



**Mrs. Danela Arsovska**  
President of the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce

*Dear readers,*

*It is my honor and pleasure, in this edition of **BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF MACEDONIA 2017/2018**, to traditionally provide an introduction about the Macedonian business environment and the development of the economy in the Republic of Macedonia. The Macedonian Chambers of Commerce (MCC) is the largest independent business organization in Macedonia that promotes and represents the business interests of the companies and connects them with more than 1000 national, regional and international institutions and organizations. The Macedonian Chambers of Commerce is a union of 33 chambers of commerce, groups, and associations. Today, with its organization and more than 23.000 members, the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce is the largest Macedonian business network. The Macedonian Chambers of Commerce is in step with the modern achievements in the business world and continuously actively contributes to the development of companies. For that purpose, a number of projects and activities have been realized aimed at representation of the members' interests and directed towards improvement of the legal regulations, the organization and the functioning of the institutions, creation of opportunities for access to finance for the companies, as well as establishment of partnerships through which we contributed to an increase of the competitiveness of companies and their placement on foreign markets. The efforts of the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce were also recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which declared the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce "A Champion for Small Business" right after the election of the first champion, the Google Corporation. This great success for the Republic of Macedonia was officially accompanied by a common statement by Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the World Trade Organization and John Danilovich, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce.*

**Dear business associates,**

*The strategic goals of the Republic of Macedonia are aimed at implementing the necessary structural economic reforms for improving the business environment, increasing the employment and improving the citizens' standard of living. In order to achieve these goals and create quality living conditions and conditions for doing business, continuity is required in the implementation of the reforms in accordance with the international economic policies, and following international trends by applying best practices for doing business. The fight to tackle the informal economy is particularly important, which will mostly contribute to ensuring stability through regulation of unfair competition, as well as trust in the national system with continuous work on the improvement of the system for inspection supervision. At the same time, stability in the monetary policy and fiscal policy is important, as well as continuity in the projects for construction and modernization of the road infrastructure. Advancement of the education system, focusing on quality assurance, is also a priority for the business community, which in the past period has faced challenges of a lack of qualified staff in accordance with the needs of the labor market. Strengthening the business community by providing legal certainty, quality regulation and good conditions for doing business are priorities for enabling conditions for accelerated economic growth, however continuous incentives for export companies and support for the placement of Macedonian products and services on the international market are also required. The Macedonian Chambers of Commerce as a partner of the companies and a representative of the business community continues with its contribution to the implementation of the economic structural reforms which will create a strong national economy.*

*Respectfully,*

**Danela Arsovska**