MANUFACTURING 2026

ENERGO TEHNOMA | 30.10.2026

SPORTS CONFERENCE HALL T-ARENA

ORGANISERS

MAMEI
MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION OF METAL & ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

СТОПАНСКА КОМОРА НА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА
ECONOMIC CHAMBER OF NORTH MACEDONIA

DMI DigitMAK



PARTNERS

EDIH European Digital Innovation Hubs Network

Co-funded by the European Union

Република Северна Македонија
Министерство за дигитална трансформација
Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Digital Transformation

Skopje Fair
Скопски саем

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

AHK Delegation der Deutschen Wirtschaft in Nordmazedonien
Делегација на германското стопанство во Северна Македонија

DigitMAK

EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB · NORTH MACEDONIA

Accelerating digital transformation through *artificial intelligence*

DigitMak connects small and medium-sized enterprises, startups and institutions with advanced technologies, strategic partnerships and expert support — all in one place.

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It is our distinct pleasure to invite you to the annual industrial conference Manufacturing 2026: Transformation Towards Innovation, which will take place on 30 October 2026, at the T-Arena/SC Boris Trajkovski in Skopje, within the framework of the International Fair for Technology, Energy, and Innovation ENERGO TEHNOMA 2026.

The conference is organized by the **Macedonian Association of Metal and Electrical Industry (MAMEI)** in partnership with the **Economic Chamber of North Macedonia (ECNM)** and the **European Digital Innovation Hub – DigitMak. MANUFACTURING 2026** is a platform dedicated to the future of manufacturing and the transformation required for companies to remain competitive, efficient, and prepared for the new industrial reality.

Today, manufacturing stands at a crossroads. Digitalization, automation, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, shifts in global supply chains, and rising demands for productivity, quality, and sustainability are defining new rules of the game.Under these conditions, competitiveness is no longer built solely through capacity, price, and traditional production models. It is built through knowledge, technology, innovation, investment, and the ability of companies to transform rapidly and create greater value.

This is precisely why **MANUFACTURING 2026 – TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS INNOVATION** opens the discussion on the next step for the manufacturing industry—how to move from traditional manufacturing to more innovative, intelligent, efficient, and competitive production.

As co-organizers, the Association of Metal and Electrical Industry (**MAME**I), an organization that brings together companies from the metal and electrical sectors and actively contributes to their networking, development, and the opening of new opportunities for cooperation, and the **Economic Chamber of North Macedonia (ECNM)** and **DigitMak** place special emphasis on digital transformation, investment facilitation, and market readiness for enterprises. Within this extensive program, **ECNM** and **DigitMak** lead the strategic sessions dedicated to export growth and global competitiveness, as well as the practical adoption of Industry 4.0 in synergy with regional European Digital Innovation Hubs (**EDIHs**). These sessions provide businesses with direct insight into testing advanced technologies prior to capital investment (Test Before Invest) and evaluating operational readiness via **Digital Maturity Assessments (DMA).**

MANUFACTURING 2026 serves as a premier platform dedicated to the future of production and the imperative shift from traditional operating models toward smart, technologically advanced, and internationally competitive manufacturing. In an era of accelerating technological shifts, automation, and the adoption of artificial intelligence, the conference fosters broad industry dialogue on investment readiness, sustainability, resilient supply chains, and workforce upskilling. With an emphasis on regional and international collaboration, the event brings together domestic industrial manufacturers, public institutions, and leading experts, alongside prominent international stakeholders, including partners from the EU and across the region.

SUPPORTERS

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FROM NEARSHORING TO INNOVATION

Last year, we hosted the annual conference **MANUFACTURING 2025 – FROM NEARSHORING TO NEXTSHORING**, which raised vital questions about positioning companies within new global supply chains, enhancing competitiveness, and driving technological advancement.

