

**Interreg**  
**Greece-Bulgaria**



European Regional Development Fund



# **DELIVERABLE 1.1.2 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION**

## **4<sup>th</sup> PROGRESS REPORT**

of project “**Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion**” with the acronym “**SOCIAL PLATE**” in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020

<https://www.socialplate.eu/en/>

“The contents of this deliverable are sole responsibility of the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat”

*The Central Market of Thessaloniki SA participates in the project “Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion” with the acronym “Social Plate”, which is implemented within the framework of the INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria Territorial Cooperation Program 2014-2020 and co-funded by the European Union and National Funds of the participating countries*

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## 1. General elements of the project «SOCIAL PLATE»

In the framework of the contract between EUROACTION SA and the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA, this report is the fourth (4th) progress report of the project "SOCIAL PLATE" accompanied by the files collected, compiled and sent for the 3rd Certification of Expenditure, Documents of its request 3rd LB Expenditure Certification, 2nd LB Expenditure Certificate and the 3rd SOCIAL PLATE project material.

The purpose of this progress report is to record the progress of the project from 21/02/2019 to 20/04/2019.

### 1.1. A few words about the project «SOCIAL PLATE»

The project «Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion» under the acronym «SOCIAL PLATE», submitted on 22.04.2016 on Priority Axis 4 - 'A Cross-border Area without Social Exclusion' and in particular:

- On Thematic Goal: 09 - 'Promoting social cohesion, combating poverty and discrimination'
- On Investment Priority: 9c - 'Providing Support to Social Enterprises
- On Specific Goal: 9 - 'Expanding social entrepreneurship in the cross-border area'

The duration of the project in the stage following its formal approval was from 01/08/2017 to 31/07/2019 and after an extension request is from 28/09/2017 to 27/09/2019 and is of a duration 24 months in total.

The financing agreement was signed on September 28, 2017 and has the number B2.9c.03, while the partnership agreement was signed respectively by the representatives of the partners participating in the partnership on August 29, 2017.

The Central Market of Thessaloniki SA is the LB in the project entitled "Supporting Social Enterprises in Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion" and under the acronym "SOCIAL PLATE", which is 85% co-financed by Community funds and 15% national, in framework of the European Cross-Border Cooperation Program Greece - Bulgaria 2014 - 2020 (INTERREG V-A).

In the corporate form of this project, as submitted and approved, TECHNOLIS - INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE (126.040,00 €), Municipality of Borino (106,009,40 €) and Active Youths (100,980,00 €) also participate. The total approved budget of the project "SOCIAL PLATE" is € 551.779.40, while the budget of the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA for the implementation of the actions to be undertaken as the Project LB amounts to 218.750,00€.

## 1.2 Object of the project «SOCIAL PLATE»

### Project background

The cross-border area comprises some of the most remote and isolated areas of both countries as they are characterized by increasing levels of poverty and high unemployment rates especially for women and young people. Social entrepreneurship has been able to alleviate such problems in various parts of Europe but in the cross-border area it has not developed sufficiently. Social entrepreneurship can address issues of reduced service provision to specific populations subject to or threatened by social exclusion and at the same time provide them with access to the labor market. This deteriorating socio-economic context has aroused the interest of partners in the creation and operation of social enterprises in Greece and Bulgaria that offer (a) an additional opportunity to enter the labor market the professionally and financially troubled and vulnerable groups and (b) to seek new and sustainable resources to meet social goals for the benefit of the public.

The idea of the project was developed as a solution to the issues of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. Specifically, the project aims to promote regional cohesion through the creation and promotion of social enterprises in Greece and Bulgaria with the role of not only providing long-term unemployed and marginalized people but also feeding people from vulnerable social groups. In addition, through training seminars, the project seeks to increase the skills of the unemployed, as well as people already working in other social enterprises lacking in marketing, business planning, etc.

The purpose of the project is to support the establishment of a social enterprise in Greece (Central Macedonia) and to promote it in Bulgaria through social franchising, that is, the cross-border transfer of the social enterprise from one country to another. The purpose of the social enterprise will be the distribution of long-term products that would otherwise be wasted, promoting an ecological

approach while employing individuals from economically and professionally disputed groups to ensure the daily operations of the entity.

### **Expected results**

The project is a solution to the perennial problems of poverty and marginalization of socially vulnerable groups such as women and young unemployed. The “Social Plate” project will create jobs for the aforementioned individuals, helping them to contribute to the local economy as well as help themselves: two NGO staff will be employed as volunteers. Volunteering is promoted after it has been shown that through socialization and community participation, people can go beyond marginalization. Using a food surplus that would otherwise end up in the trash bin suggests an innovative and environmentally friendly approach.

The fact that public, regional and local stakeholders are involved in the partnership ensures the project's broader contribution to the development and support of social entrepreneurship. Educational institutions and other public bodies will also be involved in information effort and raising awareness about the opportunities and conditions for the development of social entrepreneurship by organizing joint forums / discussions. There will also be joint seminars / events of good practice aimed at a wider audience of people with financial and social problems, providing them guidance in business planning, marketing strategies etc. By providing guidance and support in creation of new NGOs, the project “Social Plate” becomes one of the few organized efforts to promote social entrepreneurship locally and nationally in the cross-border area, thereby enhancing the development of local businesses economies.

