

— Unlocking new opportunities:

The first-ever EU-Bhutan Business Forum will take place from 26 to 29 January 2026, with a main event in Brussels (26 January), followed by roadshow events in Frankfurt (28 January) and Prague (29 January).

With 2025 marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the EU and Bhutan, this Business Forum will convene both business and government leaders from Bhutan and across the EU to explore business ventures and investment opportunities in Bhutan, a rapidly growing, politically stable market with vast potential, increased external openness and strategic access to Northeast India.

The EU-Bhutan Business Forum will be a high-level event featuring the participation of the Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. DASHO Tshering Tobgay, and the EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, H.E. Mr Jozef SÍkela. They will be joined by key potential investors, business leaders, and other leading corporate influencers from Europe and Bhutan.



Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu.

Bhutan at a glance:



- **¹ GDP growth rate:** 6.8% (2025 estimate) ¹ – the highest in the South Asian region
- **² GDP (PPP, current Int\$):** 14.1 billion (2025 estimate)
- **³ GDP per capita (PPP, current Int\$):** 17,720 (2025 estimate)
- **Sustainability pioneer:** Bhutan is the world's first carbon negative country
- **Strategic location and market access:** Bhutan has a Free Trade Agreement with India and is increasingly well-connected with India's bordering North-Eastern Region and its market of more than 45 million people
- **⁴ Most politically stable country in South Asia:** according to World Bank analysis (2023)

¹ IMF DataMapper: <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/profile/BTN>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ World Bank Governance Indicators:
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PV.PER.RNK>

Four good reasons to attend:

- 1 Connect with Bhutan's most senior government and business leaders:**
The Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Dasho Tshering Tobgay, will lead a delegation of the country's leading government and business leaders seeking partnerships with European companies.
- 2 Gain valuable insights into Bhutan's business opportunities:**
A wealth of market insights at sector, subsector, value-chain, and project levels will be presented during the forum. You will discover opportunities to collaborate with Bhutanese companies and other entities, expand your business, and explore new investment prospects.
- 3 Engage with major financing partners:**
Leading European financial institutions are set to attend, including the European Investment Bank (EIB), various European Development Finance Institutions, as well as private sector financing partners.
- 4 Help shape Bhutan's future business environment:**
During the various sessions and one-on-one meetings, participants will have opportunities to share and discuss recommendations for enhancing Bhutan's business-enabling environment, supporting the country's sustainable development, and encouraging value-creating businesses.

Focus sectors and thematic areas:

While the forum will cover a broad range of opportunities, the following four sectors will be in particular focus:



**AGRIBUSINESS
AND FORESTRY**



**GREEN
ENERGY**



**INFORMATION AND
IT-ENABLED SERVICES**



**HIGH-END
WELLNESS**

Key insights into each of these can be found in 'sector snapshots' section of this document.

The forum will also cover the key thematic areas of education, circularity and sustainable cities, with the development of Gelephu Mindfulness City presenting an array of opportunities for innovative EU businesses.

Schedule of events:

EU-Bhutan Business Forum, (26 January)	Brussels, Belgium	09:00 - 18:00	18.00-20:00
		Full-day Forum	Evening cocktail reception
Frankfurt Roadshow event (28 January)	Frankfurt, Germany	09:00-18:00	
		Full-day Forum	
Prague Roadshow event (29 January)	Prague, Czech Republic	13:30-19:00	
		Half-day event	

Other details will be shared upon approval of registration.*

*Please note that due to the seniority of key delegates and guests of honour attending the events, registration requests will be reviewed and approved by the forum's organising committee.

Submit your registration request here



<https://gopapace.eventsair.com/eu-bhutan-business-forum-2026/register>

For enquiries, please email the team at: eubhutanforum@gopa.eu
We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels, Frankfurt, or Prague.

Investing in sustainable development:

The EU has had a very strong presence in Bhutan since 1982. For the past years, the EU-Bhutan cooperation focused on improving agri-food systems and good governance, supporting Bhutan in diversifying its economy and strengthening local governance. The funding for the next three years will further contribute to Bhutan's progress in **good governance, digitalisation, and public finance management**.

As one of the only seven countries to have graduated from the list of Least Developed Countries, achieving Middle-Income country status, Global Gateway brings new opportunities for the EU-Bhutan partnership to achieve common goals, **mobilising sustainable investments, particularly in green energy and climate action** – an area where Bhutan sets a global example. For instance, the EU together with the European Investment Bank signed a **€150 million renewable energy loan** with Bhutan in 2024, to fund solar and mini-hydro projects in the country.



