to Kosovo were in the areas of recycling, research and development, wholesale trade and food and beverage production. The key precondition for long-term interest in doing business in any country is the predictability of the business environment which includes the rule of law. So, based on statistical figures and meetings with representatives of Croatian companies we can conclude that in general, the business climate in Kosovo is favorable. At the same time, there are some challenges that we are trying to resolve in communication with relevant Kosovo authorities. We mainly deal with situations related to the implementation of the rule of law i.e. when the companies depend on somebody's goodwill to do business so let me be very direct the rule of law means that we are all equal in front of the law.

2. Do you believe there is potential to diversify and increase the commercial exchanges between Kosovo and Croatia? If yes, which sectors of the economy are of greater interest for Croatian businesses?

We are interested in expanding our economic cooperation and we see numerous possibilities in sectors like energy, construction, telecommunications, and information technology, as well as tourism. Also, opportunities exist in the field of construction of railway infrastructure, railway vehicles and maintenance, and production of equipment - in which Croatian companies have significant international experience.

3. Can you reflect on your time as an Ambassador in Kosovo, and think of what areas would you like to see progressing in our country?

The Republic of Kosovo is a young state and more importantly, a country with more than 65% population younger than 35 years of age which is a huge advantage, especially having in mind that Europe is demographically aging. Also, young Kosovars should be the main initiators of the development of Kosovo and the government should build strong, resilient, and transparent state institutions that protect the rights of its citizens and enable economic development and prosperity for society in general. Precondition is again the strong rule of law.

4. The world is currently suffering a crisis on top of another crisis. First, with the pandemic, and now, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These have put the global economy into a significant slowdown. Has this impacted Croatia's business confidence and plans for investment abroad?

We didn't have time to recover after two pandemic years and Russian aggression on Ukraine started and after the slowdown of the economy now we're suffering rising energy and food costs which will affect every segment of business and life. But despite these obstacles, Croatian GDP growth this year is 6% while in 2021 it was 10%. We will join the eurozone on January 01, 2023 which will strengthen our resilience and bring long-term economic benefits. As for business confidence and plans for investment abroad, according to statistical data, Croatian exports in the first nine months of this year increased by 34% compared to the same period in 2021.

5. What is your opinion on the work of the European Investors Council, and the business community in the country?

I want to thank the leadership of the EIC for excellent and fruitful cooperation. It is great to have a knowledgeable and experienced organization such as EIC for a partner.

6. What is your message for EIC readers, and would you like to add something that was not addressed in the questions above?

I am sure that, on behalf of all readers, I can say congratulations for your work and we look forward to our future cooperation.



Her Excellency Ms. Danijela Barišić,
Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of Kosovo



Pristina International Airport - Adem Jashari goes orange for #16DaysOfActivism!

UN Women Kosovo kicked off their partnership with Prishtina International Airport, where as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” awareness raising activities will target passengers, specifically diaspora community.

Addressing the participants and the passengers, Albulena Haxhiu, Minister of Justice, stressed the importance of reporting domestic and gender-based violence, and committed to continue her work in protecting women and girls in Kosovo.

Also speaking were Vlora Tuzi Nushi Head of UN Women Kosovo Office and Gökmen Aritay, Head of Operations at the Pristina International Airport, who highlighted the means and the role of different mechanisms to fight violence against women and girls through multiform interventions by mobilizing networks, communities, including the engagement of men and boys as actors of change.

German Ambassador Rohde and Minister of Economy Visited the Solar Park ProEnergy

Ms. Eriola Bibolli, General Director, and Mr. Visar Paçarada, Management Board Member of the ProCredit Bank hosted a visit of the German Ambassador Mr. Joern Rohde, of Ms. Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy, and Ms. Nora Hasani from the Kosovo-German Chamber of Commerce. This visit was organized at the solar park 3MW, which is currently at the last construction stage. It is located in Grackë e Vjetër village.

