

## **SMEInnoBoost**

### **NSI - partner in an international project for enhancing the innovation capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises**

The National Statistical Institute is a partner in the [SME Innovation Capacity Boost \(SMEInnoBoost\) project](#)<sup>1</sup> implemented within the framework of the transnational program 'Balkans - Mediterranean 2014 – 2020' (Interreg - Balkan-Mediterranean 2014 - 2020) and is aimed at enhancing the innovation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

The project started on 1.08.2017 and has a duration of 24 months.

The objective of the project is to boost the transnational innovation capacity of SMEs and to support the creation of sustainable networking formations, including innovation clusters with other SMEs in the Balkan-Mediterranean region, in order to share know how and develop innovation through the creation of tripartite partnerships to provide SMEs with relevant data, tools and systems.

Partners of the project are the statistical offices of Bulgaria, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the National Association of Small and Medium Businesses, the Science and Technology Park of Crete at the Foundation for Research and Technology - Greece, the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies at BAS, Foundation for small and medium-sized enterprises - Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Regional Development Agency of the Korce, Albania; monitoring partners - the Software Engineering and Internet Technologies Laboratory at the University of Cyprus and the Innovation and Technological Development Fund of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Leading partner is the National Association of Small and Medium Business in Bulgaria.

The [first meeting of the project partners](#) took place on 3rd October 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria. At the meeting, the working rules and main project activities were presented and discussed. Members of the project management team represented the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria.

Within the framework of the project from 30.01. - 02.02.2018 the National Statistical Institute hosted [an international seminar for the development of a questionnaire](#) and methodology for conducting a statistical survey on the innovation activity of small and medium-sized enterprises in Albania, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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<sup>1</sup> Information on the project and its activities, available on the Interreg "Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020" transnational cooperation programme, is available only in English.