

TARGET GROUPS

- ▶ **OVER 600 SMES' REPRESENTATIVES FROM MONTANA -VIDIN- DOLJ CROSS BORDER REGION** - 300 from Bulgaria and 300 from Romania

The basis for economic development is represented by SMEs' development level.

The SMEs in the cross- border regions Montana and Vidin are about 6 000 until Dolj county with 10 600 SMEs. Even if it appears that Dolj county is most developed, the SMEs density per capita is in favor of the Bulgarian district: 18 SMEs/1000 inhabitants in Montana, 20 in Vidin compared to 16 in Dolj. These numbers prove that SMEs sector is evolving in both districts, supporting local economies, as the GDP/capita (euro) proves: 1,557.1 in Montana, 1 622 in Vidin and 1 755,2 in Dolj (year 2003). Despite the low rate GDP, SMEs in the North-West region account for 99.7 of enterprises in the region. This region remains permanently unattractive for SMEs. On the other hand, in 2006, this region accounts for the highest share of persons employed by SMEs in total employment in the region. The region becomes increasingly unattractive for SMEs as well as for large enterprises – it features only 3.7 of large enterprises with only 2.8 per cent of all persons employed by large enterprises. Relative SME productivity in the North-West region is the lowest against the average value total for SMEs and continues downward (from 62 to 53 per cent between 2001 and 2006). The relative productivity of these SMEs against the average value for the region also deteriorates (from 87 to 78 per cent). *This data is from Annual report for SMEs 2007.*

- ▶ **PEOPLE FROM THE CROSS BORDER REGIONS OF MONTANA -VIDIN- DOLJ**

As a result of the improving business environment and increasing foreign investments in the border region, the population will benefit from more jobs and higher wages.