

Bulgaria, Furniture

Two Swiss entrepreneurs with extensive experience in the furniture industry decided to establish a furniture factory in the town of Bjala on the Black Sea. The company, ArteBjala GmbH and its affiliate ArteBjala OOD, combines a commitment to classical furniture design with the name of the town it is located in. Skilled labor, the availability of raw materials, political stability and the importance of the furniture industry were crucial factors for the entrepreneurs when choosing Bulgaria as a production site.

By 2005 the factory in cooperation with the Swiss furniture industry and cabinet makers will start to serve the Swiss and EU markets as well as South Eastern Europe with high quality furniture for private homes (bedrooms, kitchens) and public venues (restaurants, hotels). In a first phase, eleven to twenty jobs will be created, increasing to up to forty to seventy jobs in the mid-term. In addition, the employment of three to four apprentices will ensure the transfer of know-how in advanced woodworking methods locally. The employees will be trained continuously in new production and management processes.

ArteBjala GmbH received a loan from the SECO Start-up Fund to finance a part of the investment in its factory.