

SLOVAK BUSINESS AGENCY

For more than 20 years the Slovak Business Agency (SBA) has been **supporting development and growth of Slovak SMEs** to improve their competitiveness. The organization is a unique platform of the public and private sector initiated by the European Union and the Slovak Government. The Agency has also contributed to the **establishment and capacity building of partner organizations and incubators** in various Slovak regions which are used for SMEs.

SBA implements specific **ERDF funded national projects** and programmes for the support of SMEs – the National Business Centre (serving as a one-stop-shop, including the **accelerator, incubator** and **growth** programme) and the **internationalisation support** programme, which increase skills and competence of potential, new and established entrepreneurs. Within these SBA disposes with a pool of experts, mentors, contacts and agreements with various stakeholders that deal with the SME issues.

Thanks to the ongoing **SBA microloans program and the venture capital**, even very small businesses can afford access to favourable finances.

SBA identifies and **analyses barriers of the business development**, prepares proposals for their elimination including **drafts of legal regulations**, prepares **proposals for the state politics and strategies** and via the Ministry of Economy of the SR, as a patron of SMEs, submits them to the government.

Combining data with being an SME envoy, with power delegated by the Ministry of Economy, SBA is responsible for establishing a close, direct link between the European Commission, SMEs and their representatives.

Ever since its establishment in 1993, SBA has been implementing and managing **many successful international projects** in various topics such as support of

- **start-ups, innovative SMEs and clusters** (TwinEntrepreneurs, CluStrat, Innofun, MAPPEER, CERlecon),
- **women entrepreneurship** (Guard4FEMent, Women Ambassadors, CROSSEUWBA),
- **circular economy and eco-driven SMEs** (EKOprofit Bratislava, MOVECO),
- support of **vocational and informal learning** (EUTM, PA4T, SMEELEARN, SAGA4VET) and others.

Through realisation of these projects SBA acquired experience in various EU programmes including HORIZON 2020, Erasmus+, COSME, EASME, Interreg (Europe, Central Europe, Danube Transnational Programme, SK-AT, HU-SK) and others. Some of the projects in which SBA participated and participates as a partner or coordinator in the last 3 years are attached in the enclosed document SBA Project references.

For more information: Slovak Business Agency <http://www.sbagency.sk/en/slovak-business-agency>