

A PARTNERSHIP **with visible results**

Success stories of the support for
local businesses in Krumovgrad Municipality

2026



ASSOCIATION

**"Fund for Support and
Promotion of Micro, Small and
Medium-Sized Enterprises in
Krumovgrad Municipality"**

FOUNDERS:

**KRUMOVGRAD
MUNICIPALITY**



Krumovgrad SME Support Fund



Concept, goals and purpose

For 22 years we've shown extensive social commitment to the regions where we operate.

As a company, DPM Krumovgrad has been consistently implementing a policy focused on environmental care and protection, local employment opportunities and community development, so that these regions can become increasingly thriving and prosperous.

We would like them to remain so in the years after our minesites have been decommissioned. Because we care.



THE CONCEPT

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund was set up to put into action our care for the local community. Our experience shows that local economies need to be supported to become self-sufficient and independent and continue thriving once our company ceases operations in a region and relocates to another. Following our community investment policy, in 2015 DPM Krumovgrad signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Krumovgrad to join efforts and cooperate in providing long-term benefits to local residents.

This cooperation covers economic and social development, support for SMEs, health care and education.

THE FUND

In a spirit of partnership and cooperation, in 2019 DPM Krumovgrad set up the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund Association, with clear and long-term objectives, namely:

- Ensure the sustainable development of the Krumovgrad municipality by supporting local micro, small and medium enterprises, including newly established ones.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and support local SME capacity-building;
- Enhance the competitiveness of local business enterprises and the qualification of their workforce by creating new jobs;
- Design and implement new projects for regional infrastructure upgrade and development (independently or in partnership)

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS



We set up an innovative social fund and carefully structured a support mechanism for local business entities to ensure maximum benefits for all stakeholders. We know from experience that money received entirely for free does not motivate the businesses to do their best in pursuing their goals. Hence, financial assistance from the Fund is as follows - 10% co-funding by the beneficiary, 35% - loan and 55% project grant.

The maximum funding a project can receive from the Fund is the BGN equivalent of 200 000 Euros, while the total amount to be disbursed by the Fund throughout the entire life of mine period is \$5 000 000 provided as grant by DPM Krumovgrad and a matching \$5 000 000 loan facility provided by partner United Bulgarian Bank.

THE PARTNERS

We entered into two key partnerships to guarantee maximum Fund efficiency: with United Bulgarian Bank (former KBC) that provides 50% of funding as preferential bank loans and with Smart A Group that provides full project technical support – from application through implementation.

Smart A Group consults applicants how to prepare their project proposals and performs eligibility compliance checks. Upon project approval, the consultant also monitors implementation and offers assistance so that all contractual obligations are met. United Bulgarian Bank reviews submitted project proposals and conducts financial assessments that review applicants' creditworthiness and projects' preliminary financial indicators. The Bank then issues a preliminary quotation.



THE STRUCTURE

The Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund Association is a non-profit legal entity that operates for public benefit. In Bulgaria, the Fund is one of its kind in terms of organizational structure, strategic goals and financial support terms. DPM Krumovgrad and the Municipality of Krumovgrad are founders and members of the Association's General Meeting. There are 5 people on the Managing Board and at present they are:

- **Mr. Krasen Atanasov Kiskinov**, Chair of the Board;
- **Mr. Ivan Todorov Ivanov**, Board member;
- **Mr. Vesselin Georgiev Kolov**, Board member;
- **Mr. Metin Bayramali Sali**, Board member;
- **Mr. Abidin Mehmed Hadjiahmed**, Board member.

THE PROCESS

The project application process is organized in a beneficiary-friendly, simple, fair and transparent way, as follows:

1. Info campaigns and consultations;
2. Filling-in project application documentation;
3. Consultations with technical assistance experts and United Bulgarian Bank officers;
4. Submission of project applications;
5. Project review by a technical/ financial consultant and statement by the Fund's Managing Board;
6. Board decision;
7. Notification of applicants;

8. Once the project is approved for funding:
 - Signing of a Grant Agreement between the project beneficiary and the Fund;
 - Signing of a Loan Agreement with the bank.

The Association runs prep trainings to introduce project applicants to funding opportunities and requirements.

THE BENEFICIARIES

Any resident of the Krumovgrad Municipality that runs or starts a new local business can apply for project funding. The SME Fund ensures that these businesses become sustainable and continue growing independently of DPM Krumovgrad local operations.

Project applicants/ companies must be registered in Krumovgrad and be prepared to operate permanently in this region. The main criterion is to create sustainable jobs that the beneficiary can retain for five years at least.



THE FUNDING

Since its founding in 2019, the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund has disbursed project grants at the total amount of \$5 000 000. As a partnering bank, United Bulgarian Bank has disbursed an equal amount in the form of preferential bank loans. 173 new jobs have been created thanks to this funding.

The SME Fund has provided financial support to 89 projects in different fields: manufacturing and production of joinery, pellets, essential oils, honey, milk, cheese, yellow cheese and butter, cardboard cups, clothing; sheep farming; vegetable processing and canning; veterinary medicine; dentistry; dairy processing, agricultural production, farming; tailoring services; car repair service activities; restaurant and fast-food businesses; advertising materials.

THE PROJECTS

2019

BGN 333,615.82

6 projects

17 jobs

2020

BGN 1,169,894.53

13 projects

28 jobs

2021

BGN 2,035,848.64

13 projects

41 jobs

2022

BGN 1,347,748.00

15 projects

33 jobs

2023

BGN 625,104.58

14 projects

15 jobs

2024

BGN 407,231.27

9 projects

10 jobs

2025

BGN 1,703,376.66

19 projects

29 jobs





Business Success Stories from Krumovgrad

ASYA DZHAN EOOD

The company

Asya Dzhan EOOD is a newly established fast food micro company. Fahrettin Ismail, an entrepreneur, set up his company in Krumovgrad after deciding to come back to Bulgaria from the Netherlands, where he had been working in the same field for 18 years. The company makes and trades with snacks, doner kebabs and pizzas.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided financial assistance to Asya Dzhan EOOD of BGN 9 991.17, of which BGN 4 496.03 as project grant. The company purchased 8 new machines and opened 2 jobs.





**// DPM Krumovgrad
is a great
opportunity
for the local
business //**

**Fahrettin Ismail,
ASYA DZHAN EOOD**

Mr. Ismail, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

When a man has a family, he tries to achieve something more - for his wife, for his kids. This was the reason I went to live abroad in the first place. I worked for many years, then relocated my family, too. 18 years later, we finally decided to come back to Krumovgrad. We feel fine here, this is our home.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

We learned about the Fund when we had just established our company, decided to give it a try and our project was approved. Toasters, dough mixers, three baking machines, tables, a doner machine - we bought all this with financial support from the Fund.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

I have three kids. Thanks to DPM I feel much less pressure. Support is priceless. To be given the chance to try, to have your own business establishment, to be independent...this is a unique chance in life.

Krumovgrad itself is not what it used to be - people are building, opening new shops...local economy is on the rise.

AYA-2023 EOOD

The Business

AYA-2023 EOOD is a catering facility and restaurant, established in 2023 in the municipality of Krumovgrad. Behind its development is Anka Assenova Mollova, who manages the business and provides employment for two people. Like any small business in a smaller town, the restaurant faces a number of challenges - a limited market, more difficult logistics and the need for consistency in daily work. However, Anka believes that with hard work, perseverance and the right support, development is possible.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund AYA-2023 EOOD invests in new equipment for the facility. It facilitates the work process, improves working conditions and provides more security in daily activities. For Anka Mollova, this support means not just financial assistance, but the opportunity to move forward more calmly and confidently - with the feeling that small local businesses have someone to rely on.





**// Support for me
is happiness
and peace of mind. //**

**Anka Assenova Mollova,
AYA-2023 E00D**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, especially when you work in a small town. The market is limited, and many of the things needed for daily work are far away. This makes the organization more complicated and requires more effort. But I believe that despite the difficulties, a business can develop - as long as a person is persistent and has support.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help?

Thanks to the Fund, we were able to purchase new equipment for the place. This gave us more peace of mind in our work and the opportunity to improve the service we offer to our clients. For a small business, such support is very important because it helps you move forward with more confidence.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

I assess it positively. The company's presence brings new jobs, helps people stay in the region, and contributes to the development of the municipality. For a small settlement, this is important because it provides more security and opportunities.

BADEX OOD

The company

A high-profile company in the garment industry, well-known for its quality outerwear and uniforms. The company owns a manufacturing facility and employs 70 experienced craftsmen who make jackets, firefighter and military uniforms. The annual production capacity of the Krumovgrad facility is quite impressive - 50 000 pieces of clothing.

Support from the SME Fund

Major investments in new, high-tech equipment – automatic eyelet machines, machines for filling padded garments, single-needle and double-needle machines, as well as machines for hot and cold tape cutting.



DO NOT OPERATE
WITHOUT SAFETY AND
ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

borsoi
FILLING EQUIPMENT



**“ We expanded
our product range,
unlocking growth
and development
opportunities. ”**

**Darina Zoteva,
BADEX OOD**

Ms. Zoteva, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

It's difficult everywhere, especially after COVID 19 and given the current wars. The lack of sufficient production capacity made it difficult to meet market demand, and the limited range of products offered hindered entry into new market niches.

High production costs were another obstacle to flexible pricing and resource sustainability. Modern technologies and equipment were also a key requirement on our list, if we wanted an upgrade.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

We completely refurbished a semi-ground floor into a warehouse where we put most of the newly purchased machines.

As a result of these efforts, we managed to open three new tailor workstations and significantly increase our outerwear production capacity.

BIMEN EOOD

The company

A coffee place offering tasty food and good client service located in the town center, close to the beautiful park and busy bus station.

Support from the SME Fund

With money from the Fund the owners managed to purchase furniture for 8 new coffee booths, 23 tables, 76 chairs, as well as a new bar counter with cabinets and a sink.

The coffee shop was also equipped with some further extra touches, creating a nice atmosphere for clients and visitors - an ice maker, TV, receiver and speakers, as well as a dishwasher to speed up service.





**// This is a story
about success and
the constant drive
for improvement //**

**Nevena Avramova,
BIMEN FOOD**

Ms. Avramova, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

Despite that our coffee shop was already popular among clients, we did face several challenges. The furniture and equipment were worn out and needed an upgrade, as well as the interior in general. A coffee place owner cannot afford to overlook these considerations since people like going to nice places. Hence, they need to be constantly adapted and refurbished to look welcoming and nice.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Apart from investing in new equipment, we also renovated the place and upgraded the interior, making it cozier and more friendly. These efforts paid off - our coffee place not only looks much better now, but we also hired a bar tender/ waiter.