Through ProEnergy LLC (PP), this solar park is a German investment by ProCredit Holding, mother company of the ProCredit Bank, thus demonstrating it is oriented towards the sustainable economic development in the country and its commitment to reduce CO2, and to assist in the fight against global warming.

ProEnergy aims to apply for the “Gold Standard ” certification for the project, thus quantifying the clean and green energy quantity that will be generated into the Kosovo grid. The expected reduction of the emissions from this solar park will amount to around 3,700 tCO2/annually. ProCredit Holding shall use the avoided CO2 emissions from this project to offset the CO2 emissions because of daily banking operations of the group’s banks. By reducing the CO2 emissions, the project shall contribute towards the United Nations sustainable Development Goals SDG 13 (Climate Actions), whereas the generation of 3,943MWh/annually of clean energy shall contribute to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy.)



UBT is an EFQM Global Award 2022 Winner

EIC Member, University for Business and Technology, is a EFQM Global Award 2022 Winner. UBT is a leading contributor to the growth, and strategic development of Kosovo and the region. Growing Organization which for a relatively short time has established 24 Faculties, 6 Campuses in Kosovo and three offices in Europe, 9 Institutes, 15 Centers of Expertise and 6 Offices for Research, Quality Management, Career Development, International Relations etc. and over 100 Labs. Certificated and International Recognition from

the most prestigious organization for achieving Standards and Quality Management. In World Ranking for Universities ranked alongside prestigious world universities. The employability of 95% of UBT students and over 1000 excellent academic and administrative staff. Working in a developing country, the impact and dynamics of changes in the external factors of the business environment have been the most challenging things in UBT's activities so far.

EFQM GLOBAL AWARD 2022 WINNERS OVERVIEW



VAMED-KMB
EFQM Global Award 2022 Winner
7 Diamonds



Road and Transport Authority - Dubai
EFQM Global Award 2022 Runner-up and 7 Diamonds
Outstanding Achievement for Strategic Vision



City of Glasgow College
EFQM Global Award 2022 7 Diamonds
Outstanding Achievement for Driving Innovation



Metsä Fibre Oy
EFQM Global Award 2022 7 Diamonds
Outstanding Achievement for Future Focus



Bosch Security Systems S.A.
EFQM Global Award 2022 6 Diamonds
Outstanding Achievement for an Inspirational Leadership Culture



Huawei Supply Chain Global Headquarters
EFQM Global Award 2022 6 Diamonds
Outstanding Achievement for Customer Centricity



Gimnasio Colombo Británico Bilingüe Internacional
EFQM Global Award 2022 6 Diamonds



Bosch Rexroth Italia
EFQM Global Award 2022 5 Diamonds
Outstanding Achievement for Organisational Culture



University for Business and Technology
EFQM Global Award 2022 5 Diamonds

Western Balkans Investment Conference 2022 was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum (WBCIF) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) gathered European investors from Austria, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, WB investment promotion agencies, ministries responsible for investment policy and promotion, regional organizations and international financial institutions to present opportunities and benefits of investing in the region at the Western Balkans 6 Investment Conference, in Ljubljana on November 22nd 2022.



The conference disseminated information on the investment framework, presenting opportunities and advantages of doing business in the Western Balkans, showcased examples of successful investments to the region and supported networking. Furthermore, the conference presented the comparative advantage of the Western Balkans region compared to other investment destinations in light of new global developments and nearshoring of supply chains.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Begins

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign by UN Women that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The campaign was started by activists at the inauguration of the Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General launched in 2008 the campaign UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women, which runs parallel to the 16 Days of Activism. Every year, the UNiTE Campaign focuses on a specific theme. This year's theme is "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls" and invites everyone to play their role in ending violence against women and girls, show support and solidarity to women's rights activists and to resist the rollback on women's rights.

The EIC joins UN Women's kick off of #16DaysofActivism as a call to action to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. Ending violence against women is everyone's business.

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