



EU Industry Week, Sofia: High Time for Hi-Tech

20 February 2018, Sofia

Venue: EC Representation, 124 Rakovski Str., 1000, Sofia

<https://events.castra.org>

https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-industry-day/eu-industry-week-2018_en

OBJECTIVES

After the successful experience of the first EU Industry Day¹ in 2017, the EC is launching a second 'European Industry Day' on 22-23 February 2018. To accompany the event, CASTRA and key Bulgarian institutions are organising a local event hosted by the EC Representation in Sofia. It takes place as part of 'Industry Week' on 20 February 2018 and is also in line with the priority of competitiveness within the Programme of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January – June 2018). Stakeholders from the hi-tech sector of industry, research and innovation in Bulgaria and the region are invited to participate in the event.

The cooperation among industry, academia and NGO sectors is identified as a key prerequisite for innovation leading to growth and jobs. In terms of sectors, the event focuses mainly on two of the priority themes within the Smart Specialization Strategy 2014-2020 of Bulgaria, oriented towards the hi-tech industry segments - "ICT" and "Mechatronics and CleanTech". The event aims to cover:

- EU funding and the Smart Specialization;
- Cooperation among Actors in the Sphere of Innovation and Technological Development;
- Role of Clusters and Tech Parks;
- Launch of the national debate on the future EU Agenda on Industrial Modernization;
- Project ideas, cooperation and networking opportunities.

CONTENT

Panel 1: Smart Specialization, Innovation and Role of Clusters

The panel investigates the potential contribution of place-based approaches for promoting growth and competitiveness:

- clusters and cluster policies;
- specialized service centres;
- smart specialization strategy (from “needs” to “niches”).

All the three different types of policies – clusters, specialized-service centres and smart specialization have a local dimension, aiming at exploiting advantages of proximity. Bulgaria has experience in supporting clusters in general, but the country is just starting to re-think its policy on

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/european-industry-day-0_en

Attendance: Free of charge. PLEASE REGISTER (to ensure entrance in the EU building): by creating an account at: <https://events.castra.org> - > ACCOUNT



innovation, to specialize in “smart” priority areas and to modernize and digitalize its economy and industry.

Panel 2: Preconditions for Industry Modernization

The panel explores the importance of different factors for industry modernization and aims to launch the national debate on the new EU Industrial Policy Strategy, which includes among others:

- sustainable finance to better orient private capital flows to more sustainable investments;
- common European data space;
- initiatives to modernize the Intellectual Property Framework;
- extension of the Skills Agenda to new key industry sectors;
- initiatives for a balanced and progressive trade policy and a European framework for foreign direct investments.

AGENDA

Sli.do event code #R749

10.00-11.00 Registration and Networking

Web-stream from Brussels, Charlemagne, Opening Ceremony, Circular Economy Conference

11.00-11.30 Welcome addresses

Marina Kirova, EC representation in Bulgaria
Stamen Yanev, Invest Bulgaria Agency

11.30-13.30 Panel 1: Smart Specialization, Innovation and Role of Clusters and Centers

Moderator: Angelina Todorova, MA Oxon, MIC, CASTRA

- Lyubomir Stanislavov, Automotive Cluster Bulgaria
 - Dimitar Varganov, representative of Cluster Mechatronics and Automation (CMA)
 - Jordan Penkov, Defence Industry Club
 - Nikolay Tomov, Bulgarian Modeling and Simulations Association (BULSIM)
 - Vesselin Vassilev, CASTRA
 - Vassil Vassilev, Copernicus Relay Center – Bulgaria
- Open Discussion

13.30-14.00 Lunch Break and Networking

14.00-15.00 Panel 2: Preconditions for Industry Modernization

Moderator: Vesselin Vassilev, PhD, CASTRA

- Desislava Kovatcheva, Angel Investor Club
 - Daniel Lorér, BrightCap Ventures
 - Elitsa Panayotova, Sofia Tech Park, Executive Director 2012- 2016
 - Emil Yankov, Business Development at Trakia Economic Zone
 - Dimitar Varganov, Business Development at Rommtech-3S Ltd.
- Open Discussion

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