



### **"B Light" Opening Conference: over 7 million euros for Croatian and Hungarian entrepreneurs**

Croatian agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO) held the Opening conference for the „B Light“ Grant Scheme for Hungarian and Croatian entrepreneurs in the border area **on 26 June 2017** at the Pannonian Competence Centre for Wood in Virovitica, Croatia.

Boris Guina, Deputy of the Board of Directors from HAMAG-BICRO, opened the Conference saying: "The Agency has many years of experience in implementing international co-operation programs and projects in the field of innovative entrepreneurship. The „B Light“ Grant Scheme is a new project within which HAMAG-BICRO acts as a leading partner. The aim of this Scheme is to improve the co-operation of small and medium entrepreneurs in the Hungary-Croatia border area and to invest over 7 million euros in companies developing a common technology, service or product. "

Hungarian Prime Minister's Office Representative Nikoletta Horvath and representatives of the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and Funds of the European Union, Margaret Aničić and the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts Paulina Tomašković also addressed the participants of the Conference.

Afterwards, Lead project manager Renato Vrebac from HAMAG-BICRO presented the "B Light" Grant Scheme, saying: "This is the first time that entrepreneurs from the Hungary-Croatia border area are direct beneficiaries of the project. The project is also different because it has a high degree of co-financing of 75%, almost all economic sectors are eligible and high approval rate is expected. Depending on the amount asked, there should be about 80 approved projects. "

At the afternoon part of the conference, there were workshops for entrepreneurs where they were informed on how to find a partner and how to apply for the „B Light“ Grant Scheme and also Business-to-business (B2B) matchmakings for Croatian and Hungarian entrepreneurs.



„B Light“ Grant Scheme is a project for financing the cooperation of SMEs in the Hungary-Croatia border area within the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Cooperation Program 2014-2020. The total value of non-refundable subsidies for entrepreneurs is over 7 million euros. The project is being implemented by the HAMAG-BICRO as the Lead Beneficiary and seven regional development agencies from the Hungary-Croatia border area.

As part of the project HAMAG-BICRO also launched the 1st Call for Light Concepts on the **9th of June** 2017 and it's going to be open until **15th of September** 2017. Total amount of **2,550,000 euros** will be allocated from the European regional development fund. You can find more information about the Call for Light Concepts on the official “B Light” web platform: <http://bit.ly/2s5FWQi>.