This year, we take the next step:

- **From positioning to transformation.**
- **From adaptation to innovation.**
- **From traditional manufacturing to the manufacturing of the future.**

MANUFACTURING 2026 – TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS INNOVATION will open new perspectives and discussions on the technologies and innovations transforming manufacturing—including artificial intelligence, automation, new skill sets, investments, and strategies for driving greater productivity and business value.

However, this is not just a conference about technology.

This is a conference about people, companies, partnerships, and decisions that will shape the next stage of industrial development. Technology alone does not drive transformation. Transformation occurs when vision becomes investment, knowledge becomes innovation, and innovation yields tangible business value.

Manufacturing 2026 brings together industry, technology, innovation, and people with a single goal: to open new opportunities for growth and accelerate the transition toward more innovative, efficient, and competitive manufacturing.

This is a call to transition from traditional production models toward innovations that generate real business value, sustainable growth, and long-term competitiveness.

Because the future of manufacturing is not predicted. The future of manufacturing is created:

- **Through INNOVATION**
- **Through TRANSFORMATION**
- **Through PARTNERSHIPS**

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ECONOMIC CHAMBER OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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MANUFACTURING 2026

Location | SPORTS HALL T-ARENA
Skopje | NORTH MACEDONIA
Date | OCTOBER 30th 2026
Fair | ENERGO – TECHNOMA | 29-31.10.2026



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CONFERENCE AGENDA

Registration **10:30**

OFFICIAL OPENING

11:00

Marta Naumovska Grnarova |Founder and President | MAMEI |

Marjan Risteski | DEPUTY MINISTER | Ministry of economy and labor of North Macedonia |

Antoni Peshev | CEO | Economic Chamber of North Macedonia |

Petre Lameski | DEAN Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering |Coordinator Digit Mak EDIH|

Antje Wandelt | DIRECTOR | AHK North Macedonia responsible for Albania and Kosovo |

PANEL 1 | Export Beyond Borders: DRIVING GROWTH in the Metal & Electrical Industry

11:30

Export growth in the metal and electrical industries depends on manufacturers' ability to meet evolving European requirements, while simultaneously controlling costs and boosting productivity. This session explores how Macedonian suppliers can respond to regulatory developments—including CBAM and EU due-diligence standards—adapt to buyer expectations, and build stronger positions in international value chains.

- **Meeting EU Standards:** Essential quality, environmental, and carbon metrics required by Tier-1 and Tier-2 automotive/industrial buyers.
- **Smart & Sustainable Manufacturing:** Practical tools to lower energy overhead, optimize material reuse, and boost plant productivity.
- **Expanding Global Reach:** Real-world exporter insights on winning international contracts and navigating current supply chain shifts.

PANELISTS

Zoran Ilievski | AKTIVA

Angel Angjushev | BRAKO

Evgenija Angelovska | LAMINATI

Katerina Zdraveska | KAZ GROUP

MODERATOR

Aneta Dimovska| Economic Chamber of North Macedonia

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12:20

PANEL 2| MANUFACTURING 4.0: How EDIHs Can Accelerate the Transformation

Digital transformation is becoming essential for manufacturing competitiveness, but companies need practical approaches from concept to implementation. This session will address how European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) can help manufacturers test technologies, develop workforce capabilities, and identify support for digital upgrades, while simultaneously mitigating adoption risks.

- **Testing automation, Internet of Things** (IoT), and **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) through EDIH facilities and "test-before-invest" services.
- **Building the digital skills** required for a modern, connected shop floor.
- **Identifying financial support and EU funding** opportunities for smart factory investments.

PANELISTS

Uroš Djoković | Capital Innovation Point Serbia – CIPS EDIH Belgrade

Dejan Todorović | DIRIGENT Acoustics LLC Belgrade

Aleksandar Stamboliev | BAU, DIGITMAK EDIH Skopje

Besmir Krasniqi | DIG-4K EDIH Prizren

Tashko Rizov | DIGITMAK EDIH Skopje

MODERATOR

Mihajlo Donev | Economic Chamber of North Macedonia

COFFEE BREAK **13:10**

PANEL 3 | Transforming Tomorrow: CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN PRACTISE

LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL RESULTS **13:30**

Chambers of commerce are driving the transition toward a greener, smarter future. Companies can strengthen their resilience and competitiveness by using resources more efficiently and reducing their environmental footprint. Through **AHK North Macedonia's** "**Circular Economy – Implemented Locally**" initiative and the **Economic Chamber of North Macedonia's Decarbonization Guide**, this session presents practical approaches to circular business practices and the transition toward a low-carbon economy.