BORIANA SPORT-BS EOOD

The company

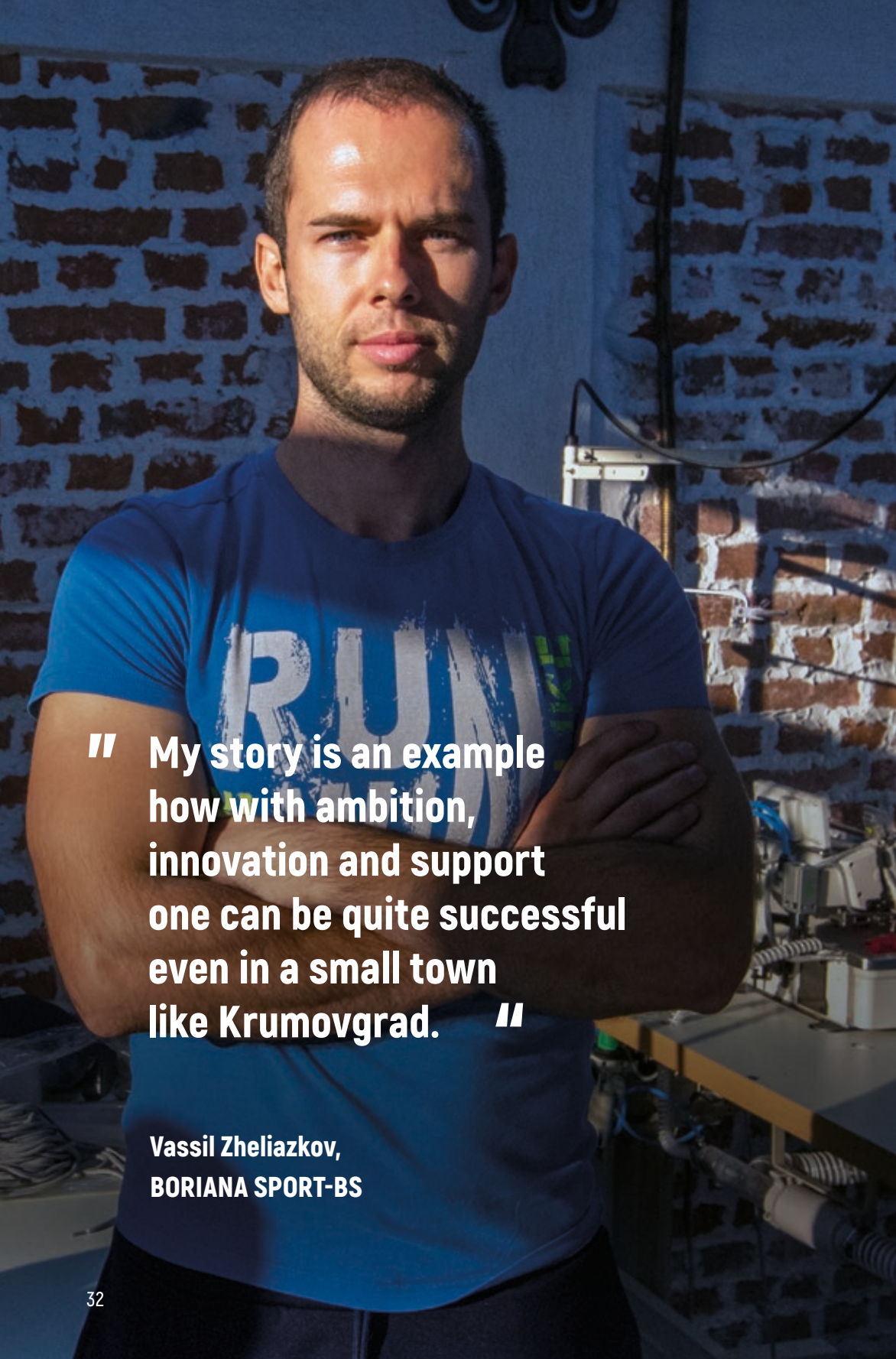
The company manufactures sport outfits and sells them online.

The owner, Boris Zheliazkov, originally developed the brand BORIANASPORT in Sofia but decided to relocate to Krumovgrad in 2021, seeing an opportunity to start manufacturing sport outfits and grow his business. This is how Boriana Sport-BS EOOD was established.

Support from the SME Fund

Project funding was used to purchase an automatic single and double needle lock stitch sewing machine, three new overlockers, a double-deck three-needle five-thread cylindrical (sleeve) sewing machine, a twelve-needle 24-point machine with thread cutting, as well as an electronic single-needle two-points lockstitch machine.





**" My story is an example
how with ambition,
innovation and support
one can be quite successful
even in a small town
like Krumovgrad. "**

**Vassil Zheliazkov,
BORIANA SPORT-BS**

Mr. Zheliazkov, what challenges does your business face?

The rise in e-commerce and the demand for high-quality sportswear with contemporary design. We have to offer new sport models all the time. The lack of new technologies and equipment also impeded us from expanding our production range.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Project funding helped us buy new highly effective machines and equipment with better output performance. We can now take more purchase orders and explore new markets. We've become more competitive and continue on our path of growth and development as a company.

We also hired one more tailor, which is beneficial both for local employment rates and our production capacity.

BOSPHOR - 1453 EOOD

The company

A small restaurant in the village of Edrino known for its delicious food and good service.

Support from the SME Fund

Refurbishment of kitchen equipment, incl. ventilation, sinks and kitchen cabinets. 15 new sets of tables and chairs were purchased to make the interior more client-friendly. Another step towards improving customer service was the purchase of 4 new TV sets and two PC configurations, plus a restaurant and retail software (Mistral) to manage client orders more effectively.





“ A small restaurant was transformed into a local culinary jewel with the right investments and strive for improvement ”

**Yussein Kamber Youssein,
BOSPHOR - 1453 EOOD**

Mr. Youssein, what challenges did your business face?

The kitchen appliances were old and the interior itself was shabby. Hence, our menu stayed very limited.

We had to refurbish and upgrade to meet the ever-rising client needs and expectations.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

After the Fund financed our project, we were able to buy modern equipment and offer two new jobs - for a general worker (part-time) and a waiter. This is not only good for the local economy but also enhances our client service capacity.

We now have modern interior and equipment, and our clients can enjoy a wider variety of foods in a pleasant and cozy atmosphere.

V&A DRILLING EOOD

The company

V&A Drilling Ltd. operates in the field of water drilling, providing a service of important practical value to households, farms and businesses in the region. The company responds to a real need for access to water sources and creates an opportunity for safer and more sustainable use of water resources.

Support from the SME Fund

V&A Drilling EOOD has been approved for three projects by the Fund, thanks to which it was able to purchase drilling machines and develop its activities.





“ As a young and enthusiastic person, I wanted to start my business here, in Krumovgrad ”

**Alexander Antonov,
V&A DRILLING EOOD**

Mr. Antonov, what challenges does your business face?

The major challenge was the growing demand for water drilling services among agricultural producers. I didn't have enough financial resources to start my own business and buy equipment.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to the Fund we managed to purchase the necessary drilling equipment. Both farmers and other local residents and small companies can now benefit from our drilling services.

DR. FEIM FERAD, DENTIST PRIMARY DENTAL CARE

The company

Dr. Feim Ferad is a dentist who started his professional career in 2008. Born in the village of Tokachka, he faced many challenges and obstacles building for himself the career he had been dreaming of. Still, he was persistent and graduated successfully in Haskovo. Since then, he has been fully committed to his work. Today his dental care office is one of the most prominent in the Krumovgrad area.

Support from the SME Fund

Thanks to the SME Fund Dr. Ferad invested in new dental equipment and employed a technical assistant.





**“ It takes dedication,
honesty and integrity
to achieve your dreams,
no matter how hard
it might be ”**

Dr. Ferim Ferad

Dr. Ferad, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

Becoming a doctor isn't easy, especially if you are from a small village. It used to be even harder before - in 1989 many people had to leave for Turkey, many missed on their education. In such times of hardship, one must be extra dedicated and persistent. I first studied for a male nurse, then a paramedic, and finally graduated in dentistry. I've been working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the past 15 years, 6 days a week. Only Sunday is family time.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

I learned about the SME Support Fund from colleagues who had already received financial support from it. They told me that it's not difficult to apply for funding and encouraged me to give it a try. My project was approved, and we managed to make important upgrades. High-quality equipment is key to my work. I now have a technical assistant, too, to take care of the documentation, so that I can focus on what I do best. I've been working hard since I was little and believe that anything can be achieved with persistence and commitment, but it is also important to have someone to support you.

G&G Group EOOD

The company

G&G Group EOOD operates in the hamlet of Popovo, Potochnitza village, Krumovgrad municipality. The company's main activity is the production of disposable and reusable paper cups for the food industry from environmentally friendly material.

Support from the SME Fund

Project funds were used for the repair and reconstruction of the production facility, cardboard (paper) cup machines, computer equipment, etc.





**“ The investment
jump started
our business. ”**

**Ibryam Syuleiman,
G&G GROUP FOOD**

Mr. Syuleiman, what challenges does your business face?

They were mainly related to new EU regulations that limit the market release of disposable plastic products and prohibit those made from oxo-degradable plastic.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

We saw an opportunity to produce disposable products from cardboard. Hence, we had to purchase new equipment and refurbish our production site. We also installed a 30-kWh photovoltaic system to cover our production needs.

DR. KATERINA IVANOVA EOOD

Obstetrics and Gynecology Doctor's Office

The company

A modern doctor's office that provides important and necessary medical services in obstetrics and gynecology to local residents.

Support from the SME Fund

Financial support from the Fund was invested in modern equipment, including an ultrasound and a video colposcope.





**// Thanks to the
SME Support Fund,
I made my dream
come true //**

Dr. Katerina Ivanova

Dr. Ivanova, is it difficult to open an obstetrics and gynecology medical office in Krumovgrad?

I faced several challenges - there were no innovative methods for diagnostics, while modern medical equipment for diagnostic imaging, such as ultrasound and colposcopy, was inaccessible.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to the Fund, my doctor's office is now fully furnished with modern equipment. We have a modern doctor's office and a medical treatment room.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

Patients from Krumovgrad and adjacent residential areas now have access to high-quality medical services, such as colposcopic diagnostics and destructive treatment of genital precancerous lesions.

DR. KOSTA BATKOV - 2010 EOOD

The company

A micro-enterprise for vet services for both farm animals and pets.

Support from the SME Fund

Financial support from the Fund was invested in modern vet equipment - a monitor, ultrasound scanner, examination and diagnostic instruments like an otoscope with a foreign body removal forceps, medical examination lamp, binocular microscope, ultra-sound scaler and a saddle chair.





**“ Now my team
can offer enhanced
quality vet services ”**

Dr. Kosta Batkov

Dr. Batkov, what challenges does your business face?

There was an acute need of a modern vet center - we are an agricultural region, and many farmers look for high quality and comprehensive vet services. Lack of funds was one of the main reasons for not having such a medical treatment facility till now.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

With support from the Fund we managed to purchase all necessary modern equipment for our vet clinic. Our goal was to expand and upgrade the range of services we offer.

DR. KOCH GMBH EOOD

The company

A small bee keeping farm for manna honey selling its products in Bulgaria and abroad under the commercial brand of Dr.Koch.

Support from the SME Fund

Money from the Fund was invested in equipment - a set of containers for honey storage and transportation, electric honey extractor, a packaging line, etc.





**“ We had some
inflation related
issues but managed
to resolve them
with support
from the Fund**

”

**Zlatko Matushev,
KOCH GMBH EOOD**

Mr. Matushev, what challenges did your business face?

The major challenge was to introduce new bee breeding methods and enhance our extraction and processing capacity. Market demand for natural honey products requires quick and effective solutions.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

We managed to modernize our production and increased our honey extraction and processing capacity. We purchased necessary bee keeping equipment, including 70 new beehives, honey ripener tank (maturator), frame knife, decrystallizer, JENTER kit and bee frames.

What is the local impact of your project?

This project upgraded our bee honey extraction and production capacity and allows us to purchase produce from local farmers at market prices, which has a multiplier effect and supports the development of our region. We also created one new job for a commercial representative/ driver.

DURAL OOD

The company

Dural OOD is a small company with excellent reputation in the construction industry. It operates in the village of Rogach, Krumovgrad municipality.

It is a member of the Bulgarian Construction Chamber and the Central Professional Register of Builders (CPRS).

Dural OOD offers a wide range of services, incl. construction of public, industrial and agricultural buildings, repair and reconstruction of street surfaces and roads, seismic strengthening of buildings and a wide range of related services.

Support from the SME Fund

Dural OOD used project funding to purchase new equipment to boost its performance and unlock new opportunities. The company purchased rebar blank machines, an excavator and global navigation satellite (GNSS) equipment. They also initiated the construction of a new warehouse and opened 4 new jobs.





“ Bureaucracy is the biggest challenge for most Bulgarian entrepreneurs. However, the SME Support Fund has very user-friendly procedures. ”

**Feim Mollahahmed,
DURAL OOD**

Mr. Mollahahmed, what are the challenges faced by Bulgarian entrepreneurs?

Bureaucracy. We are builders by occupation and vocation. Our job is to build. Instead of making things easier for us, bureaucracy creates obstacles and difficulties. Still, we stay positive and strive to grow and be better. Hence, it was a nice surprise to see from personal experience how easy it was to apply for funding from the SME Support Fund. There were no setbacks whatsoever - the consultants were very helpful and supportive: if you know your goals, you find the opportunities.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

It helped us a lot. We started manufacturing rebar blanks, hired 4 workers and purchased key equipment. Now we can offer not only a broader range of services but also enhanced quality and performance to meet growing demand.