## 2. Project progress «SOCIAL PLATE» & Next steps

### 2.1 Central Market of Thessaloniki SA.

Central Market of Thessaloniki has completed all tender procedures and has contracted all project actions, this progress report records the following in relation with the implementation of these deliverables:

- ❖ In framework of the deliverable 1.1.2 (Project Management & Coordination), Central Market of Thessaloniki SA received from EUROACTION SA the deliverable for the 3rd progress report on January 20, 2019 and for which it made the corresponding payment of € 3,600.00 (excluding VAT).
- ❖ The Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has received from EUROACTION SA the deliverable 5.1.2 - Entrepreneurship policy development proposals in Greece, as well as the deliverable 5.1.3 - Joint adoption of best practices in the local / regional area.
- ❖ In the framework of the contract between the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA. and the ROSA EDIAROGLOU Ltd. - BUTTERFLY, KATH SA, upon receiving the required corrections, received and paid the deliverables: 2.1.2 - Production of communication equipment and tools, 2.1.3 - Publicity and promotion actions in the media and 3.1.5 - Development of a platform called "Food Angels", the amount of 19,700,00 € (excluding VAT).

- ❖ External partners with whom KATH SA has a contract under Deliverable 4.1.2, continue to staff and support the functioning of the NGO in the current reporting period.
- ❖ At the same time, a General Assembly was held at which the 2018 Balance Sheet was approved, a new manager and secretary were reappointed, and the expenses for 2018 required for the operation of the NGO were approved.
- ❖ The company ROSE EDIAROGLOU Ltd. - BUTTERFLY, in the framework of its contract with the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA, organized in collaboration with the competent KATH SA executives, the event for the Presentation of Good Practices in the Area, on 18 April 2019, as stipulated by the Deliverable 6.1.2. This deliverable will be delivered to KATH SA after the event is organized, and material will be included in the next progress report as soon as the delivery has been received.

In addition, the Central Market of Thessaloniki received the Expenditure Certificate for the request for the 2nd expenditure certification, submitted through MIS and verified on 13 February 2019 for the amount of € 47,603.06. KAT SA also sent the 3rd request for certification of expenses of € 22,990.46 through the MIS system, which has been verified by the external auditor as of March 13, 2019.

At the same time, KATH SA as Lead Beneficiary, provided the Joint Secretariat, after contacting the Partners, with information on the amounts expected to remain unallocated, which are as follows:

CENTRAL MARKET OF THESSALONIKI	24.185,00€
TECHNOPOLIS – INTERNATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE	4.080,00€
BORINO MUNICIPALITY	2.230,00€
ACTIVE YOUTHS	2.267,00€

Regarding the allocation requests, the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA requested and received the amount of 34,376.25 €.

Finally, the participation of its representatives in the 3rd project meeting held in Borino on March 18, 2019, organized by PB4 -Active Youths, should be included in the actions of the Central Market of Thessaloniki.

It should be noted that Central Market of Thessaloniki in the coming period has as a priority to monitor contracts with its contractors as well as to monitor the quality of the deliverables it receives, given that it has contracted 100% of its budget.

## 2.2 Technopolis – International Educational Institute

Partner 2 - Technopolis International Training Institute, has so far contracted the following actions:

### **Expenditure Category: Staff**

3.2.1 Conduct a secondary assessment of an external partner's assessment of potential social partners and contact with potential social partners in order to detect the possibility of cooperation during a pilot period of NGO operation.

3.2.2. Preparation of structured questionnaires for the interviews (identifying the required information and data and formulating the questions), recording the results of the interviews in an excel file and interpreting the results of the analysis to be provided by the external partner (Configuration of final deliverable text)

3.2.3. Development of general rules and methodology for the food distribution plan (development of good practice guidelines, standardization procedures, design and monitoring of a grievance monitoring mechanism, etc.)

3.2.4 Communicating with the social partners in the cross-border area (organizing meetings to present the objectives, functions and participation of NGOs in assisting vulnerable groups, maintaining a contact point / contact office, etc.) and managing all kinds of work within administrative support.

3.2.5 Contribute to the formulation of the requirements for extracting results from the platform, the content of the platform and participating in the evaluation of its operation.

