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Second international Spinoff & Technology Transfer Conference 2023

European Commissioner Iliana Ivanova and Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov opened the international conference "Spinoff Bulgaria" 2023 for the first time on the Bulgarian stage!

Key representatives of the European Union, international experts and the local ecosystem entered into a dialogue about the innovative future of Europe.

The second edition of the international conference "Spinoff Bulgaria" was held on September 28-29 in Sofia. Among the topics of the event were European and national policies, funding and commercialization opportunities, patents and copyright acquisition, international good practices, project work and scientific infrastructure.

The conference was attended by the Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov, the Minister of Education and Science Galin Tsokov, the Bulgarian European Commissioner for Innovation, Scientific Research, Culture, Education and Youth Iliana Ivanova, as well as the Deputy Ministers of Education and Science Prof. Genka Petrova, of electronic management Valentin Mundrov and of innovation and growth Prof. Georgi Angelov.

"I welcome the idea of Spinoff Bulgaria to support 100 Spinoff enterprises to be created and developed and I hope that Spinoff Bulgaria will serve as an inspiration for more such initiatives. We need to increase our investment in cutting-edge, green and digital technologies and implement a truly strategically coordinated approach to support Europe's innovators". This was stated at the opening by the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Iliana Ivanova. She noted that spin-off enterprises serve as key links for knowledge exchange, expertise expansion and technology



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exchange, facilitating the transfer of scientific research and innovation from academia to practical applications in the business world. In this way, it helps to attract the interest of private investors.

"We are trying to mobilize and create the right incentives so that there is even greater support for those who do the best work and manage to show that science is not just about curiosity and articles in prestigious journals, it is also useful for the economy and society", commented Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov.

"It is crucial that the first public event of the new Bulgarian European Commissioner Iliana Ivanova in Bulgaria is related to the Horizon Europe program. The program is the financial instrument that makes it possible to implement innovations in their full circle - from the idea to the implementation by the business." This was commented by the Minister of Education and Science Prof. Galin Tsokov. "The "Horizon Europe" program provides an opportunity for collaboration between science, business, educational institutions, so that new technologies and scientific research are leading in the policy of the European Union", notes Minister Tsokov. And he adds that in recent years, Bulgaria has also contributed to the development of the program, and in the last two years alone, 80 million euros have been attracted for various projects and programs related to Horizon Europe, and Bulgarian scientists, researchers and business partners have participated in 214 Horizon Europe projects.

Within the framework of the conference, examples of various technological developments and achievements in the field of artificial intelligence, medicine, biotechnology, cyber security and microelectronics were presented.

The best Spin-offs of the year were also awarded, as companies dealing with epigenetics, telemetry, discovery of new medicinal molecules, and artificial intelligence weighed in. The awardees were broadcast in two main categories: "Best Bulgarian Spinoff", with the prize going to Epix.AI, Kelvin Health, Hemokin Pharmaceuticals, Barin Sports, BullCharge and MatriChem. Digistain and Feasyfy were awarded in the "Best European Spinoff with Bulgarian participation" category.



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"Spin-offs are the basis of economic growth, have high added value and generate high-tech innovations. They create new jobs, unlock private capital and stimulate research and development and the adoption of innovations" - commented Kristina Eskenazi, chairperson of the Biotechnology and Health Cluster, which is among the main organizers of the event.

"Our main goal is to provide awareness for the topic of technology transfer and as an ecosystem to create 100 Spin-off companies by 2030, originating from science, universities or existing corporations." added Kaloyan Ratchev, who is a co-organiser of the Spinoff initiative.

The main focus of the forum on the second day was the EU's Horizon Europe program in the field of scientific research and innovation for the period 2021-2027, with a budget of 95.5 billion euros.

The official live guests included the Directors of the European Health and Digitization Executive Agency (HaDEA) - Ms Marina Zanci, Angelo Marino and Kathleen Engelbosch, as well as Frederico Mena (Director of EIT Digital), Daniel Abu (Director of the European AI Forum), Sabine Demy (director of the artificial intelligence department at IMEC), and many more representatives of the scientific community and successful business.

The "Spinoff Bulgaria" initiative was created by Biotechnology and Health Cluster Bulgaria, Cluster Artificial Intelligence Bulgaria, Venrize, Isteb, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, HaDEA, Horizon Europe, Invest Sofia, and with the support of the Fund of Funds, Technical University Sofia, Vangavis, CyberCLUB, KRIB, Plovdiv Medical University and many others.

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