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Dear readers,

It is my great honor and pleasure to write the introduction to the chapter "Some of the Municipalities of the Republic of Macedonia" which is part of this prestigious and renowned publication BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF MACEDONIA 2016. I address you from the southwest part of our country, from the Municipality with a great heart, which is open for every well-wisher... the Municipality of Novaci. Once you visit us, you will make permanent honest friends who will be thankful that you also left a part of your soul in these areas. As a man who is at the head of a local self-government for three mandates, I consider that this is an exceptional opportunity to speak on behalf of all Macedonian municipalities, in order to open the doors towards various opportunities to the interested national and foreign investors. With the decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia, the local self-government obtained new quality. The municipality is becoming a community where the authorities and the citizens are essentially oriented towards each other. The citizens have immediate communication with the local government through which they get information about their needs which should be met according to their personal requirements. Such communication is essential and it is a guarantee for successful work, which is expressed through the satisfaction of the citizens with the improved quality of public services, more efficient administration, greater local democracy, strengthened local economic development, etc. All municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia are different according to their geographic characteristics, historical and traditional values, and natural and human resources, which deserve to be presented before the general public. Small or big, with large or little funds, and different opportunities, however with equally great wish for success and progress. For this reason today they are constantly competing. The competition of ideas and positive practices encourages and opens perspectives, they should be the source of ideas which will transform into projects whose realization and implementation will essentially improve the quality of life of the citizens. However, the inter-municipal cooperation is also one of the instruments for overcoming the personal limits. For this particular reason, they should recognize the common needs and interests, and they should act with common ideas, to join their capacities and to push the wheel of development, to communicate with each other, to cooperate, to build their common future, so that all together they can become a part of the large European family.

The joint action before the European funds with municipalities from the neighboring countries contributed for better introduction to the mutual customs, beliefs, needs, traditions, observations and considerations. The project-oriented European community and the promotion of partnership became a powerful tool for affiliation, promotion, and overall progress. The desire for success contributed for the local self-governments to search for ways of more economical and better quality resolution of the problems of the citizens in order to provide them better quality and more acceptable living conditions. An excellent opportunity for this purpose are the funds provided from the IPA funds through which the municipalities are the key actors in the process of integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union. This Publication is a record which is made in an important period of the development of the local self-government in the Republic of Macedonia, with an idea and a desire to preserve the past and to display the present. It offers a representation of the local self-government of the Republic of Macedonia from many aspects: competences, financing, territorial organization and many more. It provides a review of the municipalities by representing their geographic, natural, demographic, economic, communication, cultural and historical-archeological information, and it is an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better, to recognize our common interests, however it also provides an opportunity for the others to get to know us better as well. By means of this Publication, the opportunities and the potentials of our country will be presented, as well as the natural resources and wealth, the fertile land, the rich cultural historical past and heritage. The representation of these potentials provides further opportunities for cooperation with foreign embassies, donors, investors, and partners. Considering that the Municipalities have an essential role in the promotion of the local economic development, their strengthening in the direction of attracting and management of investments for the local economy can be crucial for the creation of local economic growth and development, creation of new employments and improvement of the social welfare of the local population in the Republic of Macedonia. I sincerely hope that this Publication will contribute for faster and improved economic development which will transform the Republic of Macedonia into a desirable place to live in, a country of successful business stories, a country of satisfied and happy people who live in welfare.

Lazar Kotevski