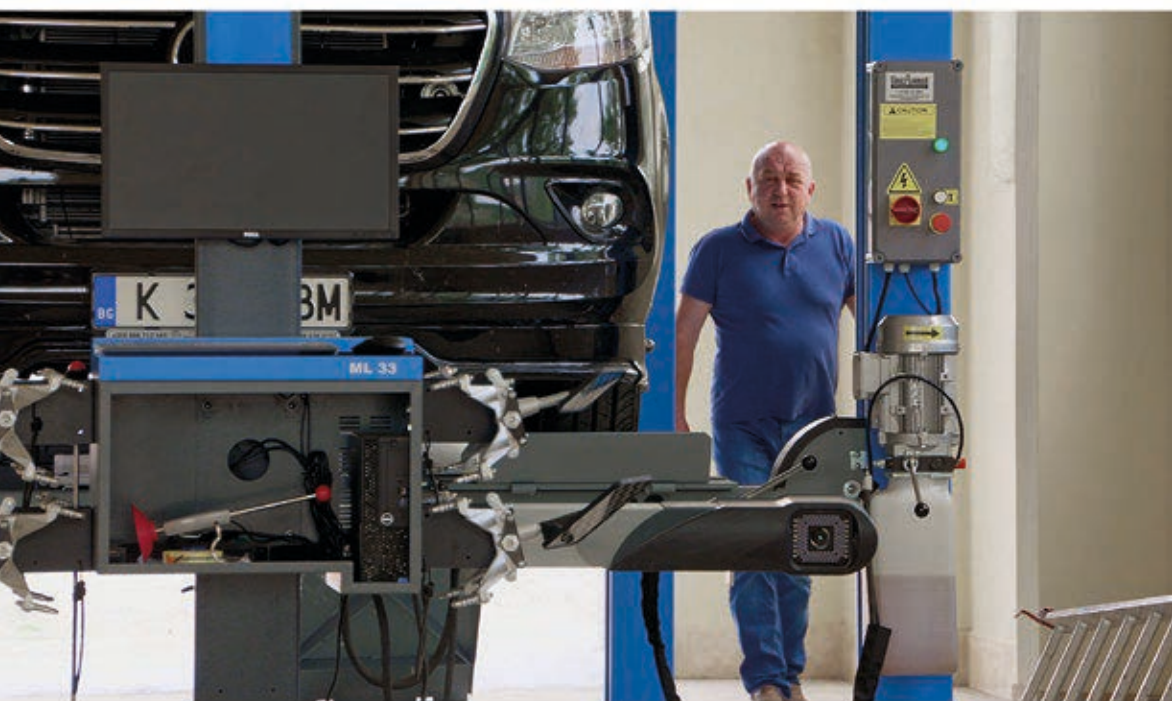
ELIT TRANS EOOD

The company

Elit Trans EOOD has been delivering public transport services on the territory of Krumovgrad Municipality for over 10 years. In 2019 the company opened a vehicle technical inspection center, which was licensed and launched. However, the company had limited financial resources to purchase all necessary equipment, and the vehicles themselves were rather old and depreciated. Repair and maintenance costs were high.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided financial assistance to Elit Trans EOOD of BGN 168 216, of which BGN 75 697.20 as project grant. The vehicle technical inspection center was refurbished with 7 new items of equipment. The company also purchased a 20-seater minibus and hired two extra workers. Sales income increased by 32%.





**“ Since DPM came
to Krumovgrad, the
standard of living
has improved ”**

**Krassimir Daiov,
ELIT TRANS EOOD**

Mr. Daiov, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

It has been more and more difficult with people relocating to the big cities and the region getting depopulated. Ten years ago, when we started our transport business, people were traveling by bus. Now they do so by minibus instead.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to this funding, we refurbished the vehicle technical inspection center and bought a new minibus, which would have been impossible without financial assistance. The support for local companies is significant indeed. We created new jobs and shall continue to do so.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

Since DPM started operations here, the local standard of living has greatly improved. We offer transport services to DPM Krumovgrad employees and since we've been working with this company, our drivers have become more disciplined. We also gave them a pay raise.

EMIR MS EOOD

The company

The Halil family established their company Emir MS EOOD with one dream in mind - to open their own restaurant in the beautiful outskirts of Krumovgrad.

There were many challenges at the beginning, most of them financial. Still, the family had what it needed most – a carefully thought-out business plan, commitment and desire to succeed. Furthermore, they had a wonderful property with panoramic views of the city, where they planned to open a restaurant on the first floor and have the second and third floors as a guest house.

Support from the SME Fund

With financial support from the Fund, the Halil family managed to purchase everything needed to jumpstart their business, i.e. professional kitchen appliances, furniture and equipment, air-conditioners, etc.

This is how their dream came true – the restaurant is now open, offering delicious home-made food and a job to two people.





**" We dared to make
our dream come true
and start doing what
we've always wanted to. "**

**The Halil Family,
EMIR MS EOOD**

Mr. and Ms. Halil, is it difficult to start a business in Bulgaria?

Very difficult, indeed. We have worked abroad for 10 years, and we can say that the laws here need to be improved to make things easier for entrepreneurs. We were lucky to hear about DPM's SME Support Fund from the media and friends and apply for financial support. We dared to make our dream come true and start doing what we've always wanted, i.e. open our own restaurant that has a good menu, hosts different events and offers take-away food, too. We also decided to refurbish the second and third floors as a guest house.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Oh, it helped us immensely, a flying start, as the saying goes. We purchased everything we needed - stove, pizza oven, refrigerators, display cases and cabinets, air conditioners, coffee machines and dishwashers, computers, furniture and many other things. We felt no anxiety about the start of our business, which is quite important. We had a very clear plan what we needed and if it were not for the Fund, it would have taken us much longer to arrive where we stand now.

ENKA ENERGY EOOD

The company

Enka Energy EOOD is a small local company from Krumovgrad engaged in construction works, trading with machines and equipment, a major supplier and construction contractor for local projects financed by the Fund.

Thanks to this partnership, Enka Energy became a reliable service provider, exploring new vistas for growth and development.

Considering the growing interest in renewable energy sources and available programs within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the company has chosen to specialize in selling photo-voltaic panels and building photo-voltaic power plants.

Support from the SME Fund

Thanks to the Fund, Enka Energy set up and equipped a warehouse for selling photo-voltaic panels and built a 10kW photo-voltaic power plant to meet its own power supply needs.

Thus, it enhanced its competitiveness and established itself as a key player on the renewable energy market.





**“ My work makes
me happy.
I am thankful that
I can grow and
develop professionally. ”**

**Hafize Yumer,
ENKA ENERGY EOOD**

Ms. Yumer, is it difficult to do business in Bulgaria?

Unfortunately, there are many legal and administrative setbacks. Still, when you have a clear plan, know what you are doing and that meets market demand, then things go well. I've always wanted to work in the area which I have studied for, and my work is my pleasure. I am thankful that I can grow and develop professionally in my hometown.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to this investment we managed to upgrade our capacity at the right time. Now we are prepared for all that is to come. We have peace of mind and safety. We built and furnished a modern warehouse with state-of-the-art equipment: an electric stacker, mobile elevator, and machines that make things way easier. The crucial investment was the photo-voltaic plant that shall cover our power supply needs and be a showcase for our clients as to what they could expect. It is my conviction that the future looks bright.

ES TEAM EOOD

The Business

ES TEAM EOOD is a car repair shop, established in 2024 in Krumovgrad by Ekrem Nabi. Although relatively new, the business is developing well and gradually finding its place in the local market. The company employs two people, and the owner's main goal is to offer quality and reliable service to customers in the region. Like any new business, the car repair shop needs investments to build a stable working environment and better meet the needs of its customers.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund helps ES TEAM EOOD to improve the working environment in the car repair shop and develop its activities more confidently. For Ekrem Nabi, the support from the Fund is an important step forward - it gives him the opportunity to work under better conditions, improve the quality of the service and continue the development of his business. He is very grateful to DPM Krumovgrad for the opportunity and for the support to small businesses in the municipality.





“ The support from the Fund has helped us a lot to improve the working environment and develop our business. ”

**Ekrem Nabi,
ES TEAM EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

Yes, it is difficult, especially when the business is new and is just establishing itself. In a small town, the market is more limited and every investment must be very well thought out. But when a person works hard and has support, the business can develop successfully.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help?

The Fund helped us a lot to improve the working environment in the car service. This is important both for us and for the customers, because better conditions allow us to work calmer, more organized and with better quality. I am grateful to DPM Krumovgrad for this support, because for a small business it means a lot.

ET AKAN AYLIN – AIDUAN YUSEIN

The Business

ET Akan Aylin – Aiduan Yusein is a car repair shop, established in 2023 in Krumovgrad by Aiduan Yusein with the help of the The Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund. The business deals with car repairs and auto bodywork services. Currently, Aiduan works independently, without hired employees, and his main goal is to offer quality and reliable service to customers in the region.

Support from the SME Fund

With the support of the Fund, the car repair shop purchases necessary equipment that helps to better organize the work and expand the capabilities of the site. For Aiduan Yusein, this assistance is an important step in the development of the business. He is grateful to the Fund and DPM Krumovgrad for the support, which, in his opinion, changes the situation in Krumovgrad in a positive direction and gives small businesses a real chance to develop.





**“ The support from
the Fund helped me
start and develop
my business. ”**

**Aiduan Yusein,
ET AKAN AYLIN – AIDUAN YUSEIN**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, but when there is desire, work and support, it is possible. For small businesses, any help is of great importance.

How did the The Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

The Fund helped me purchase equipment and start working under better conditions. I am grateful because this support gave me the opportunity to develop the car service.

ARIZONA – ALEXANDER UZUNOV (SOLE TRADER)

The company

Alexander Uzunov lives in the picturesque village of Vransko where people have been traditionally breeding dairy sheep, goats and cows. However, there are no milk processing plants in the area. This is how Alexander came up with the idea to open a small family-owned dairy farm to buy milk from local producers and make clean and tasty dairy products.

It took diligence, hard work and eagerness to turn this idea into a real business enterprise. His limited budget, however, presented a number of challenges regarding the purchase of equipment.

Support from the SME Fund

With support from the Fund, Alexander has managed to secure latest technologies for the production and storage of dairy products, open one new workplace and contribute for the advancement of the entire local community by working exclusively with local farmers.





**“ It is most rewarding
when you work not
only for yourself
but for the entire
community ”**

**Alexander Uzunov,
ARIZONA – ALEXANDER UZUNOV**

Mr. Uzunov, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

If you are on a tight budget, it would be difficult anywhere, especially in dairy processing.

Take our village for example – it has been known for having the best herds and the best milk and yet no dairy farm. Why? Because this job is very tough, yet rewarding because you work not only for yourself but for other farmers, too – buying milk from their herds, so that the whole village can thrive. So, facing hardship has never stopped me from trying. On the contrary, I was motivated to find a way.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

It helped me overcome the biggest setback – the lack of proper equipment. We bought the latest equipment for the dairy farm – machines, refrigerators, everything that enables us to run proper production. Making good cheese is one thing – I've been in this business for a long time and have knowledge and experience. Getting into serious production, however, is a totally different thing. Thanks to DPM Krumovgrad our village now has its own dairy farm. Farmers are no longer anxious about their future – they know that we are buying their milk.

ET SEVGÜL – SADAKA MADJER

The Business

In 2025, with the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, Sadaka Madjer created ET Sevgül - Sadaka Madjer and opened a coffee shop in the center of Krumovgrad. Sadaka began making special boutique cakes, offering sweet and savory delights, handmade with attention to quality and detail. The company employs two people, and for Sadaka this is not just a business, but a dream come true - a place where she can develop her talent and offer something different to the people of the city.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund, Sadaka Madjer purchased the necessary machinery and equipment to open a coffee shop "Caramel" and start the business with suitable working conditions. The support gave her the opportunity to turn her long-standing dream into a real business in the center of Krumovgrad. She is grateful to the Fund for the trust and the opportunity to start confidently, despite the challenges of the local market.





**“ I am grateful to
the Fund – they made
my biggest dream
come true. ”**

**Sadaka Madjer,
ET SEVGÜL – SADAKA MADJER**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, especially when you start from scratch. People in the region are not particularly wealthy and sometimes it is difficult to explain that high quality has its price.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, I purchased machinery and equipment, without which I would not have been able to start this way. This support gave me a chance to fulfill my dream here, in Krumovgrad.

ET SERTOV – SUNAY AHMED

The Business

ET Sertov - Sunay Ahmed is a company established in 2019 by Sunay Ahmed. Its activities are related to transport and service, and the business is gradually developing and finding its place in the Krumovgrad municipality. The company employs three people, and for Sunay Ahmed the main goal is to expand its activities and offer a reliable service that meets the needs of the people in the region.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund in 2025, ET "Sertov - Sunay Ahmed" received support for the purchase of a passenger bus for the needs of the company. The investment enables the business to work more confidently and better meet the demand for transport services in the region. For Sunay Ahmed, the support is an important step forward and a cause for great joy.





**“ I am very happy with
the support.
It helped me
expand my activities
and move forward. ”**

**Sunay Ahmed,
ET SERTOV – SUNAY AHMED**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

I don't think it is difficult, as long as one has the desire to work and develop. When you are persistent and looking for opportunities, business can also be done in Krumovgrad.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased a passenger bus, which allowed us to expand our activities. This was very important support for our business.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

In my opinion, the municipality has changed positively with the presence of DPM. There is more work, more movement and more opportunities for people and businesses in the region.