- **Improving resource efficiency** through waste reduction and optimizing the use of materials and energy.
- Identifying practical decarbonization approaches and opportunities for emissions reduction.
- **Strengthening competitiveness** through operational efficiency, cost management, and innovation.
- **Market readiness** for European markets by meeting evolving sustainability requirements and value chain expectations.

SPEAKERS

Marija Radevska Trandafilovska | AHK North Macedonia

Antoneta Manova Stavreska | Economic chamber of North Macedonia

PANEL 4 | SCALING INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

14:20

EBRD Financing, Consultancy Grants and other instruments to support the private sector in North Macedonia

Navigating capital investments and technical upgrades is crucial for local manufacturers looking to scale and export. In this session, representatives from the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** present their comprehensive support portfolio for North Macedonia's industrial sector. Discover how local private sector companies can access EBRD financing, **tailored credit lines with cashback grant incentives**, co-funded **consultancy grants** for digital and energy efficiency projects, and specialized programs designed to help manufacturers meet strict EU compliance and export standards.

SPEAKERS

Maja Stolevska Kostadinova | National Programme Manager, SME F&D | EBRD

Verica Hadjivasileva Markovska | AAG – Analysis and Advisory Group

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PANEL 5 | FUTURE READY PRODUCTION: innovation cornerstones for the future

15:00

To be **innovation-driven** and **globally competitive today**, a company—especially in manufacturing, engineering, and technology—must move beyond passive, incremental improvements. Becoming innovation-driven requires embedding structured mechanisms across operational, digital, environmental and human dimensions.

- **Smart & Connected Automation:** Integrating AI, IoT sensors, and predictive maintenance into daily operations.
- **Sustainable Manufacturing:** Decarbonization, waste reduction, and energy efficiency as core competitive advantages.
- **Agile Operations & Supply Chains:** Building operational resilience to adapt quickly to shifting market demands.
- **Human-Centric Tech:** Empowering workers with the digital skills needed to lead next-gen production lines.

PANELISTS

Tomaz Oresic| RESALTA

Marija Dukovska Pavlovska | MAKSTIL

Vladimir Stefanovski | KIEL-SITZE

Gulay Salievska Geshtakovska | CONDEVO

Igor Madzov | FINQUP TECHNOLOGY

MODERATOR

Marta Naumovska Grnarova | MAMEI

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Panel 6| SUPPLY CHAINS: Value Engineering and Supply Chains Inteligence **15:50**

To win and retain contracts in Western European markets, manufacturing companies must offer more than basic contract assembly—they must deliver engineered cost savings and total supply chain reliability. This panel explores how local manufacturers can deploy **Value Engineering** to optimize product design, cut material costs, and improve manufacturing efficiency. Concurrently, experts discuss how **Supply Chain Intelligence** tools empower exporters to monitor risk, forecast material availability, and maintain transparent, resilient supply networks built for European buyer expectations.

