

Dnevnik

Date: 21.10.2012, 18:47

The Global Investment Forum in Ohrid is completed

New fund will invest 15 million euros in 14 domestic companies



With a minimum of half a million dollars per investor, the Macedonian Diaspora set up a fund for investment in the country, called SEAF Macedonia 1. According to announcements by the participants of the Global Investment Forum in Ohrid, it is expected the fund will initially have \$ 15 million, of which 80 percent has already been received. As stated by the fund's president and CEO of SEAF Hubertus Jan van der Vaart, it will initially support 10 to 14 companies in the field of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, education and training.

The initiative for the establishment of this fund comes from the non-governmental non-profit organization "Macedonia 2025", which establishes the platform for business cooperation between the country and the Diaspora. The non-profit organization, which is the organizer of the investment summit in Ohrid, comprises businessmen and CEOs of Macedonian descent who emigrated and succeeded in Australia, Canada, Europe and the U.S..

Besides capital investment, the members will offer Macedonian entrepreneurs mentoring and access to markets. According to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of "Macedonia 2025", Mike Zafirovski, this is the first fund in which the diaspora is a catalyst and a leading investor with an emphasis on the country and region.

- With great pleasure we will cooperate with SEAF to create a successful fund, which will pave the way for new funds. The Board of Directors is delighted with the idea to help the SEAF in the development of successful businesses in Macedonia to provide access to a global network of business acquaintances said Zafirovski.

The Fund SEAF Macedonia 1 is established according to the principle of the first Macedonian investment fund SEAF Macedonia, which supported more domestic firms fifteen years ago.

- SEAF believes Macedonian entrepreneurs are among the best in the world. We are thrilled with the idea to support the new group of businesses with "Macedonia 2025" and to promote economic growth and development in one of the most beautiful countries in the world - said the president and co-founder of SEAF, Hubertus Jan van der Vaart.

Robert Arsov, vice president of "Macedonia 2025", says he sees plenty of Macedonians who can invest in the fund. According to him, the summit in Ohrid is just the first step and provides an exchange of ideas and knowledge, and therefore should not be held only once a year.

- The involvement of diaspora requires this to be an annual event. However, I'm sure we'll have at least one, and Macedonia will become the best place to attract investment. There is a chance to improve coordination between the "Macedonia 2025" and the ministers in charge of attracting foreign investment - says Arsov.

He says there has never been a better time to invest in Macedonia, for entrepreneurs to come, to work whatever they like.

Director General of Skopje "Alkaloid," Zhivko Mukaetov, as a member of "Macedonia 2025", pointed out that to grow the Macedonian economy, you need everyone to work together.

The motto of the investment forum, which was attended by 350 businessmen, was "New possibilities: Through business - the diaspora towards increased trade, investment and economic growth." Among the participants at the summit were Robert Arsov, director of the U.S. branch of "Credit Suisse", Dr. Srdjan Kerim, President of the Board of Directors of MPM and President 62. The United Nations General Assembly Slavica White, CEO of PEK International in the UK, Andy Pejkov founder of "Niagara Bottling," Robert Vurts, USAID Mission Director, Antonio Petrov, a professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Mitre Kutanoski, president and director of the "Mitre Group" Emil Hristov founder of EMSA Solar, USA, and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Zoran Stavreski and Economy Minister Valon Saracini. (G.R.)