

**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)
OF BUSINESS WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF MONTENEGRO (BWA)**

From: January 2019

To: January 2022

January 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Business Women Association of Montenegro (BWA) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Ljubica Kostic-Bukarica, president

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
<p>BWA is one of the institutions developing Strategy for Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Montenegro 2021-2024 and implementing annually Action Plans.</p> <p>The four strategic priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CREATING A BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP - BETTER access TO FINANCE - provide A KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS - PROMOTION, NETWORKING AND PROTECTION OF THE INTEREST OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP 	<p>During 2020-2021</p>

BWA promotes the concept of corporate social responsibility among its members. we are members of the network for corporate social responsibility.	2010-2022
“Strengthening the competitiveness of women's businesses through direct support” Project supported by the “Norway for You - Montenegro” implemented during 2020. The objective is to enhance professionalization of production and sales through developing and providing preconditions for increasing revenues and strengthening competitiveness for 3 women entrepreneurs and 8 cluster members and providing direct support for 11 beneficiaries and business owners by procuring the services they need.	2020
Project “Fostering female entrepreneurship through trainings and mentorship” supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights in the Government of Montenegro to be implemented during 2019. The Project objective is to increase number of women entrepreneurs and self-employment of women through their education and mentoring at the local and national level. It is also envisaged constructive dialogue with local institutions with the aim to improve business and institutional environment for entrepreneurial development. 120 women from 6 Montenegrin municipalities.	2019
Partner in the cross-border project “Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and	2017-2021

<p>Montenegro – Stronger Together” within CBC INTERREG HR-BA-ME 2014-2020 Program. The project addresses identified challenges by education programs with advisory services to SMEs engaging into a cross-border cluster with dedicated e-platform. The awareness will be raised through communication activities and all 5 partners from 3 counties will work together with joint development, implementation, financing and staffing principle to maximize impact of the project throughout 3 countries. Project started in October 2017.</p>	
<p>In 2016 BWA signed a cooperation agreement with Bureau for economic cooperation and support to the business community in the Municipality of Podgorica. One of the activities is a Business counseling for women and youth. And it is free for beneficiaries. A Counseling lead our association once a week, young people and women can get advice on the topic of founding, running a company, finance, marketing, public relations, ICT. Counseling takes place in the form of one-on-one. Business advices provides our members, business owners. For over a year through counseling is passed through 100 women and young people. Our support for beginners in business is truly unselfish and very useful to them. This is our modest contribution to the community in which we live and work. Especially for women and young people because they are the most sensitive categories in terms of entering a business. The Counseling is a good example of cooperation between the</p>	<p>September 2016 to date</p>

business community and local government.	
<p>Continuous cooperation with Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNDP Office in Montenegro in order to establish the principles, policy measures and activities in respect of human rights and freedoms, with particular emphasis on issues of minorities and other minority groups, protection of members of socially vulnerable groups and the development of equal opportunities for men and women, and women empowerment.</p>	2010-2022
<p>Project Balkan Women Coalition vol. II - Social Start-Up Booster for Supporting Female entrepreneurship in Balkans is implementing in a period November 11, 2020 to October 31, 2022 through the ERASMUS +, II Call Program. Project aims to close the continuous entrepreneurial skills gap and lack of knowledge about social entrepreneurship among women, through an innovative approach that brings together women, social entrepreneurship and angel investment in a unique program that will increase the number of successful social enterprises across Europe, improve gender equality and raise awareness of the importance of self-employment initiatives that focus on the support of social, cultural, or environmental issues. Through the development and piloting of the Pitching and E-learning Platform the project partners will build a socially engaged community by equipping it with an innovative and community-driven approach to attract funding and realize socially important project and initiatives.</p>	From November 2021 to October 2022

The project will develop a network of experts that will facilitate, build and ensure the sustainability of the project tools and results. Project partners are women business association from North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, led by the Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

About BWA:

Business Women Association of Montenegro „Busines Woman“ is NGO, founded in 2009, with the support of Montenegrin Employers' Federation (MEF) and German Tehnical Cooperation (GTZ), by 12 female owners, directors and managers of Montenegrin companies and MEF. “Business woman“ objective is provide networking of business women at local, national, regional and international level, towards development of personal business, presenting development opportunities and needs, exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience, as well as realization of common projects. In this way, its intention is to help future position of women in society, business and management, and to whole Montenegrin economy. Business Women Association of Montenegro „Busines Woman“ is a member of MEF, Association of Organizations of Mediterranean Businesswomen – AFAEMME (since 2010) and UN Global Compact (since 2011), and participates in membership of UN Global Compact Network in Montenegro (since 2010).

The main goal of **Business Women Association of Montenegro** is affirmation of business women, strengthening women's business, entrepreneurship and leadership, linking business women on local, regional and international level (with similar networks in the region, Europe and worldwide), expansion of the business culture and ethics.