ZARA BG EOOD

The company

Valentin Damatov is a young and ambitious entrepreneur with fresh perspective and unconventional approach. After years of living abroad, Valentin chose to return to his hometown (Krumovgrad) to restore a family tradition, but also to start something new of his own - innovative furniture production, combining his engineering knowledge and experience as furniture maker.

Support from the SME Fund

With support from the SME Fund, Valentin renovated and equipped a small workshop in the village of Polkovnik Zhelyazovo, transforming it into a modern and functional production space.

He purchased woodworking machinery and equipment. These investments and the use of modern computer technology allowed him to set up his business and work on individual projects and client requests. Zara BG EOOD had a flying start and managed to employ 2 more workers.





**“ For me this is not
just business but
going back to my
family roots, to the
place where my heart
feels at home ”**

**Valentin Damatov,
ZARA BG EOOD**

Mr. Damatov, why did you choose to do business in Bulgaria?

Because after many years of living abroad I finally understood that family roots are very important. For me this is not just business but returning to my family roots, to the place where my heart is at home. I've inherited my love for this work from my father who initiated it all years ago. I've acquired many skills and experience and would now like to invest them here, in my home town.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Contingencies were the biggest challenge. I managed to handle them with financial support from the Fund and bring my ideas to life. And those ideas were grand indeed, I can tell you - I had grand ideas. I wanted to set up a truly innovative production line and combine my extensive experience as furniture maker with my background in engineering. With support from the Fund, Zara BG became real, just the way I wanted it to be, without having to compromise heavily as far as technology was concerned.

ADEM HYUSNYU

The company

Adem Hyusnyu is an agricultural producer and livestock breeder with many years of experience, deep knowledge and sincere love for the land. In his opinion, the biggest challenge that farmers face today is the lack of sufficient resources for machines and equipment to facilitate farm labor.

Support from the SME Fund

Adem's project became a reality with financial support from the Fund. Adem used project funding to buy modern agricultural equipment – a tractor, front-end loader, disc mower and spreader trailer. Now his farm has the necessary equipment and is preparing for more efficient fodder production. Adem was also able to hire one person as a technical assistant.

By 2025, the Fund also supports Adem in the purchase of additional agricultural equipment, as well as the construction of a photovoltaic power plant, which increases the competitiveness of the farm in the village of Krasino.





“ It is hard when you are after business growth but funds for new equipment are rather insufficient ”

**Adem Hyusnyu,
Farmer**

Mr. Hyusnyu, is it difficult to do farming in Bulgaria?

I have been in the livestock breeding business for many years and I like it. It gets tough when you have to grow your business but funds for equipment are scarce – work slows down, everything takes more time and it takes quite an effort to find farm workers.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

It was of great help indeed. We purchased equipment – tractor, loader and trailer. Work on the farm is much different now – easier, faster, without such hard physical labor. We expanded our production line with fodder and hired one more person to help out with the documentation and machine maintenance.

BIROL ALIMOLLA

The company

Birol Alimolla is a livestock farmer who has been taking care of his herd of dairy cows with devotion for many years. He works 24/7 and doesn't complain, even though he needs a rest now and then. He says he loves his job even when it involves certain sacrifices.

Support from the SME Fund

With financial support from the Fund, Birol's herd is now bigger – 35 cows giving 500 liters of milk daily. For a second approved project in 2023, the farmer receives support for modernizing the farm in the village of Vransko.





“ If it were not for the Fund, it would have been impossible for me to achieve my goals. ”

**Birol Alimolla,
Farmer**

Mr. Alimolla, is it difficult to do business in Bulgaria?

Quite difficult, indeed, especially in smaller towns and villages. My work itself isn't difficult, even though I have no days off. The greater challenge is to stay afloat in a market where bigger enterprises always try crushing the smaller ones. Finding workers is not easy, too.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

If it were not for the Fund, it would have been impossible for me to achieve my goals. I started with farming years ago. Then I bought calves and expanded my business. It took me some time to realize that I cannot handle everything alone. Even if I succeeded, the process itself would be very slow and tough.

VLADIMIR HADZHIEV

The company

Vladimir Hadzhiev is a vet with many years of experience in livestock breeding. There are more than 500 dairy sheep on his farm in the village of Pelin, Krumovgrad Municipality. Vladimir takes his work very seriously and handles it with dedication. He tries to provide animals with the humane treatment that he as a vet deeply believes they deserve.

Support from the SME Fund

Vladimir received funding from the SME Support Fund for three projects. The first one was for the purchase of a mobile dairy farm. Thus, Vladimir can process the milk from his herds and make cheese, yellow cheese and yoghurt.

The funds received from the other two projects were invested in new equipment and continuous modernization and expansion of the farm, ensuring better hygiene, humane breeding practices and high vet standards, which ultimately make production more effective.





**“ There are many
challenges but
when there is a will,
there is a way. ”**

**Vladimir Hadzhiev,
Farmer**

Mr. Hadzhiev, what challenges do livestock breeders face in Bulgaria?

There are many challenges, but the major ones are related to ensuring compliance with new standards and requirements in our field of work. Labour force is another major issue together with the availability of modern equipment. Another major setback is that small producers have no direct access to the dairy market and depend on middlemen and processing companies.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

I had not one, but three projects funded by the SME Fund which completely changed our work flow. The first project funded our mini dairy farm which has the capacity to process 300 liters of milk daily. Thus, we can produce our own cheese, yellow cheese and yoghurt. The other projects financed a modern milking facility that meets high hygiene standards and treats animals humanely. We purchased a high-capacity milk cooling tank, as well as other equipment for our dairy farm - a tractor, front loader and trailer. This investment made us more competitive on the market and proved to me once again that when there's a will, there's a way.

YULDUZ ALI

The company

Yulduz Ali is a farm producer who cultivates almost 933 acres of land in various villages of the Krumovgrad municipality. He grows wheat, barley, sunflowers, alfalfa and natural meadows. He believes that the bigger the farm, the greater the challenges.

Support from the SME Fund

Thanks to financial support from the SME Fund, Yulduz managed to purchase a modern tractor to help him cultivate the land. He also offered two new jobs and increased workflow productivity and efficiency.





**“ The bigger
the farm,
the greater
the challenges ”**

**Yulduz Ali,
Farmer**

Mr. Ali, what are the challenges faced by Bulgarian farmers?

There are many challenges. When the market grows, you have to grow too. You need to keep increasing your turnover to cope with the rising inflation. At some point, profits decrease, equipment gets insufficient, and many processes are hampered. That's why I applied for funding from DPM Krumovgrad SME Support Fund.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Local people told me about the Fund, and everybody said that the application procedure is rather easy and that there is available support, too. I decided to apply, got approved and here I am now - with a modern tractor, two new employees to help me out and increased productivity. Having modern equipment makes a huge difference, especially on a big farm like ours.

ZP KASIM USTOV

The Business

The farmer Kasim Ustov is a livestock breeder and farmer by heritage. He created his own farm in 2010 and continues the family tradition of raising animals. Today, the farm raises 70 cows and is gradually growing. Three people are involved in the activity, and Kasim Ustov's main goal is to develop production sustainably and provide better conditions for both the animals and the people who work on the farm.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, Kasim Ustov purchased equipment for the needs of the farm - an excavator and a tractor loader. The new equipment significantly facilitates daily work and helps better organize the activity. Thanks to the support, the farm works more efficiently, and Kasim Ustov is looking confidently towards the next steps - purchasing more land for feeding the animals and obtaining a license to raise more animals.





**// The fund helped me a lot.
With the new
equipment, the work became
easier and the farm
can develop. //**

**Kasim Ustov,
Farmer**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, especially in livestock breeding, because the work is daily and requires a lot of perseverance. But when there is equipment, land and support, development is possible.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

In my opinion, the region has moved towards Europe thanks to DPM Krumovgrad. You can see a positive change and more opportunities for people and businesses in Krumovgrad.

MYUMYUN HALILEFENDI

The company

Myumyun Halilefendi is a farmer from the village of Malka Chinka and has been in the agricultural business for many years now. In addition to 175 acres of pastures and meadows, Myumyun also takes care of cattle and meat sheep. Like many of his local fellow farmers, he needs equipment, manpower, and conditions to facilitate and optimize his work and expand his activities.

Support from the SME Fund

Myumyun used project funding to invest in a tunnel greenhouse to start producing high-quality early vegetables. He also purchased equipment to make working on the farm easier and more efficient - a tractor and front-end loader. He also hired a new worker.





**“ Labor force is the
biggest challenge for
an agricultural producer.
Modern technology
is the solution. ”**

**Myumyun Halilefendi,
Farmer**

Mr. Halilefendi, what challenges do agricultural producers in the Krumovgrad region typically face?

Labor force is our greatest challenge. It is very hard to find people for this type of labor and the turnover is pretty high, too. Luckily, there's modern equipment to help us out. This is the only way to handle the lack of labor force.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Local people told me about the Fund. They motivated me to apply, since they said that the process was quite easy. My father and I have been engaged in livestock breeding for a long time, then we expanded to farming, too. We would now like to expand further and start growing early vegetables.

Thanks to DPM Krumovgrad financial support, we purchased a greenhouse and can expand our production. We also bought a tractor and a front loader to reduce our dependency on manual labor.

ZP MUMUN SHABAN ALI

The Business

The farmer Mumun Shaban Ali established his farm in 2013. His activity is related to livestock breeding, and today he raises 120 mother cattle, raises calves and manages meadows for production needs. The business is developing sustainably and employs five people. For Mumun Shaban Ali, the biggest challenge remains finding labor force - a problem that many agricultural producers in the region face daily.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, the farm purchased the necessary equipment - tractors and mowers, which significantly facilitate work and improve the organization of the activity. The new equipment allows for more efficient processing of meadows and better care for animals. Mumun Shaban Ali's next plans are to increase the number of animals and expand the area of land he manages.





**“ The Fund helped us
work more easily
and think about
expanding the farm. ”**

**Mumun Shaban Ali,
Farmer**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It develops when you work for it. It is difficult, mainly due to the lack of labor. In livestock breeding, the work is daily and requires a lot of perseverance.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased tractors, mowers and other equipment. This greatly facilitated work on the farm and gave us the opportunity to plan expansion.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

DPM Krumovgrad created jobs and helped develop the region. Their presence is felt positively by both the people and the business in Krumovgrad.

NEZHDET YUZEIR

The company

Nezhdet Yuzeir has been a farmer since 2021. As many other entrepreneurs in this business in the Krumovgrad region, he has faced some major challenges due to the lack of quality equipment.

Nezhdet decided to expand his production by growing early vegetables and greenhouse crops.

Support from the SME Fund

With support from the SME Fund, Nezhdet purchased modern agricultural equipment, incl. a tractor and milling machine. He set up a 250 sq.m. greenhouse, created one new job and expanded his product range by growing early vegetables and tomatoes.





“ There are many farming opportunities but all require investments. ”

**Nezhdet Yuzeir,
Farmer**

Mr. Yuzeir, what are the opportunities for Bulgarian farmers?

Our land is fertile! If you are hardworking and take good care of it, it will pay off, but investments are needed on every step of the way. The market demand now, for example, is for fresh vegetables all year round, so one needs to invest in a greenhouse. There is modern equipment that makes everything faster and easier, but it is expensive and still requires workers to operate with it.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

It has been of great help indeed. The most important investment was the 250 sq.m. Greenhouse. Thanks to it we can now grow tomatoes and early vegetables and expand our production. We also invested in modern equipment, like tractor and milling machine, and we were also able to hire an extra worker to increase our output.

Project funding has helped us immensely and opened new opportunities.

RADOSTINA STOEVA

The company

Radostina Stoeva has been in the stock breeding business for many years, in particular goat farming. Her farm is the biggest one in the region.

Radostina and her family have been focusing on the selection of elite breeds - out of the 186 animals they care for, 120 are highly productive meat and milk breeds under selection supervision. These are the Bulgarian White Dairy Breed and the French Alpine one.

Support from the SME Fund

Thanks to the SME Fund, Radostina has managed to purchase the necessary equipment to upgrade her farm, namely a modern milking installation, milk cooling tank (400 l), tractor with a front loader and an automatic feeder for goatlings.





**“ Thanks to the
SME Support Fund,
we managed to upgrade
our farm and become more
competitive on the market ”**

**Radostina Stoeva,
Farmer**

Ms. Stoeva, what challenges does your business face?

Although we are the biggest farm in the area, there are quite a number of challenges.

