

10/18/2012 Events

## On 16 October 2012, in Chisinau took place the International Conference of SME entitled "SME - Moldova 2020", the most important event of the year for the SME sector, organized by the Ministry of Economy and Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM).

In opening the conference, welcoming speeches were made by Mr. Valeriu LAZAR, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, His Excellency Mr. Dirk SCHUEBEL, EU Ambassador in Moldova, Her Excellency Ms. Ingrid TERSMAN, Ambassador of Sweden in Moldova, and Mr. Abdoulaye SECK, World Bank Country Manager for Moldova.

The International Conference of SME "SME - Moldova 2020" was held in the "European Week of SMEs". The event was attended by about 250 representatives of business environment, central and local public authorities, state, private and non-governmental organizations and other institutions active in supporting SMEs.

SMEs in Moldova have a huge impact of development and an important role in changing the economic growth model. This was ascertained by the participants in the Conference.

The State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI) took part in the works of the Conference, including in the mentioned Exhibition with an information stand, offering advice and promotional materials in the IP field. AGEPI stand has enjoyed great success, being distributed over 120 sets of materials. At the same time, economic agents participating in the Conference were familiar with the services offered to SMEs in the country, the main emphasis being placed on prediagnosis service that enables the evaluation, improvement and increase of the intellectual property potential by which benefits or can benefit the enterprise, development and diversification of activity areas and identification of enterprise's internal competences for practical application of a modern intellectual property policy.

Also, following the discussions with the representatives of business environment in the territory, contacts were established to organize information and training seminars in the IP field and provide prediagnosis services.

The Conference culminated in the official ceremony of awarding the winners of competitions: "The Best Entrepreneur in the SME Sector", "SME - Model of Social Responsibility".

Currently, in the Republic of Moldova activate 45,000 small and medium enterprises. SMEs account for 97 percent of enterprises in the country and provide jobs for 57 percent of the total of employees per economy. At the same time, SMEs contribute to the formation of 28% of GDP.

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