## HAMAG-BICRO held a second "B Light" Conference

3. May 2018. – Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO) held a second Conference for the "B Light" Grant Scheme for entrepreneurs with regard to launching the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Light Concepts.

The Deputy President of the Board of Directors of HAMAG-BICRO, Boris Guina, delivered an opening address, along with senior Hungarian and Croatian representatives, by saying:

"The goal of this project is to strengthen the cooperation of small and medium sized enterprises in the Hungary-Croatia border area. It is a unique project because this is the first time that the entrepreneurs are getting direct funding from the Interreg programme. The total amount available for the projects is 7.6 million euros from the European Regional Development Fund. I would like to congratulate all of those that passed in the 1<sup>st</sup> round which has been more successful than expected. Right now, the 2<sup>nd</sup> round is open until 18 June, so I would like to take the opportunity and invite all entrepreneurs to make the most of today's conference for networking with potential border partners."

In the opening part of the Conference, Adrian Savanyu from the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary said: "It is very important for us that we were able to get the EU funding for small and medium sized entrepreneurs. These programmes contributed greatly in their development. There was great interest in the  $1^{st}$  round and I very much hope that the candidates will be successful in the  $2^{nd}$  round, as well."

After the opening part, there was an overview of the B Light project and a presentation on how to prepare an appealing project proposal. There were "Business-to-business" (B2B) meetings at the afternoon part of the conference.

2nd Call for Light Concepts for cooperating SMEs of Hungary and Croatia is open from 17 April until 18 June 2018. In the 2nd round a total of EUR 3,050,000 ERDF co-financing will be allocated to Light Projects that will be selected through a two-step procedure: approved projects in the current Call for Light Concept shall enter the stage of Light Project Proposal.

For a detailed description of the Call for Light Concepts, including eligible area, eligibility and submission rules, furthermore information on the selection process, please consult the <u>Guidelines for Applicants</u>. At the <u>official website</u> of the "B Light" project you can find/download all relevant project documents.

"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 project is being implemented by the HAMAG-BICRO as the Lead Beneficiary and seven regional development agencies from the Hungary-Croatia border area.