EU4Business

CITIZENS' SUMMARY 2021

BELARUS

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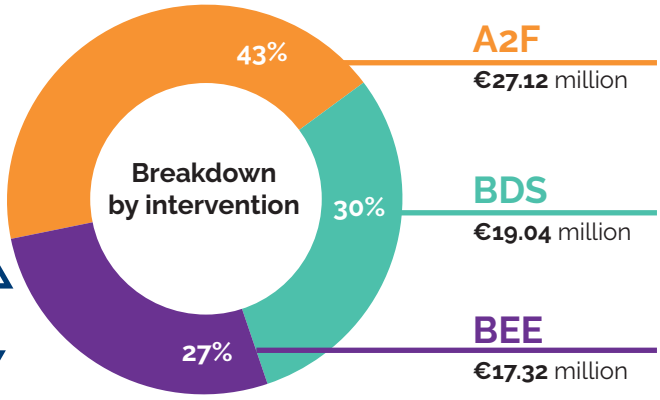
EU4Business

HELPING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES GROW

EU4Business is an umbrella initiative of the European Union covering all EU support to SMEs in the 6 Eastern Partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

PORTFOLIO*

19
Projects



Total Budget of EU support
€63.48 million

RESULTS IN FIGURES**

1,427 SMEs supported

36.7% women-owned

2,863 new jobs created

+5.6% increase in staff among EU-supported SMEs

+11% growth in SMEs' turnover recorded

+4.16% EU-supported SMEs engaged in exporting

+13.12% increase in exports among EU-supported SMEs

€68.7 million
extra income generated

* total budget of active projects in 2021

** data for 2021

WHAT SUPPORT DOES THE EU PROVIDE TO SMES?

Access to Finance (A2F):

- concessionary loans via national banks
- micro financing for household businesses
- small grants to SMEs
- training staff at national banks to better serve SMEs
- training SMEs in financial literacy

Business Development Services (BDS):

- providing direct advice and training to SMEs
- training and capacity-building among national business support organisations (BSOs)
- establishing business incubators for start-ups
- developing business clusters for mutual support and development
- supporting governments in identifying new markets
- building capacities at export support organisations

Business Enabling Environment (BEE):

- promoting regulatory reform and best practice
- building capacity amongst policy makers and regulators
- encouraging public-private dialogue
- informing business about reform processes and rules/procedures

RESULTS PER PILLAR

A2F

28 SMEs received loans

28.21% to women-owned SMEs

€5.27 million total value of loans

€188,295 average loan

1 partner financial institutions working with EU4Business

BDS

138 business support organisations improved their capacity

1,087 consultancy services delivered to SMEs

36.89% women-owned

BEE

12 laws, policies, regulations and procedures reformed

11 public-private dialogue events held

SUCCESS STORIES

Premium brands sew clothes in Belarus: "Knitwear is pure magic!"

Bonadi – a knitwear factory in Belarus set up in 2014 – has partnered with luxury clothing brands through the EU4Business "Ready to Trade" project. The company worked with a consultant from the Netherlands who audited everything what might be improved. In 2021, Bonadi became an exhibitor at Première Vision. The project also helped the factory with offline and online consultations in various areas. As a result, Bonadi has increased production by 10-15%, and online sales in 2021 alone increased by 45%.

Read full story

Digital waste management: A win-win solution for Belarus

The ZeroWaste initiative under the EU4Business project implemented by UNDP is bringing to life the idea of installing sensors on trash containers. A "smart" sensor can track the level of utilisation of each container while an application optimizes the movement of garbage trucks, saving taxpayers a considerable amount.

Read full story

EU4Business helps Belarus farmers cope with climate change

Nadezhda Abashina is the owner of one of the first private farms in Belarus. Her Nadezhnoe Farm became a partner of the Berry Land Cluster Initiative and received help from the EU4Business project implemented by UNDP. She acquired a rotary tiller, a drip irrigation system, a trimmer and berry seedlings. Thanks to the project, Nadezhda says she understood that they had to give up uncompetitive vegetables and switch to berries due to the increase in the average temperatures.

Read full story

Youth in Belarus: Changing the world, bit by bit

In addition to her family vegetable farming business in Homiel Region, Yulia Molochko works actively with the local Eco-Innovation Fund for the support of entrepreneurship and rural development facilitated by UNDP under the EU4Business Initiative. Yulia is helping residents of Brahin County to grow grains, to engage in dairy farming, and cheese-making on a level that will generate income and allow them to live a decent life. She also coordinates efforts to establish an internet shop in which county residents will be able to sell and buy fresh produce: corn, tomatoes, cheese, milk, honey, and much more.

Read full story

Handicapped sisters beat Covid sewing ecobags

The Centre for Agro-Eco-Entrepreneurship launched by UNDP and the Ministry of Economy of Belarus with the EU4Business support, which opened its doors in Biaroza, proposed that Lyudmila and Svetlana Golovko begin creative work at home: making souvenirs. To support the start-up, the sisters were provided with high-tech sewing and embroidery machines. Today, the sisters produce creative eco-friendly shopping bags in natural cotton and linen with stylish embroidery.

Read full story

Belarus is moving to online business services with EU help

Currently only 6% of all administrative procedures related to doing business in Belarus can be carried out online. To complete the remaining 94%, Belarusian firms have to physically visit various government agencies. Not only does this mean additional expenses, it also increases the burden on healthcare services during the pandemic. The EU4Business project implemented by the International Finance Corporation is helping Belarus convert the majority of these procedures into electronic format.

Read full story

Find out more: WWW.EU4BUSINESS.BY