



The top start-ups

Balkan Venture Forum 2013

The top start-ups of the BkVF Sofia pitching competition have been announced.

Brussels, May 27, 2013 – The 3rd edition of the Balkan Venture Forum proved to be a success. The pitching quality was exceptional, the participants enthusiastic and the panels and speeches were interactive and thought-provoking. Furthermore an impressive amount of participants from across Europe and abroad took the chance to be part of this forum, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the Balkan region.

On **21-22 May 2013** the **National Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria** offered the perfect setting for the event. In the dynamic pitching competition, 37 companies out of more than 90 applications presented to an international jury of venture capitalists, corporate investors, business angels and other experts from the industry.

"The third edition of Balkan Venture Forum, being the largest and the most successful so far, welcomed over 600 participants from across the SEE.

Together with the two partner events, Seedcamp and Leancamp, it engaged the Bulgarian and Balkans' startup community, delivering unprecedented value to all present speakers, startups and investors."

Aleksandar Tasev,
Founder and Executive director
Balkan Unlimited Foundation

The start-ups' business proposals were evaluated on Business Potential, Team Experience, Product/technology Merit, Competitive Position, Investment/Partnering Interest, and the quality of the Project Profile and the Company Presentation.

This forum culminated with the announcement of the following **award winning companies**:

(http://www.e-unlimited.com/events/view.aspx?events_pages_id=1798)

- Imagga - Chris Georgiev
- Lionsharp - Nigel Sharp
- MammothDB - Chavdar Bilyanski
- Sponsia - Teodosiy Teodosiev
- Squirrly Limited - Florin Muresan
- StorPool - Boyan Ivanov
- Transmetrics - Asparuh Koev
- Wanderio - Matteo Colò
- Zzzzapp - Tino Tokic

By winning this award, these top quartile (best 25%) presenting companies of BkVF Sofia are qualified to pitch at the **European Venture Summit (EVS)** in December 2013.

(<http://www.e-unlimited.com/events/list-upcoming.aspx>)

EVS is the flagship event of Europe Unlimited and one of Europe's largest and most prestigious venturing events. From each event held in Europe during the year the top 25% will present again here to become the best of the best to improve chances on raising funding and/or partnership.



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Also interested in joining the Balkan Venture Forum? Attend the next one in November 2013 in Tirana, Albania!

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Balkan Venture Forum in Sofia is one of the main objectives of the SEE Programme project VIBE (Venture Initiative in Balkan Europe) and is being co-financed by European Union. VIBE is a regional eco-system accelerator that takes on the challenge of developing the innovation and entrepreneurship system in the SEE. It does this through high-impact actions that enable a key financing process for innovation and entrepreneurship, which is crucial to the development of a knowledge-based economy in the SEE region.

