

SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT ON BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF NIŠ AND BANCA INTESA JSC BELGRADE

Niš, Friday, 4th October, 2019

As a part of the Program for Local Economic Development of the City of Niš for 2019, implemented by the Office for Local Economic Development and Projects of the City of Niš, a public call for offers has been made out to banks interested in issuing short-term loans for businesses from the territory of the City of Niš, with participation from the City through the subsidizing of the interest rates of loans for:

- expenses of procuring machinery and equipment,
- modernizing the production process,
- stabilization of production,
- investments into new modern equipment and production,
- construction, reconstruction and adaptation of business premises.

The Commission for awarding funds for the implementation of this program, according to the criteria from the public call, selected the most favourable offer, which was submitted by Banca Intesa, with whom an Agreement on Business Cooperation was signed today at Niš City Hall. The Agreement was signed, on behalf of the city, by Mayor Darko Bulatović, and, on behalf of the bank, Regional Retail and Small Business Director at Banca Intesa Niš Regional Centre Violeta Marjanović.

“For the third year in a row now Banca Intesa, in cooperation with the City of Niš, has been supporting the development of local businesses through favourable financing of entrepreneurs, micro, small and medium enterprises. The Agreement we signed today will provide additional financial support for improving the operations of businesses in Niš, which we have supported with around RSD 340 million in loans with subsidized interest rates as a part of the implementation of the local development program over the past two years. I would like to thank the City of Niš on its trust and excellent cooperation, and I would like to use this opportunity to invite all businesses to visit us at the Banca Intesa branch office in Niš, and improve their operations under very favourable terms,” stated Violeta Marjanović, Regional Retail and Small Business Director at Banca Intesa Niš Regional Centre.

“For the City of Niš, it is very important to implement projects like this one in order to encourage the further development of entrepreneurship and the local economy, and thus contribute to the reduction of unemployment in our city. The local self-government requires reliable partners to carry out these plans, and that is why I am satisfied that we will be implementing this program in cooperation with Banca Intesa, which has proven to be a truly good and reliable partner over the last two years. The City of Niš will earmark RSD 9,000,000.00 for subsidizing interest for loans which will be issued to businesses. I expect that there will be more entities interested in this form of aid compared to the previous year, when 159 legal entities got loans,” said Mayor Darko Bulatović during the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation.

The minimum amount of the loans whose interest will be subsidized is RSD 100,000.00, and the maximum amount is RSD 1,500,500.00. The City of Niš will subsidize the interest until the funds have been spent, with a repayment period of 12 months. The purpose of subsidizing this part of the loan is to contribute to the economic growth by offering easier access to loan financing, approved with favourable terms, to the private sector.