Market demand for goat milk is growing and this requires a continuous increase of production capacity . The lack of quality equipment, however, hinders this process, making our work slower and labor intensive. We cannot be competitive without modern equipment.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to the SME Support Fund, we managed to upgrade our farm and become more competitive on the market We purchased a milking machine installation for 12 goats which has greatly enhanced our work and increased its efficiency. The milk cooling tank ensures optimal storage, preserving milk's quality. The tractor with front loader makes cleaning much easier and decreases manual workload. Thus, our workers can now concentrate on more important work tasks. The automatic feeder for the goatlings has also been extremely useful. It ensures that food is distributed evenly and accurately to all young animals, thus fostering their growth rates.

ZP STANIMIR KARAPAVLOV

The Business

Agricultural producer Stanimir Karapavlov has been working in the field of livestock breeding and agriculture for 12 years. The farm is developing well, but according to him, there is always room for growth in this sector - with more equipment, better conditions and the opportunity to expand production. Working in agriculture requires perseverance, a lot of work and people who can be relied on. That is why Stanimir Karapavlov is constantly looking for workers to join the development of the farm.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, in 2022 the farm modernized and expanded its activities by purchasing new machinery and building a new barn. This support allows for better organization of work, more modern conditions and greater confidence in future development. Stanimir Karapavlov's next goal is to expand production with his own dairy.





**“ The support from
the Fund is very important
for us because it helps us
modernize the farm and
think about the next step. ”**

**Stanimir Karapavlov,
Farmer**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, especially in agriculture, where work is constant and depends on many factors. But when there is desire, work and support, development is possible.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased new machines and built a new barn. This gave us the opportunity to modernize the farm and plan future expansion of the activity.

TSVETANA MIHAILOVA

The company

Tsvetana Mihailova is a registered agricultural producer since 2023. She started with a very small polycarbonate greenhouse in the garden of her house in Krumovgrad, where she's been growing eco-friendly vegetables together with her husband.

Tsvetana supplies restaurants, fast food places and grocery stores. Her name is already well-known for the taste of her vegetables and her customers have been increasing ever since. Tsvetana and her husband decided to expand their production with two more heatable greenhouses. They also rented some land for outdoor growing of bio vegetables.

Support from the SME Fund

Tsvetana applied for project funding to upgrade her greenhouse production capacity and have leverage against manual labor. With two approved projects, she and her husband invested in farming equipment – a tractor with a plow, mounted tiller and trailer, as well as in two new greenhouses, 320 sq.m. each.





“ When you offer good quality, people see and appreciate it. I am happy to be able to meet increased market demand for my produce ”

**Tsvetana Mihailova,
Farmer**

Ms. Mihailova, is it difficult to do business in Bulgaria?

It is indeed. There is unfair competition and illegally imported goods. Still, my experience shows that when you are really good in something, people see and appreciate it. All the veggies that I grow are eco-friendly, biologically treated only. Our greenhouses are heated, and we offer bio veggies all year round. Our clients were quick to appreciate their quality and market demand grew. We rented a land plot (municipal property) to grow vegetables outdoors, too. However, this entailed big investments in proper equipment.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

It was of immense help indeed. I can now meet market demand properly. We have two new greenhouses, 320 sq.m. each. We bought a tractor with a plow, tiller and trailer and can now have three crop rotations annually. This means increased productivity and efficiency and subsequently - success and growth.

SHINKA IRIKOVA

The company

Shinka Irikova has many years of experience in the agricultural business and the growing of fruit and vegetables. She grows peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, apples and other farm crops.

The lack of sufficient funds has, however, prevented her from meeting demand for fresh fruit and vegetables all year round, protecting her crops and automating the agricultural processes.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided financial assistance to Shinka Irikova of BGN 153.534, of which BGN 84 443.70 as project grant.

The funds were used to build 4 greenhouses for growing vegetables on 720 sq.m. The greenhouses have a heating system of heat pumps and converters. Irina also bought a tractor to help her with the mechanical cultivation of farmland.

One new worker was also employed.





**“ We used to sow with
fear. Now our produce
is protected. ”**

**Shinka Irikova,
Farmer**

Ms. Irikova, is being a farmer hard?

It is, indeed. We always worry about hails, storms, the forces of nature. Still, it's much easier when you are your own employer. I used to work in a sewing company, but my eyesight got worse, and I decided to change and work out in the field. It's much calmer.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

It helped us a lot. Till now we used to sow out in the open, with fear. Now we have 4 greenhouses to keep our produce safe - we shall be able to sow all year round, all four seasons. We will be able to have farm produce all year round. We also bought a tractor to cultivate the land more easily. We have thermal pumps for the winter season. We are not afraid anymore - there will be tomatoes and cucumbers.

What are your impressions of working with the Fund's team?

When we learned about the fund, we decided to apply, and our project was approved. There's nothing complicated, nothing scary - if you need information, you get it. You also get understanding. No problem at all. Whatever we've needed, they've helped us. Whatever we've been interested in, they've informed us.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

Years ago, Krumovgrad was in decline. Since DPM Krumovgrad came to town, things were revived and many people got jobs and higher salaries.

I&M DENT

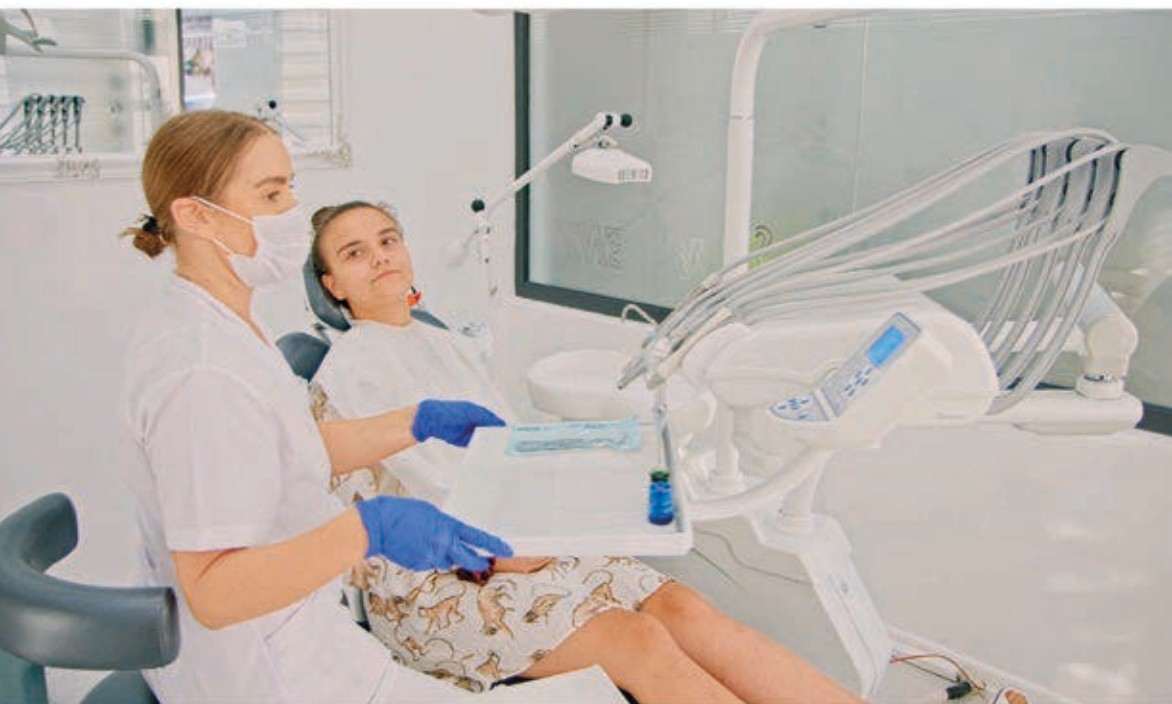
The company

Dr. Irena Pacheva and Dr. Miglena Pacheva are young dentists who got their first job in Krumovgrad. Both recent graduates in dental medicine, the two sisters were looking for ways to finance their first dental office.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided financial assistance to I&M DENT, as follows: IDENT Dr. Irena Pacheva: BGN 51 662.50, of which BGN 28 414.38 as project grant. MDENT Dr. Miglena Pacheva: BGN 50 467.50, of which BGN 27 757.13 as project grant.

Thus, with support from the fund, the two young dentists managed to open two well-equipped dental offices in a joint medical clinic, as well as 4 new jobs.





**“ This is a great way for
young people like us to start
a career - with support that
makes things a bit easier. ”**

**Irena and Miglena Pachevi,
I&M DENT**

Dr. Pachevi, is it difficult to start a business?

Irena: We are young people who chose to return to Krumovgrad after graduation to be close to our families and provide better dental services to our fellow citizens. We want to grow our dental practice into a modern service provider, offering contemporary dental treatment opportunities that local residents have not had the chance to experience yet.

Miglana: We are lucky because it's not that hard for us as it is for others thanks to the opportunity, we were given by the SME Support Fund on day one of our medical career.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Miglana: All the equipment in our dental offices was purchased with Fund money: two dental sets, computers, a printer, air conditioners, sterilization trays, a packaging machine, an autoclave and some of the furniture. The Fund facilitated the entire start-up process and allowed us to speed up the pace - it would have taken us much longer to provide all the necessary equipment without the project grant. Now we can start with a dental office with new and modern equipment that offers better medical treatment and diagnostics.

What are your impressions of working with the Fund's team?

Irena: We heard about the Fund quite by accident. At first, we were a little bit anxious because we thought it would all be very difficult and slow. However, later on we realized that things were happening quite fast.

Miglana: I would like to encourage all young people to give it a try and apply and start their own business.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

Irena: I see that Krumovgrad is nowadays much more populated than before, and I believe we can give DPM Krumovgrad credit for that. Many of my classmates who used to live in other places decided to come back and work for DPM Krumovgrad. I would like to thank everybody from Dundee! An excellent start for young people like us - to have support for our first career step.

Miglana: I hope that more young people would return to the town because there is lack of local specialists. Starting your own business has many benefits because no one sets a cap limit to your development.

CADASTRE EOOD

The company

The company offers high-quality land survey services that are essential for the design, construction and cadastral processes in the Municipality of Krumovgrad. It strives to upgrade and develop its portfolio to meet the rapid growth of construction works in the region and customer's growing needs.

Support from the SME Fund

The Company received funding from the SME Support Fund for two projects to upgrade its technological facilities and expand the scope of its services.

Within the framework of the first project, the company invested in a digital leveler and GNSS system, and under the second - in new land survey equipment and software.





“ In Bulgaria, the hardest thing is to bring your idea to life. Once you do this, if you stay committed and offer high quality service, things will usually progress quite well. ”

**Genadi Ginev,
CADASTRE EOOD**

Mr. Ginev, is it difficult to do business in Bulgaria?

In Bulgaria, it is hardest at the beginning until you bring your idea to life. Then, if you are really committed and offer high quality service, things start running and it gets much easier. I graduated in geodesy and wanted to stay in this business in my hometown, despite its small size. Over time, there were more and more construction sites and market demand increased. Then we faced a new challenge - to grow fast to meet market demand.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

I learned about the Fund from the media and decided to give it a go. We wanted to invest in modern equipment and new survey software to upgrade the scope and quality of our services. We faced no setbacks at the project application phase. On the contrary, our ideas were met with understanding and support from the entire team of the SME Fund. Both our projects were approved and hence we managed to enrich our portfolio significantly.

KARAMFILOVA EOOD

The Business

Desislava Karamfilova returned to her hometown after studying in Sofia and decided to develop her own business in Krumovgrad. With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, in August 2025 she established the tailoring studio Karamfilova - Krumovgrad. The studio deals with sewing and alterations and has been developing well from the very beginning. Desislava works alone, but has a desire to expand her activities.

Support from the SME Fund

With the support of the Fund, Karamfilova EOOD managed to start a business and create a working tailoring studio, which offers a useful and sought-after service for the people of Krumovgrad. This support gives Desislava Karamfilova the opportunity to turn her knowledge, skills and desire into her own business. For her, this is a chance to stay and develop in her hometown, instead of seeking realization elsewhere.





**“ I am happy that
I can fulfill my potential
in Krumovgrad. ”**

**Desislava Karamfilova,
KARAMFILOVA EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, but it is possible when one has the desire, skills and support. It is important for me that I can work and develop right here, in my hometown.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

The fund helped me to create a tailoring studio and start my own business. This support gave me the confidence and opportunity to take the first step.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

In my opinion, DPM Krumovgrad has changed the municipality for the better. Thanks to their support, many new enterprises have been created, and more young people have had the chance to start their own business.