PANELISTS

Saso Janev | KOSTAL

Jadranka Pakic Grbic | GERRESHEIMER

Antonie Nikolovski | DUNAV SRD DOO

Stefan Zdravkov | TELAMON

MODERATOR

Marta Naumovska Grnarova | MAMEI

B2B Meetings **16:40**

COCKTAIL PARTY **17:30**

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EMPOWERING MANUFACTURERS | BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS | DRIVING GROWTH

MAKSTIL DIT

KROSCHU KROMBERG & SCHUBERT

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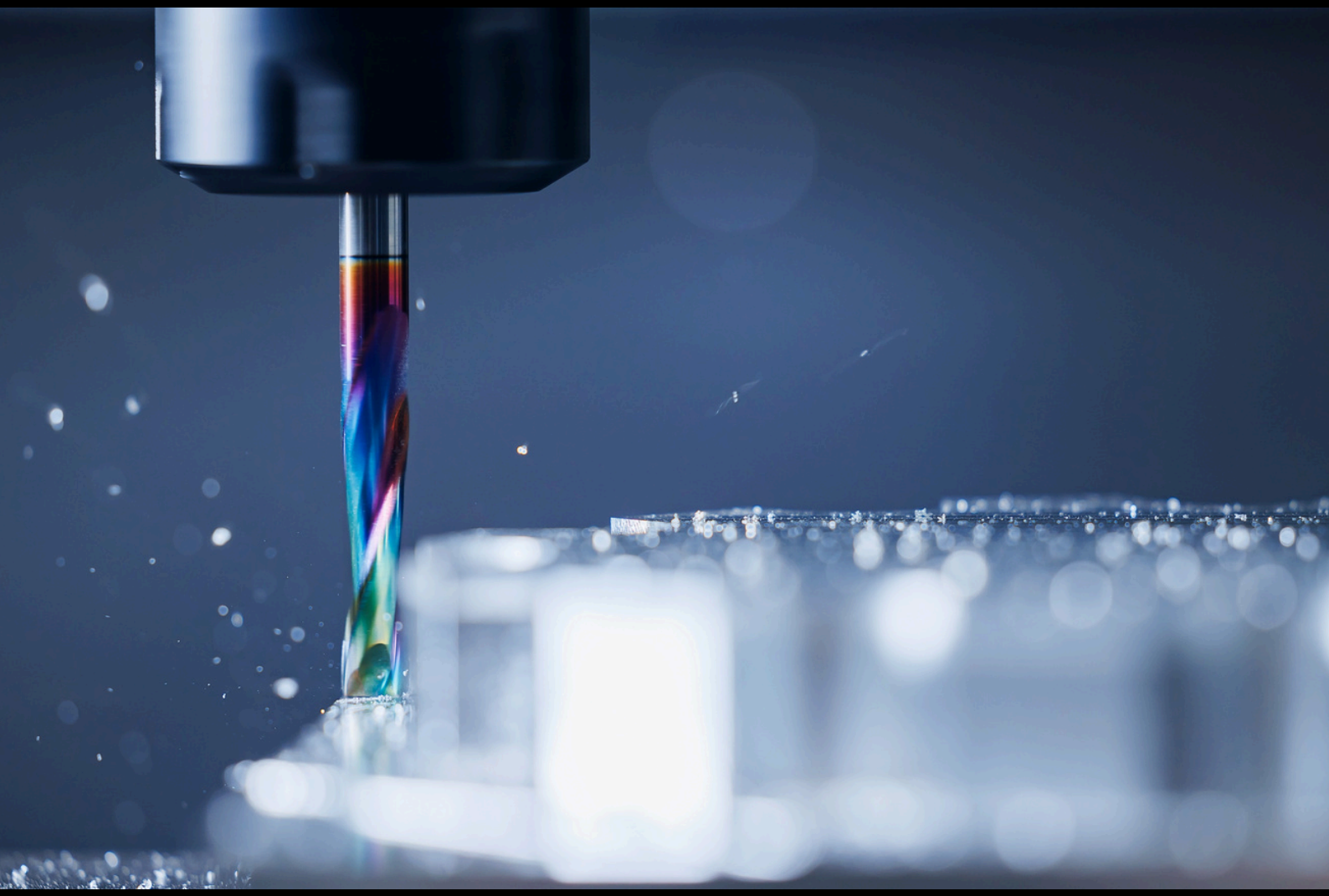
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ZAVAR

MANUFACTURING 2027

NEXT EDITION

OCTOBER 2027



MAMEI
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