

FUTURE EU SUPPORT TO THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY PARK BELGRADE

Science Technology Park (STP) Belgrade is at the moment the largest public functioning platform supporting the innovation sector and facilitating the cooperation between all relevant stakeholders. The innovative ecosystem built around the STP currently holds the highest concentration of technological and innovation based companies in Serbia.

STP Belgrade was developed based on the model and results of the Business Incubator of Technical Faculties (BITF) at the University of Belgrade. The BITF supported the establishment and development of more than 40 high tech companies with more than 250 employed engineers, during the 6-years period in limited space conditions at the campus of technical faculties. These companies received many innovation awards and some of them were also ranked as some of the fastest growing companies in Central and South Eastern Europe. Based on these results and proved innovation potential, Science Technology Park Belgrade was established in the partnership of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, City of Belgrade and University of Belgrade with the vision to create the environment for accelerated innovation development and commercialization of research, by offering infrastructure and business support services to member companies. Currently, STP Belgrade provides support to nearly 60 innovative companies (start-ups and SMEs) that employ more than 400 highly educated employees, while BITF runs the start-up programmes.

Its establishment and development was supported by the Secretariat for Economic Affairs of the Swiss Government (SECO). Apart from BITF, Science Technology Park hosts as well the Innovation Fund that manages financial instruments designed to provide funding to innovative companies. STP Belgrade is primarily intended for innovative high-tech development companies in the following areas: information and communication technology, biomedicine, new materials and nanotechnology, environment protection and climate changes, energy and energy efficiency, agriculture and food.

The results achieved by now, show that there is a great need for the type of support offered by STP Belgrade and BITF aimed to accelerate innovation development and commercialization. Therefore, STP Belgrade will be dedicated to improve its business support programmes based on the company's needs and to develop further its function of managing the flow between institutions, science and business with the aim of becoming the sustainable business support mechanism influencing the innovation ecosystem development.

The EU assistance of € 1.5 million will be provided to the STP Belgrade to upgrade the set of standardized business support services and to create tailor made services, with the purpose of supporting companies in each phase of their development – from identification of business idea and start-up to growth and internationalisation. The aim is also to modernise the organisation of research and innovation and to stimulate cooperation between industry and academia as well as to increase the level of investment in research. Project should start in 2019.