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VE CER ON LINE MACEDONIA 2025

Expatriates wish to invest in IT, outsourcing, tourism and agriculture

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Presented today at the Forum of businessmen from the diaspora, was research conducted by the organisation “Macedonia 2025”, showing that IT and outsourcing, tourism, agriculture and high technology, are areas in which expatriates from the diaspora living abroad are willing to invest in Macedonia.



The survey results state that the labor market is in need of further development and investment in education, and that the existing workforce is capable of quickly learning the needs of the available jobs.

Administrative services depend on the competence of individuals and the state should introduce training programs for their training according to the standards and the needs of investors, proposes "Macedonia 2025". They also stated that it was improper promotion of Macedonia, as a country with cheap labor. Investors say, they are looking for a skilled and educated labor force and the country should be profiled as a destination with professional staff, not the cheapest.

The forum, organized by "Macedonia 2025" and the Immigration Agency, was attended by over 130 guests, of which the majority live in the Diaspora and returned to Macedonia to



start a business or to continue cooperation.

Businessman Hasan Mazlum, who comes from the Debar region, and has returned to Macedonia from Italy, as per the statement of "Macedonia 2025", called on promoters in the Diaspora to promote investment opportunities in rural areas. - There, large investments are not coming and people in the diaspora are emotionally tied to their place of origin. In Macedonia, it is necessary to introduce trade schools in order for investments to function. It is unrealistic that everyone works as a manager, cited Mazlum.

Mitko Bojkovski, returnee from Australia, invested in a company that produces industrial fabrics and knitwear. He asked for the relevant institutions to improve infrastructure in smaller towns, where there are businessmen who themselves work on attracting investment from abroad and the diaspora.

According to the CEO of "Macedonia 2025", Biljana Markovic Stamenova, it is necessary to introduce a strategy at the highest institutional level on record, for attracting and servicing investors from the diaspora.

"Without such a strategy, the state loses great potential to increase investments that would come from expatriates. The strategy should include SMEs from the diaspora which can contribute to knowledge transfer, access to new markets and produce innovative products from Macedonia, cited Stamenova.

The Minister for Foreign Investments Jerry Naumof, stated in his promotion of the government, that there is an active focus on the diaspora who want to start micro, small or medium-sized enterprises in Macedonia, which primarily work with smart technologies and value-added products.

Foreign Minister Nikola Popovski, meanwhile, said the joint effort of all institutions and of "Macedonia 2025" are working to create the conditions for investors.

"I am glad that Macedonia 2025 is committed in this direction. From our side we are looking to complement and enliven the young Macedonian population abroad, by offering related programs and summer camps, but this year for the first time, opportunities for internships by Macedonian students in foreign universities, which are a part of our diaspora or living abroad, so that practical part of their training can be done in Macedonia," said Popovski.

Deputy Minister of Information Society Timcho Mucinski presented a map of E-Macedonia to the forum attendees, on the reduction of administrative barriers, reform laws important for the administration to improve the conditions for investors. In Macedonia, he pointed out, long ago began the development of e-government solutions, and the benefits for businesses, simplification of communication with authorities in the process of exercising their rights and obligations, is only more reason to demand that those that are not, are also digitized.

Macedonia, emphasized Mucinski, showed that there is a strategic commitment to address the needs of the business sector, allowing services to be gained fully electronically, from any point in the world.

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