CAT HOME PROJECT LTD

The Business

Cat Home Project LTD was founded in 2024 by Mehmed Karahodzha. The idea for the business began to take shape three years earlier and was inspired by his love for animals, pets and birds of prey. The company makes houses and accessories for animals from wooden boards with an individual approach to the needs of different species of animals. For Mehmed Karahodzha, this is a project with personal meaning.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of Fund, Cat Home Project LTD purchased a CNC router and equipment for cutting wooden boards. The support helps a personal idea, born from the love for animals, to turn into a real business with development potential.





**“ I hope this project
will develop and become
a family business. ”**

**Mehmed Karahodzha,
CAT HOME PROJECT LTD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, but when the idea comes from personal passion and a person believes in it, it makes sense to try. It is important to have perseverance and the right support at the beginning.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased production equipment. This allowed us to start the business.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

The support of DPM Krumovgrad gives a chance for new ideas to be realized in Krumovgrad. For small businesses, this is an important opportunity to start, grow and stay in the region.

KRUMOVGRAD FOOD

The company

Alexander Chilingirov decided to return to his hometown after ten years in the UK. Inspired and determined to create something significant back home, Alexander started a greenhouse leafy vegetable growing business using innovative technology: hydroponics.

Hydroponics is a type of soil-less gardening - the roots of the vegetables are in a water-based nutrient solution. Although this method entails major planning and investments, it offers all-year-round vertical farming and high yields.

Support from the SME Fund

When Alexander decided to apply for funding, he already had a very clear idea in mind - to set up a hydroponics greenhouse for growing green leafy veggies all year round. With financial support from the Fund, he purchased a modern hydroponics system and quickly initiated his greenhouse project. His produce quickly won clients over with its quality and freshness.





**“ It is not difficult
to start doing business
in Bulgaria, if you know
what to do and
how to do it. ”**

**Alexander Chilingirov,
KRUMOVGRAD EOOD**

Mr. Chilingirov, how did you decide to return to Krumovgrad and start doing business there?

When living abroad, I was in the IT industry, a programmer, but had been considering for some time to return to Bulgaria and try hydroponics. I had already mapped out the pros and cons, and then heard about the Fund from an ad. That's when I decided to return home and apply for project funding. And it all worked out nicely! This comes to prove that doing business in Bulgaria is not that hard if you know what to do and how to do it. Indeed, there are many challenges - the main one being high greenhouse heating bills in the winter season, apart from the initial capital investments. Many farmers are forced to cut down on or even suspend production during the cold months, leading to increased imports of fresh fruit and vegetables out of season. I found a solution using solar panels.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

By supporting my idea just in the right time! Thanks to the Fund we now have one of the most modern hydroponics systems in Bulgaria. The greenhouse is ready, and we already have a good reputation with clients.

LASER KANT METAL EOOD

The company

Laser Kant Metal EOOD was established in 2024 in the municipality of Krumovgrad with the aim of offering modern and precise metalworking. The company, managed by Elitsa Slavova Mollova, specializes in the manufacturing of metal parts, structures and elements for machines and industrial facilities, as well as laser cutting, cutting of profile pipes and bending of metal components. The production base is currently being built and business is opening of four new jobs. The ambition is for the company to establish itself as a reliable local partner for business.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, the company invests in equipment and a modern, safe working environment.

For Elitsa Mollova, the support is an opportunity for the entrepreneurial idea to turn into a real business that creates value and new jobs.





**“ Support means trust,
a chance for realization
and an opportunity
to turn an idea necessary
for the market into
a real business. ”**

**Elitsa Slavova Mollova,
LASER KANT METAL EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is a challenge because every new project requires courage, perseverance and resources. At the same time, the region needs new production and jobs, and the lack of such services creates an opportunity to meet real demand.

What did the Fund help with?

The Fund helped us accelerate investments in production, equipment and working environment. This gives us confidence to build a technologically prepared and competitive company.

How do you assess the presence of "DPM Metals" in the region?

I assess it positively. The company contributes to employment and the local economy and shows that there is a prospect for investments, work and entrepreneurship in Krumovgrad.

LIDIA PHOTOGRAPHY OOD

The company

Semra Kojakaplan and Esra Yakub are photographers who returned from Turkey to start their own business in their hometown – Krumovgrad. The entrepreneurs already had extensive experience in this industry, but to successfully launch their new studio, they had to invest in professional photo and video equipment.

Support from the SME Fund

After receiving support from the Fund, Semra and Esra managed to purchase all necessary equipment, including video camera, lens cameras, a drone, etc.

They also bought a CO2 laser engraving machine to make souvenirs and advertising materials, in addition to the core photo services they offer.





**“ We love photography
and our home country!
We are very happy
to be back! ”**

**Semra Kojakaplan and Esra Yakub,
LIDIA PHOTOGRAPHY OOD**

Ms. Yakub, Ms. Kojakaplan, is it hard to do business in Bulgaria?

The first year is the hardest, especially in a small town. It is hard until you earn your clients' trust. If you pull it through, business gets going because you've built yourself a reputation and draw clients in.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

People we know told us about the Fund and decided to apply right on the spot. We already had such business in Turkey and wanted to try in Bulgaria, too. We love photography. We love our home country, too, and hence wanted to try to make a career back home. We are happy to be back now and we are very grateful to DPM Krumovgrad – high tech equipment in our business is quite expensive and we wouldn't have succeeded the way we planned to without such financial support.

LUCH SYSTEM EOOD

The company

Boyan Dishliev is an experienced car mechanic whose dream has been to open his own repair shop in his hometown Krumovgrad. However, he lacked the funds to buy all necessary equipment. It was then that he learned about the Fund from people he knew.

Support from the SME Fund

After hearing about the SME Support Fund, Boyan came up with a business plan to finally make his dream come true. His efforts paid off.

He received project funding to refurbish the workshop and purchase new high-tech equipment like a DPF cleaning system, which increased the number of his clients not only from the local municipality but the whole district. The car repair workshop was launched successfully, creating new jobs as well.





**“ It is not hard to do
business in Bulgaria.
Nothing is impossible,
if you are hardworking
and dedicated. ”**

**Boyan Dishliev,
LUCH SYSTEM OOD**

Mr. Dishliev, is it difficult to do business in Bulgaria?

Not really, if you are dedicated and hardworking. I've been in this business for many years now. I have the necessary skills and experience. Now that I have this new equipment, I have a lot to offer to my clients.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

I managed to bring my idea to life thanks to the Fund. Now we have equipment that will bring us customers not only from the municipality, but from the entire region. We can offer services that clients look for and that are not offered by many. This gives us a competitive edge and enhanced stability.

MOLLOVI 2005 OOD

The company

Mollovi 2005 OOD is small logging and wood processing company established in 2005 in the Municipality of Krumovgrad.

It has developed a flexible approach to timber harvesting and processing, long-term relations with large wood processing factories and reliable distribution channels on the timber market.

The company seeks growth opportunities by upgrading the capacity of its timber production facility and responding to an increasing market demand for pellets made from forestry and agricultural products and used for heating purposes. It applies the circular economy principles by utilizing wood processing waste for pellet production purposes.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided financial assistance to Mollovi 2005 OOD for the amount of BGN 266 330.00, of which BGN 119 848.50 as project grant. The company upgraded its production capacity and set up a new production line for wood pellets for heating purposes and created 4 new jobs.





**“ The question is
how far you would
like to go and
what’s your limit “**

**Rumen Mollov,
MOLLOVI 2005 OOD**

Mr. Mollov, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

Not just in Krumovgrad but in Bulgaria in general. There are too many challenges, most of them financial. When it comes down to wood processing and timber harvesting, everything is so expensive.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to this funding, we opened a new pellet line that utilizes wood processing waste. Hence, we now have closed-loop manufacturing. We also bought a new wood shaping line with money from the Fund. We hired 4 people. Purchase orders are increasing, and we can now meet the demand.

What are your impressions of working with the Fund's team?

At beginning we felt that we were not ready yet to apply, although information about the Fund was readily available everywhere. Luckily, the Fund offered consultants that helped us with the application process and did a great job. They helped us a lot with project implementation. I can only but congratulate them and encourage them to continue helping people. Very prompt and adequate support from them, well done!

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

I settled back permanently in 2004, or rather in 2005. Krumovgrad has changed very much since then, I would even say radically. Back then you could see a modest construction site here and there. Now there are whole new residential areas.

NALBANT TRANS LTD

The Business

Ahmed Nalbant started his business in 1997 as a sole trader, and in 2018 he expanded his business through Nalbant Trans LTD. The company is engaged in transport activities and gradually develops its services according to the needs of the region. As the activity develops, the need for additional staff also increases. The company employs three people, and Ahmed Nalbant plans to open new workplaces and continue to expand the business opportunities.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund, Nalbant Trans LTD purchased a hydraulic truck crane, necessary for construction and various activities in the region. The investment allows the company to offer a more specialized service and meet the growing needs of the local market. The new equipment increases the need for staff by two more people and creates the opportunity for future new jobs.





**“ With the support of
the Fund, we were able
to purchase equipment
that is important for the
construction and
development
of the region. ”**

**Ahmed Nalbant,
NALBANT TRANS EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

I don't think it is difficult when a person has the desire to work. Assistance like this from DPM Krumovgrad gives confidence to local businesses to develop.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

The fund helped us purchase equipment. This allowed us to expand our activities and meet the needs of construction in the region.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

I assess it very positively. DPM Krumovgrad support helps businesses in Krumovgrad grow and create more opportunities for people in the region.

NAFI LTD.

The Business

NAFI Ltd. was established in 2007 by Fevzi Hali and operates in the construction sector. Over time, the company expands its scope of work and begins trading in building materials. The business is developing well, and the company employs three people. For Fevzi Hali, one of the biggest challenges is the speed of growth - the market requires an increasingly fast response, a larger volume of deliveries and the opportunity for customers to receive the necessary materials on time.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund, in 2024 NAFI Ltd. builds a metal hall for trading in building materials. The company also purchases a forklift, as well as video surveillance systems. The investment helps the business to better organize its activities, increase storage and service capacity, and respond more effectively to market needs.





**“ The support from
the Fund helped us
expand our activities
and work faster and
more organized. ”**

**Fevzi Hali,
NAFI OOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

Business is developing, but the challenges are related to the pace. Customers expect speed, availability and the possibility of larger deliveries, so we must constantly expand and improve.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we built a new hall and purchased equipment. This helped us increase our capacity and serve customers better.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

DPM Krumovgrad contributed to the economic development of the region. Their presence created more opportunities for business and helped the region develop more actively.

KRUMOVITSA EOOD MUNICIPAL COMPANY

The company

Krumovitsa EOOD is a newly established municipal company that provides transport services to local residents. It was set up with support by the Krumovgrad Municipal Council which approved public transport itineraries already back in 2011.

These itineraries open business opportunities for licensed local companies to provide transport services to residents of Krumovgrad, the Izgrev and Zapad residential areas, as well as nearby villages.

Support from the SME Fund

With financial support from the Fund, the newly set up municipal company can begin operating and offer public transport services to local residents. Apart from setting up its new office, Krumovitsa EOOD made some key investments - it purchased 3 minibuses that meet all modern standards for passenger comfort. All three minibuses are eco-friendly and equipped with video surveillance.





“ Thanks to the Fund, we managed to prove that a municipal initiative can be a success with dedicated support and investments ”

**Gyursel Gyuslyu,
KRUMOVITSA EOOD MUNICIPAL COMPANY**

Mr. Gyuslyu, how did you decide to establish a company for public transport services?

Over 10 years ago the Krumovgrad Municipal Council voted the itineraries we are now using. However, transport companies were not interested to cover these itineraries, and they remained only on paper. At the same time, there is an almost critical need for public transport in some residential areas in Krumovgrad and nearby villages. We learned about the Fund from the municipality and decided that the time had come and we need to make a step forward.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to the Fund we were able to show how a municipal initiative can be successful with dedicated support and investments. We created 3 new jobs for a manger, driver and car mechanic. And most importantly, we addressed the long-standing need for public transport to some residential areas and neighboring villages, thus making people's lives better.

OREGANO BG EOOD

The company

Oregano BG EOOD is engaged with the processing of agricultural and forestry products. One of its vegetable processing facilities opened in 2016, and processes mainly peppers, eggplant and mushrooms. The company also owns a facility for producing essential oils from different crops such as juniper, conifer coneflower, white oregano and sage.

The production capacity of both facilities was unable to keep up with an ever-increasing market demand, while the company could not afford to purchase modern equipment and specialized transport equipment.