Sector snapshots :



AGRIBUSINESS AND FORESTRY:

- Favourable climatic conditions, ranging from 150-4000 metres above sea level.
- Demonstrated foreign investor confidence: Mountain Hazelnuts enterprise has secured funding from Mirova, Finnfund, the EU and the IFC.
- Growing domestic demand and **strong export opportunities** to India and numerous markets globally.
- Opportunities in multiple segments, including horticulture, viticulture and aquaculture, with a focus on higher-value, lower-volume products.
- Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) will require significant investment in sustainable building materials – including mass timber treatment solutions & technologies.



GREEN ENERGY:

- Hydropower is Bhutan's main source of renewable energy and a major export-earner – particularly during the summer months. Sometimes referred to as Bhutan's 'white gold', the country's techno-economically viable hydropower potential is 33,000 MW across 90 sites, according to the country's Power System Master Plan 2040.

- Solar PV represents an important source of energy diversification and **Bhutan has set a target of developing 1,000 MW by 2030**. Progress is already underway, with the groundbreaking for a 120 MW solar project in 2025, among others.
- Wind power potential is estimated at 800 MW.
- Biogas from agricultural residues and waste is another area of opportunity in Bhutan, particularly in supporting the country's efforts with net zero cooking and transportation.
- Opportunities for EU companies exist in other segments of Bhutan's energy value chains, including **transmission, distribution, engineering, procurement & construction (EPC) and battery energy storage systems (BESS)**.
- The sector is attracting significant international interest and activity, including from the European Investment Bank and various European energy companies.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND IT-ENABLED SERVICES:

- Bhutan's workforce is proficient in English and offers key skills suited for data annotation, software design, business and knowledge process outsourcing (BPO and KPO) and other IT-enabled services.
- Additional segments of opportunity include data centres (aided by access to affordable electricity), FinTech, and an array of ICT services and technologies for ICT for urban development.
- Several international companies have invested in the sector – **28 FDI projects were recorded in Bhutan in 2024 alone**. SELISE (a Swiss software development company) and iMerit (a Silicon Valley AI firm) are among the international companies to have established operations in Thimphu TechPark.
- **Strong digital connectivity:** all districts are well connected with OPGW fibre network, and 5G services are available in most districts.



HIGH-END WELLNESS:

- **Bhutan has significant potential in medicinal and aromatic plants.** These lend themselves well to use in nutraceuticals, either as ingredients or value-added specialty health foods. The country is home to over 600 documented species out of which 215 species are actively used in herbal and traditional Bhutanese medicine.
- The northern Longzhi region boasts a collection of valuable medicinal and aromatic plants sourced by domestic firms such as Menjong Sorig Pharmaceuticals for use in traditional hospitals. Other regions grow lemon grass, which is then distilled for use in essential oils.
- European-owned companies such as **Terra Himalaya have already been investing in essential oils manufacturing in Bhutan**.
- Significant potential to meet international demand for natural and plant-based health products.

For further information on these and other sectors, visit Invest Bhutan's website:



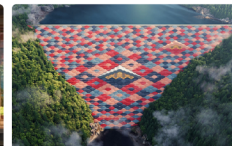
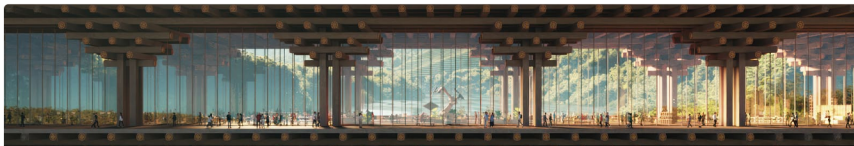
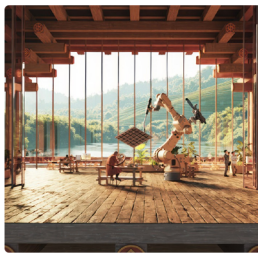
<https://investbhutan.gov.bt/>

Spotlight on Gelephu Mindfulness City:

Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) Special Administrative Region (SAR) is a forward-looking and innovative jurisdiction, **strategically located on the border with India**, that welcomes new technologies, R&D capabilities, and digital and finance systems. With abundant renewable energy and ready access to land, GMC offers international businesses an attractive ecosystem and a wealth of opportunities in areas such as: sustainable and smart city development technologies and solutions, health and wellness, tourism, education and knowledge, agri-tech and forestry, green energy and technologies, finance and digital assets, and aviation and logistics.

The development of GMC will unfold in phases, beginning with core infrastructure and essential services that lay the groundwork for future growth.

For further information, visit GMC's website: <https://gmc.bt/>



Contact details:

For any questions or further information about the event, please feel free to reach out to us.



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