

7th Annual Conference on Support for Small and Medium Enterprises "SME NEXT – From (Un)Learned Lessons to Crisis as an Opportunity"

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the results and (un)learned lessons regarding policies and support instruments for the sustainable development of SMEs, as identified through the project "Advanced Implementation of the Small Business Act in BiH2EU – SBA in BiH2EU". - Cross-analyze perspectives on the new challenges SMEs face amid the global political and economic crisis and explore whether, and how, the crisis can be leveraged as an opportunity for the transformation of SMEs and the economy in BiH.
Organizers	Eda - Enterprise Development Agency, in cooperation with the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH
Support	Embassy of Sweden in BiH, through the project "Advanced Implementation of the Small Business Act in BiH2EU - SBA in BiH2EU"
Date & Time	April 14, 2025, from 12:00 to 15:30
Venue	Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH (Branislava Đurđeva 10, Sarajevo)
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small and medium enterprises in BiH - Government departments and agencies (at all levels) responsible for creating and implementing SME policies and support instruments - Business associations (chambers of commerce, employers' associations, etc.) and other support institutions (development agencies, institutes, centers, etc.) - Projects, implementation agencies, and donors providing support for SME development

Conference Program Structure

- Opening Remarks (Embassy of Sweden in BiH, Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH)
- Introduction: Brief overview of the conference focus
- **Block 1 – Learned (and Unlearned) Lessons: SME Policies and Support Instruments**
Participants: Representatives from ministries, SMEs, chambers of commerce, development agencies, and experts
 - Brief introductory presentation
 - Panel 1: Strategic and operational planning and harmonization of SME policies – what has improved, and what remains a challenge
 - Panel 2: Support instruments for implementation and monitoring & evaluation systems – what effects are being achieved, how, and why
- **Block 2 – Crisis as an Opportunity for SME and Economic Transformation**
Participants: Mozaik Foundation, SERDA, and Eda
 - Brief introductory presentation
 - Panel 3: From competitive vulnerability to systemic competitiveness of SMEs in BiH – what are the key challenges, and how to address them
- Short plenary discussion and conclusions
- Informal networking over refreshments