



Technopark Serbia (Phase 2)

Boosting exports through technoparks

The Technopark Serbia project aims at increasing the competitiveness of the Serbian high-tech industry by developing a scalable model for Science Technology Parks (STPs) in Serbia and implementing it in Niš and Čačak, contributing to increased revenues and exports from high-tech companies and job creation.

Rationale

The government of Serbia has embarked on a new path to foster the economic growth of Serbia by increasing its support to technology development, innovation and entrepreneurship. The government has adopted policy changes with this perspective and invested heavily in innovation infrastructure, including the construction of Science and Technology Parks (STPs) throughout Serbia. SECO has accompanied Serbia in this transition to an innovation-based economy since 2011 by supporting Serbia in the promotion of exports of innovative products and in the establishment of the STP Belgrade.

As the first functional STP in Serbia, the STP Belgrade has demonstrated the success of an ecosystem, linking science and research to commercial growth and export. Through its support programmes for young entrepreneurs, the STP Belgrade has been widely recognised for creating an enabling environment for innovation, technological development and competitiveness. This new project builds on previous results and strengthens the STP Belgrade's capacities to develop further its start-up support services and to transfer its knowledge and expertise to other STPs to encourage their regional development. This project also seeks to address one of the recurring challenges for innovators in Serbia: the lack of pre-seed money to support them up to the development of their first prototype.

Objectives and activities

The project will contribute to the following outcomes:

- Pre-seed support program of STP Belgrade improved by integrating intellectual property (IP)-related issues and developing a pre-seed funding scheme;
- Capacities of STPs in Niš and Čačak strengthened and business model adapted to local conditions developed to support start-ups in their early stage of development;
- Culture of entrepreneurship in Serbia enhanced to encourage more young people and especially women to pursue a career as entrepreneur.

SECO country/region

Serbia

Main funding partners

Switzerland (SECO)

Implementing partners

Science and
Technology Park
Belgrade

Swiss Federal Institute
of Intellectual Property
(IPI)

Duration

2019-2025

Total budget

CHF 6,250,000

SECO contribution

CHF 4,250,000

Local contribution

CHF 2,000,000



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY PARK
Belgrade



IGE | IPI

Under the project, STP Belgrade has bundled its pre-seed support to start-ups into a new program called Raising Starts. The program includes intensive business development training, mentoring, and financial support of up to 20'000 CHF to cover costs for prototyping, business model development, market research, first customer testing, intellectual property protection, and other costs related to developing new products or services. The program is expected to support up to 100 companies coming from Belgrade, Niš and Čačak.

Specific IP-related support is included in the project to strengthen the capacity of science and technology parks and the Intellectual Property Office of Serbia (IPO) to raise awareness among start-ups on IP-related issues that are essential for the commercialisation of their innovation.

The creation of new employment opportunities in export-oriented businesses throughout Serbia will help to prevent brain-drain from regions to Belgrade and from Serbia to other countries as well as encourage the Serbian diaspora to invest in its country.

Governance Structure

STP Belgrade is responsible for the overall implementation of the project, including planning and monitoring of the activities under the project. STP Belgrade is supported in its tasks by a technical backstopper and works with a wide network of experts to deliver pre-seed support to start-ups. The Swiss Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) is responsible for IP-related support delivered under the framework of the Global Program on Intellectual Property Rights. A Steering Committee including representatives of the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, SECO, the STPs of Belgrade, Niš and Čačak, the cities of Niš and Čačak, the IPI, the IPO and the technical backstopper meets once a year to review the progress of the project and provide strategic guidance.

Previous results

This project builds on the results achieved with the previous project: "Science and Technology Park Belgrade - the new export instrument of Serbia" (2015-2019). Under that project, STP Belgrade was established as a limited liability company in a partnership between the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the City of Belgrade and the University of Belgrade. The project built STP Belgrade's capacities to provide support and export-oriented services to high-tech companies, in particular at their initial stage of development.

So far, the Technopark Serbia 2 project has supported 250 teams/startups/scale-ups within which 114 are newly created companies. Revenues of all supported companies in three STPs – Belgrade, Niš and Čačak for two years of Technopark Serbia 2 implementation amounted to 29.83 million, 55% or 16.4 million coming from export, while supported companies additionally created 350 jobs.

Further information and contact details

STP Belgrade website: <https://ntpark.rs/en/>

STP Belgrade contact: office@ntpark.rs

SECO contact: info.wehu.cooperation@seco.admin.ch

IPI website: <https://www.ige.ch/en/law-and-policy/development-cooperation.html>

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