Support from the SME Fund

The SME Support Fund financed 2 projects submitted by Oregano BG EOOD - one for BGN 184 374.07, of which BGN 82 968.33 project grant, and the second for BGN 83 379.84, of which BGN 37 520.93 as project grant.

The company purchased a specialized refrigerated van and 6 new machines for the two facilities, opened 7 new jobs and increased its sales revenue by 263%.





“ The SME Support Fund is a dream fund. There are very few formalities. Things happen really fast and with high effectiveness. ”

**Sebahtin Karaibryam,
OREGANO BG EOOD**

Mr. Karaibryam, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, quite difficult indeed given local conditions. Our region is small and very poor, agriculture is the main livelihood for most people. Our company processes agricultural and forestry products. 15 years ago, we were the biggest Bulgarian producer. Today, we barely meet market demands.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Thanks to DPM Krumovgrad SME Support Fund we implemented two projects - one for essential oils extraction and the other for vegetable processing. We purchased equipment to distillate essential oils and another batch of equipment for processing, roasting and transporting frozen vegetables. We also hired 7 new employees, and this is just the beginning. . Our productivity increased fivefold, which is really a lot.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

I believe that their efforts will have a huge impact in due time - creating sustainable businesses in the region and jobs for many people.

ORHAN - 75 00D

The company

Orhan 75 00D was set up in 2023 by Orhan Yumer, an entrepreneur. Orhan had been wanting to open his own small restaurant for a long time. When hearing about the SME Support Fund, he decided to finally give it a go.

Support from the SME Fund

With financial support from the Fund, Orhan managed to handle some of the biggest challenges when opening a restaurant, i.e. kitchen equipment and furniture for the place. He now has a fully functional place and has opened one new workplace.





**“ Applying for funding
went very well.
I am happy I applied. ”**

**Orhan Yumer,
ORHAN - 75 00D**

Mr. Yumer, is it difficult to start up a business in Bulgaria?

It's relative but I would rather say it isn't. Things work out if you are dedicated. I am not new to this business, I had set my mind on opening my own place and when the opportunity arose, I didn't hesitate to try. I already had suitable property near the bus station in Krumovgrad and with financial support from the Fund, I was finally able to open my own restaurant.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Local people told me about the Fund. I applied and here I am now. I am happy I applied. Project funding gave me the safety I needed since the first steps are the hardest - the cost of new furniture and equipment are pretty high. I am now the proud owner of my own bistro and have the job I've always wanted.

PIM METAL EOOD

The company

PIM Metal EOOD manufactures and processes various products from different types of metals like alloy steels, stainless steel, brass, aluminum and cast iron. These products are used in different industries such as automotive and mechanical engineering, construction, the furniture industry, etc.

Support from the SME Fund

PIM Metal applied for funding to upgrade its equipment with new, high-tech machines for the production and processing of metal products, which would expand the company's product range and significantly improve its efficiency, so that it could take on more and bigger work orders.

Thanks to project funding, the company made key investments in horizontal lathes, pallet trucks and tools, also creating three new jobs.





“ We invested in modern equipment, upgraded our product range and created new jobs. ”

**Zlatko Marinov,
PIM METAL EOOD**

Mr. Marinov, what challenges does your company face?

Our work has its own specific aspects - without the proper machine you cannot manufacture a certain product. Technologies are key but modern equipment requires huge investments.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

The SME Support Fund helped us launch new products that we were unable to manufacture before. We invested in modern equipment, upgraded our product range and created new jobs. Project execution went smooth. The people working at the Fund were very helpful and supportive.

PIPERIKA LTD

The Business

Piperika LTD was founded in 2006 by Emin Karaibryam. The company began its activities by collecting herbs, and over time gradually expanded its direction of development to growing and freezing vegetables. Today, the business is developing well and provides direct employment for 20 people, while also engaging many other people indirectly - through seasonal work, deliveries and related activities. For Emin Karaibryam, the biggest challenge in this type of work remains time - because the production, collection and processing of produce depend directly on natural conditions.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund, Piperika LTD purchased canning equipment and a new refrigerated truck. The investment helps the company to improve the automation of processes and increase its work capacity. This allows for more efficient organization, better storage and processing of produce and greater security in the development of the business.





**“ With the support of
the Fund, we improved
automation and
increased our
capacity threefold. ”**

**Emin Karaibryam,
PIPERIKA OOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, especially when the work depends on the season and weather. But business develops well when there is perseverance, proper investments and support.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased canning equipment and a new refrigerated truck. This allowed us to automate some of the processes and increase our work capacity threefold.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

I believe that over the past 10 years, DPM Krumovgrad has significantly improved the business environment in Krumovgrad. Their support gives local companies the opportunity to grow and create more jobs for people in the region.

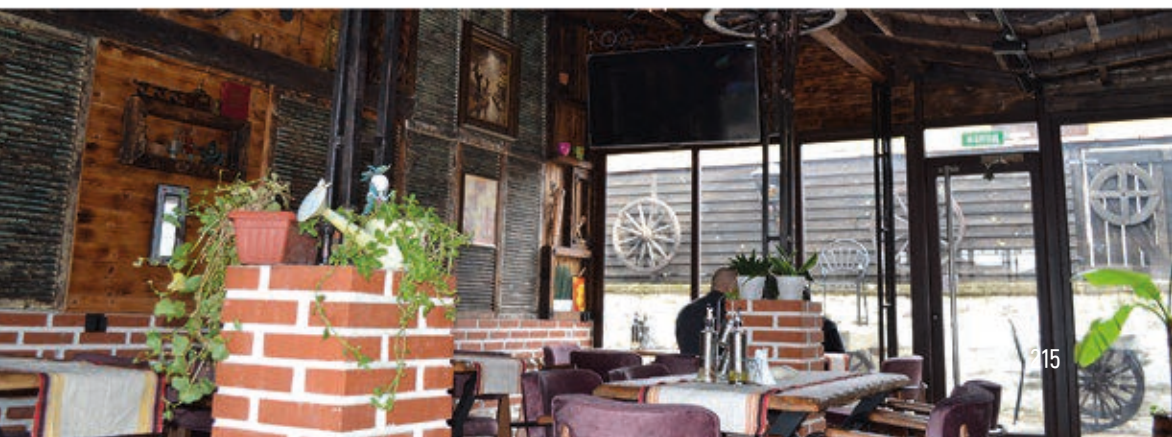
PCHELICHKA 2015 OOD

The company

Pchelichka 2015 OOD was established in 2015 in Krumovgrad offering a broad range of services: production of PVC and aluminum joinery, car repairs, trading with auto parts and consumables, and cargo services at German airports.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided financial assistance to Pchelichka 2015 OOD for BGN 121.602, of which BGN 54 720.90 as project grant. The company expanded its activities, adding a new and previously unavailable local service, namely carpet washing and drying, which also created 2 new jobs. In 2023, the Fund supports the company with a second project aimed at diversifying its activities and launching a new business - a snack bar.





**“ Diverse services make
companies resilient
in times of market
uncertainty. ”**

**Nasko and Ivan Karkelanovi,
PCHELICHKA 2015 OOD**

Is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

Nasko: Nowadays, and especially in Krumovgrad, yes. Our approach is to diversify our services because the market is very much uncertain - demand for some services declines sharply while prices of raw materials and consumables rise steeply. We believe that the more and various services we offer, the more sustainable our business would be.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

Nasko: Thanks to support from the Fund we set up a new line of businesses - an automatic carpet wash center. We purchased a company car, washing and drying machines, as well as a specialized centrifuge for the carpets.

Ivan: This service was not available till now in Krumovgrad, we are the first ones to offer it. We hired two people which we expect to stay with the company for at least another 5 years, i.e. there is job security.

What are your impressions of working with the Fund's team?

Ivan: They are very easy to work with and were of great help indeed. They were very kind. We didn't expect that our would be approved but it all went very smoothly.

Nasko: Whenever we've had difficulties, we've discussed them with the Fund and they have responded immediately.

RADOMES EOOD

The Business

Radomes EOOD is a meat processing and meat sales company, founded in 2008 by Radoslav Peresyov. Over the years, the company has developed steadily and managed to build a sustainable business in the Krumovgrad municipality. Today, the company employs 25 people, and the business continues to expand. For Radoslav Peresyov, the biggest challenge remains finding qualified labor, especially in a remote area where retaining and attracting qualified people is increasingly difficult.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund, Radomes EOOD purchased two new cars that support the daily work of the company. The investment allows the company to increase its capacity, better organize deliveries and expand its activities. The support from the Fund enables the business to work more efficiently and better respond to the needs of customers.





**“ With the support of
the Fund, we increased
our capacity and
managed to expand
the activities of
the company. ”**

**Radoslav Peresyov,
RADOMES EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

The most difficult thing is finding people, especially qualified labor. When you are in a remote area, this is a challenge that is felt every day.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased two new cars. This helped us increase our work capacity, better organize our activities and expand the business.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

The presence of DPM Krumovgrad helped the region. More opportunities for work and development are created, which is important for both people and local businesses.

SENA TRADE LTD

The Business

Sena Trade LTD is a company whose activities began in 2007, when Ahmed Ismail started a business for installing window frames. Over time, the company developed and about five years ago expanded its activities to include construction services. The business is developing quite well, but like many other companies, it has been affected by the Covid crisis. Despite the difficult period, Sena Trade LTD managed to recover, take on new large-scale projects and expand its team. Today, the company employs 14 people, and the biggest challenge remains finding labor.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund, Sena Trade EOOD purchased an excavator loader and facade frame scaffolding. The new equipment allows the company to work more efficiently, take on larger construction projects and increase its capacity. For Ahmed Ismail, support is key to the subsequent development of the business.





**“ Our recovery was
very fast thanks to
the help of
DPM Krumovgrad. ”**

**Ahmed Ismail,
SENA TRADE EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

The biggest challenge is finding workforce. When a business grows and starts taking on larger projects, the need for people becomes even greater.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased construction equipment. This helped us quickly restore our work and start implementing larger projects.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

DPM Krumovgrad helped the region a lot. Thanks to their support, local businesses get a chance to recover, develop and create more jobs.

MONCHO'S WORKSHOP EOOD

The company

Simeon Alekov, a young and ambitious car mechanic, was determined to turn his passion for cars into a successful business. After years of refining his skills, he managed to purchase and refurbish a place in Krumovgrad's industrial area, turning it into a car repair workshop. However, investing in modern equipment and technology was a serious challenge for a start-up business.

Support from the SME Fund

Simeon applied for funding, which would enable him to purchase the equipment needed to open the workshop. His project was approved, enabling him to invest in an electro-hydraulic lift, tire changing machine, system diagnostics module, oil drain system, etc. The company is now fully operational and has opened one new workplace.





“ Having support when you are just starting your own business is priceless. Everything is in my hands now and I am optimistic about the future. ”

**Simeon Alexov,
MONCHO'S WORKSHOP EOOD**

Mr. Alekov, how did you decide to open your own workshop?

My father is a mechanic with 30 years of experience, he taught me the ins and outs of the trade. I've been practicing and working on my skills for many years, and at one point the next logical step forward was to start something of my own. In Krumovgrad most cars are over 10 years old, so naturally car repairs would be frequent and there will be plenty of work for me to do.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

My father is currently employed by DPM Krumovgrad. He and some other people told me about the Fund. They encouraged me to apply and it turned out to be quite easy. This support at the early stage of a newly set up business is priceless. Now everything is in my hands - to build myself a reputation and win the trust of my clients. I am optimistic about the future.

SOFTA TRADE OOD

The company

Samet Softa, the founder of Softa Trade, is an entrepreneur with fresh ideas and flair for new initiatives.

In view of the growing demand for eco fuels and the possibility to process waste material from wood processing and logging companies, he thought of a great business development opportunity.

Support from the SME Fund

Samet drafted a detailed business plan and decide to apply for project funding to set up a modern automated wooden pallet production line.

The project was approved and Softa Trade OOD began its wooden pallet production, thus creating new jobs and contributing to the development of the local economy.





**“ Eco fuels are the future,
and we need to start
preparing now. ”**

**Samet Softa,
SOFTA TRADE OOD**

Mr. Softa, what opportunities do you see for your business?

I believe that eco fuels are the future. Hence, I decided to go into the wooden pallet production business. In general, the smart move for companies would be to start preparing already. I saw an opportunity to start processing and using the waste generated by wood processing companies. Indeed, this required major investments on our side but I believe they will pay off.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

The Fund made this project possible. Most importantly, I was able to buy a modern and automated wooden pellet production line. In smaller towns the greatest challenge is to find labor force. Hence, processes need to be automated as much as possible, if you want your business to be sustainable.

