



# Europe

After Central and Eastern European countries emerged from socialism and transformed into democracies, their economies also shifted from being centrally planned to being market-oriented. To create an environment that fosters economic development, state-owned enterprises have been privatized. In addition, SME development policies have been pursued relentlessly. Nations have also promoted agricultural enterprises and encourage investment from abroad.

Taiwan's substantive relations with Central and Eastern European nations centers on trade. As such, TaiwanICDF's cooperative projects in the region primarily focus on assisting private sector development, improving trade and investment, and

## Cooperating Countries and Projects in Europe



### Regional Cooperation Projects

International Human Resource Development Workshops — Twenty-one participants from 10 countries in the region attended 10 seminars including community development and the tourism industry, micro-finance, and trade promotion.

strengthening financial systems. To enlarge the impact of the TaiwanICDF's assistance in the region, cooperation activities are carried out under a multilateral cooperation platform via the EBRD. Through this connection, Taiwan shares its SME development and other related experiences with EBRD member nations.

The TaiwanICDF has established a lasting cooperative relationship with the EBRD. Special investment funds and co-financing projects provide loans and investment, creating a productive environment beneficial to the development of MSMEs.

## Key Projects

### ✦ Bulgaria ProCredit Bank Credit Project

#### Goals and Benefits

Bulgaria has one of the least developed economies in Eastern Europe. In order to ensure a successful economic transformation, the TaiwanICDF seeks to promote private sector development in the country. In conjunction with the EBRD, the TaiwanICDF provides financing to ProCredit Bank for re-lending to MSMEs. The credit project is expected to provide necessary financing to MSMEs to assist in expanding productivity and hastening the nation's economic transformation.

#### Status

The EBRD and other multilateral and bilateral development organizations jointly created ProCredit Bank. The bank primarily provides micro-credit services, offering Bulgaria's MSMEs a diversified array of financial services, and helping them become a vital component in Bulgaria's economic development. An agreement covering the credit project was signed in April 2004. The TaiwanICDF and the EBRD share information and provide assistance in monitoring the project. ProCredit Bank has already achieved the objectives outlined in 2003 with regards to loan disbursement, asset growth, and deposit/loan ratio.