SUTEX TRADE OOD

The company

Sutex Trade has been a knitwear manufacturer since 2013. It employs about 90 people in the Municipality of Krumovgrad and works for renowned international brands like Givenchy, The Kooples, Gallo, Joseph Ribkoff, Flair, Ducati, etc. The company has an excellent reputation thanks to the quality of its services and its strict adherence to the commitments made.

Support from the SME Fund

Being a company with great experience on the market, Sutex Trade OOD logically applied for Fund support with a very well-thought through project. Its main goal was to increase its throughput and production capacity. Once the project was approved, the company invested in high-tech equipment. It purchased 20 modern sewing machines and systems that mechanize various operations and significantly reduce production time and increase performance quality. Three new jobs were also created.





**// The Fund supported
us with a key
investment on
favorable terms**

//

**Yordan Stoev,
SUTEX TRADE OOD**

Mr. Stoev, what are the specific features of your business?

We are a reputed company with ten years of experience and successful track record. We have serious potential to develop and grow, to open new jobs and continue contributing to the economic growth of Krumovgrad and the region. More than half of our staff is qualified, trained and experienced. We strive to take care of our employees in the best possible way. We are proud that we've been able to justify for many years now the trust of some of the most reputable international brands and that we continue to meet their high quality and integrity criteria.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

The Fund supported us with a key investment on very favorable terms. We purchased 22 high-tech sewing machines that minimize the low productivity issue with a number of specific sewing operations that usually require a lot of manual labor and hence more time. Understandably, increased production capacity enables us to meet market demand on a much larger scale.

TEAM PLUS OOD

The company

Team Plus OOD was established in Krumovgrad in 2015. It has two lines of business - one is sales, installation and service maintenance of air conditioning and refrigeration systems. As such, Team Plus OOD is the main service provider for Technopolis in the district of Kardzhali. The company's second line of business is the production and installation of PVC and aluminum joinery. However, it has been heavily downsized over the years due to limited production equipment capacity and no financial resources to purchase new machines.

Support from the SME Fund

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund provided BGN 76 870 financial assistance to Team Plus OOD, of which BGN 34 591.50 as project grant. The company purchased 7 new machines and opened 4 new jobs. Its sales income increased by 264%.

In 2025, the company received additional support from the Fund to expand its activities in the field of installation, maintenance and service of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. The company is creating a service base that allows the business to develop more sustainably and in an organized manner.





**“ One has to be brave
and explore how
far he can go to
achieve his goals “**

**Vladimir Ivanov,
TEAM PLUS 00D**

Mr. Ivanov, is it difficult to do business in Krumovgrad?

Indeed, it isn't easy in a small municipality like ours. At the beginning it was really hard - we had no premises of our own, no proper equipment and our production rates were rather low. Hence, we had to suspend one of our two main activities (manufacturing joinery) and rely on the second one only, i.e. sales, installation and service of air conditioning systems and refrigerators. I've always believed that one has to be brave and keep trying, in order to see how far he can get in life. And here we are now, we made it! With hard work and perseverance!

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

After we received financing from the Fund, we were able to restore the production of aluminum and PVC joinery. We bought new machines and opened new jobs, and our productivity changed dramatically. We used to make five windows daily. Now we can do 25, even 30. It would have taken us many years to achieve what we have now in terms of equipment and production capacity, if it were not for the Fund. In fact, I am not sure we would have even made it this far. I hope that other companies will also be able to benefit from the Fund and develop their business, since this is good for a small economy like ours.

Has DPM's presence changed the livelihoods of local people in Krumovgrad?

Yes, definitely. Many people returned from abroad, as well as from Sofia and Plovdiv, to find fulfillment here.

TRANS GROUP KRUMOVGRAD EOOD

The company

Trans Group Krumovgrad OOD is a construction company with many years of experience. The company tries to keep up with the market demand for specialized construction services, especially in road infrastructure and earthworks.

Support from the SME Fund

The company had a very clear goal in mind - to add earthworks to its service portfolio. Hence, it applied for funding from the SME Support Fund and got it. It then invested in a modern wheeled multi-purpose excavator with front loader, employed one new person and started offering a new service.





**" This type of business is needed
in our region. Krumovgrad
has been on the rise since
DPM Krumovgrad established
operations here. "**

**Kenan Dervish,
TRANS GROUP KRUMOVGRAD OOD**

Mr. Dervish, how would you describe being an entrepreneur in Krumovgrad?

Since DPM Krumovgrad came to Krumovgrad, the town has been on the rise. Businesses like ours are indeed needed, there are much more construction works going on. Finding good workers is, however, a bit of a problem – people who are serious about their work and don't keep hopping from one job to another.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

The Fund was of immense help. The excavator we managed to buy with project funding is quite of an investment and it would have been quite tough without the Fund. We are now able to offer a new service, and we've also hired an extra worker.

HAMAT EOOD

The company

Hamat EOOD is a small company that makes PVC plastisol cap seals for canned food and beverages. Its clients, however, are some of the biggest manufacturers of bottle and jar caps in Bulgaria. It exports nearly 40% of its production to Turkey, Ukraine and Moldova.

Support from the SME Fund

The company has received project funding from Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness" for a new production line for cap sealers made of eco-friendly materials (modified polyolefins and synthetic rubber) but it needs additional auxiliary equipment. Hence, the company decided to apply for funding to the SME Support Fund as well. Its project was approved and it was able to purchase gravimetric devices (feeders), an underwater cutting system and other necessary equipment. The company also hired one extra worker and successfully launched its new production line.

In 2025, the company receives support for another project - improving competitiveness through the implementation of new equipment - expansion for the food sector and the medical packaging sector.



A middle-aged man with short grey hair, wearing a dark grey crewneck sweater and blue jeans, stands in a warehouse. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. In the background, there are cardboard boxes, blue storage drums, and a window with a white frame.

**“ The SME Support Fund
was of huge help.
Without it our new
production line would
have been commissioned
with delay. ”**

**Hassan Hassan,
HAMAT EOOD**

Mr. Hassan, what challenges does your business face?

As with all other companies in this region, the biggest issue is finding workers. In general, our business is quite tough (raw and plastic materials). Materials have to be more eco-friendly; standards are getting higher and so are equipment requirements. This is our family business and all of us are engaged with it.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

We learned about the Fund from local media and then spoke to some acquaintances who had already received project funding. They encouraged us to give it a go. We put down our idea on paper, applied and got approved. The Fund was of great help. Without it we wouldn't have been able to bring our idea to life and launch so soon.

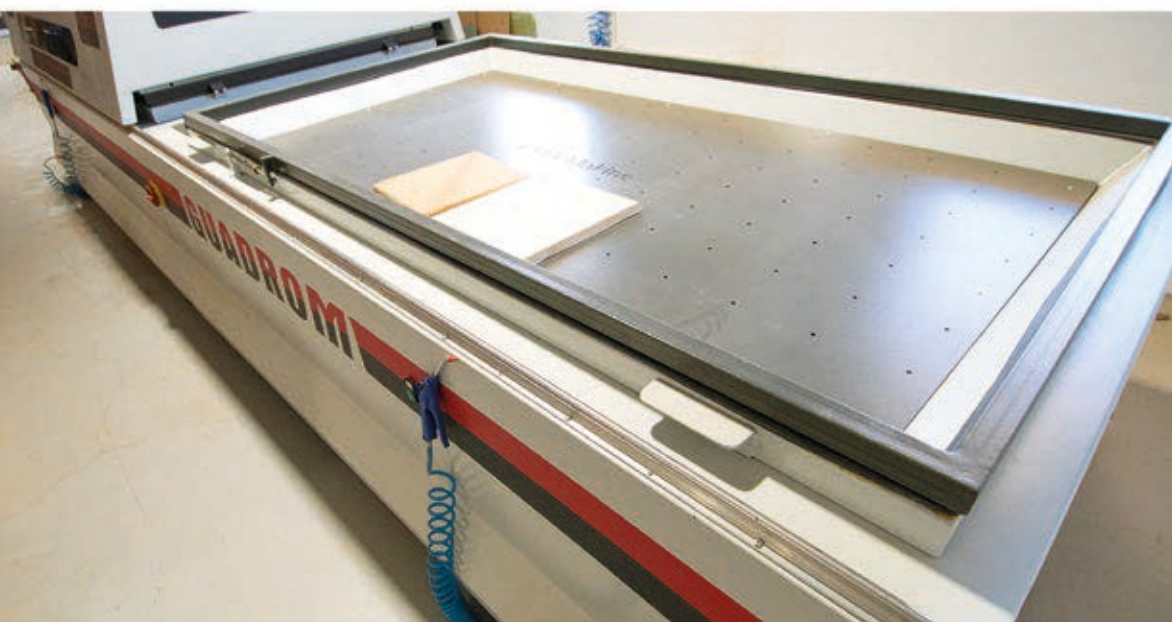
HZE - ES 2021 EOOD

The company

HZE-ES 2021 EOOD is based in the village of Ovchari and specializes in the production of furniture and various furniture components, yet striving for high quality, performance and innovation.

Support from the SME Fund

The company received support from the Fund in early 2021 - funds that it invested in the renovation of the production premises and the purchase of high-tech equipment such as a format circular saw, CNC router, vacuum membrane press, edge banding machine and compressor. The workshop opened its doors and provided two new jobs. In 2025, it again received assistance to expand the production workshop, significantly increasing productivity.





**“ Attention to detail is
key in our line of work.
I am grateful that the
Fund supported our idea. ”**

**Evtim Atanassov,
HZE - ES 2021 EOOD**

Mr. Atanasov, what is it like to start a business in Krumovgrad?

Not easy, broadly speaking. Taxes are high and profits are slim. Yet, we launched our business with conviction in our abilities, perseverance and commitment. Clients look for high-quality low-price products, and we do everything we can to meet this market demand.

How did the Krumovgrad SME Support Fund help you?

We learned about the Fund from its website and didn't hesitate to explore this opportunity. Our team showed great dedication in drafting the project proposal. We applied and here we are - happy with our success. This kind of support is priceless for a newly established company like ours. In our line of work attention to detail is everything.

I am grateful to the Fund for supporting our idea.

HOPE DRILLING EOOD

The Business

Hope Drilling EOOD was established in 2024 by Simeon Zhekov. The company is engaged in drilling activities and from the very beginning and has developed a service that is not limited to the Krumovgrad region, but has the potential to reach customers in other settlements. The company employs three people, and Simeon Zhekov's plans are to gradually increase the team. For him, creating the business is an important step towards developing his own business in an area with real need and demand.

Support from the SME Fund

With the help of the Fund, Hope Drilling EOOD purchased two drilling machines. The support from the Fund enables the company to start working with the necessary equipment and offer a professional service from the very first stages of its development. For Simeon Zhekov, this is the foundation on which the business can grow and expand its scope.





**“ With the help of
the Fund, we were able
to start our business
and work with the necessary
equipment from
the very beginning. ”**

**Simeon Zhekov,
HOPE DRILLING EOOD**

Is it difficult to develop a business in Krumovgrad?

It is difficult, mostly because of the lack of resources. This is clearly felt in our activity - for example, in the water shortage, which creates a real need for drilling services.

How did the Krumovgrad Micro, Small and Medium-Size Enterprise Support Fund help?

With the help of the Fund, we purchased two drilling machines. This allowed us to start the business and start working with equipment that meets the needs of the activity.

How do you assess the presence of DPM Krumovgrad in the region?

DPM Krumovgrad created jobs and raised the standard in the region. People are much more modern and solvent, and this also has a positive effect on local business.

IN CONCLUSION

If success could be measured in numbers, it would look like this:

- 173 newly created jobs, not related to mining, created in Krumovgrad Municipality
- BGN 6.7 mln invested as project grants in the sustainable development of local SMEs
- 89 approved projects

However, we know that success is more than just numbers

Till now, entrepreneurs from smaller towns and villages have had little hope that they would be able to find support for their business ideas. They've feared that if they applied for funding, conditions would be too demanding and nearly impossible to meet.

The Krumovgrad SME Support Fund has managed to transform this perception.

All business owners have shared with us the same thing – not only that they want to grow and develop locally, in the place where they were born, but that the application procedure itself was easy, the project approval process – surprisingly fast, and that people from the Fund have shown great understanding.

This is the true measure of our success.

Because we care.



**SME
Support
Fund**

ASSOCIATION

"Fund for Support and
Promotion of Micro, Small and
Medium-Sized Enterprises in
Krumovgrad Municipality"

<https://dundeefund.eu/>