### **Expenditure Category: External Expertise**

1.2.2 Project management and coordination



- 2.2.4 Organization of International Closing Conference
- 3.2.1 Evaluation and selection of the social partners
- 3.2.2 Mapping the social partners' food needs
- 3.2.3 Creation of a distribution plan for the social partners
- 3.2.4 Creation of cooperation with Social Cooperatives
- 3.2.5 Contribution to the development of the platform “Food Angels”
- 6.2.1 Round table organization
- 6.2.3 Contribution Awards to Urban Nonprofit and Social Entrepreneurship

From all the above actions, all of the Staff Expense Category have been completed and from the External Affiliate Expenditure Category the followings:

- 1.2.2 Project management and coordination (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> progress report)
- 2.2.4 Organization of International Closing Conference
- 3.2.1 Evaluation and selection of the social partners
- 3.2.2 Mapping the social partners' food needs
- 3.2.3 Creation of a distribution plan for the social partners

The contract for deliverables 1.2.2, 2.2.4, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 6.2.1 and 6.2.3 was signed in February 2018. Also in March of 2018 the respective contract for deliverables was signed: 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4 and 3.2.5.

The contract for deliverables 4.2.3 and 5.2.4 will be signed by the beginning of May 2019, with the same actions for staff costs has been contracted (March 2019). At the same time, by the end of May 2019 the contract for deliverable 2.2.2 will be signed.

About Payments and Certifications made by PB2 - Technopolis International Educational Institute:

The 1<sup>st</sup> request for certification of expenditure of € 22,307.08 through the MIS system was sent in December 2018, and the verifier was appointed in February 2019, with additional supporting documents being sent at the end of last month and the process of certification is expected to be completed in May 2019.

PB2 on April 19, 2019, organized a Joint Round Table (Deliverable 6.2.1), which invited representatives of all partners involved in the Social Plate project.

As part of this action, PB2 invites each stakeholder to participate to inform, network and exchange experiences with the social partners already involved in NGO under the name "Social Food Brand" developed under the project "Social Plate". As part of this action, Round table aims to bring together representatives from different sectors to multiply the project beyond the scope and timing of the co-financing program. It therefore aims at the viability of the NGO and the work it offers here in more areas.

The event will be welcomed by the President of the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA. Hambides Dimitrios and the Coordinator of the Joint Secretariat CP INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020 Mr. Dimitrios Papathanasiou.

Speakers at the Round Table will be representatives of the project partners from Greece. Ms. Demertzi Katerina, on behalf of the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA will present a brief overview of the Social Plate project. Afterwards, Ms. Giodeli Kiriaki, a representative of the NGO will present the NGO project as well as the online platform "Food Angels". Ms Kotsali Kiriaki, from the International Educational Institute -Technopolis, will present the role of the "Common Policy" Round table and invite participants to contribute actively to the debate.

The Round Table will be divided into two groups. On the one hand, representatives of the social partners of the NGO, who will describe their experience of participating in and using the Food Angels platform. On the other hand, the representatives of non-participants in the Social Plate action, who will contribute their own suggestions from previous experience and knowledge to similar actions in order to improve and extend the work of the NGO.

Finally, it should be included in the actions of Technopolis - International Educational Institute, the participation of its representatives in the 3rd project meeting held in Municipality of Borino on 18 March 2019 organized by PB4 (Active Youths) of the project.

### **2.3 Municipality of Borino**

PB3 – Municipality of Borino, has so far contracted the following actions:

- Deliverable 1.3.2 – Project Management and Coordination
- Deliverable 2.3.1 – Information and Publicity Plan for the Bulgarian side

- Deliverable 4.3.1 – Creation of NGO (Delivery of equipment and staffing of the office with two (2) external partners)

The following actions are subject to a contractualization process following the completion of the tender procedure:

- Deliverable 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3
- Deliverable 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 for which the bidding process is expected to be completed by the end of April 2019.

Concerning the implementation of the project, Partner 3 has completed the following:

- ❖ Establishment of a social enterprise set up by the Mayor of Borino (Deliverable 4.3.1)
- ❖ Input sent to Lead Partner on Deliverable 2.3.1 - Bulgarian Information and Publicity Plan
- ❖ Signing a contract with 2 people for the social enterprise office (Deliverable 4.3.1)

It is remarkable, with regard to the operation of the social enterprise, that PB3 has signed a contract with producers to supply the social enterprise with food - agricultural products. It should also be noted that Partner 3 has taken steps to enable the social enterprise to become a partner of the official "food bank" operating in Bulgaria.

On payments and certifications made by PB3 – Municipality of Borino:

- The Municipality of Borino has so far made payments of € 12,775.20, which was sent for certification to the first level of control of the Managing Authority of the Program.
- The above costs were submitted for verification through the MIS system in January 2019 and were certified in February 2019.
- At the same time, Partner 3 is preparing the second application for expenditure certification that is expected to be over € 10,000.00.

Finally, the participation of representatives of the Municipality of Borino in the 3rd project meeting held in Borino on 18 March 2019, organized by PB4 (Active Youths) of the project, should be included.

## 2.4 Active Youths

PB4 - Active Youths, has so far contracted the following actions:

- Deliverable 1.4.2 – Project management and coordination
- Deliverable 2.4.3 - Production of communication material, television and radio messages.
- Deliverable 4.4.2 – Supply of incubator equipment for startups
- The Deliverable 2.4.4 and 6.4.1 will be contracted after the bidding process is completed.
- The Deliverable 5.4.2 is in the process of bidding to be contracted and is expected to be completed by the end of April 2019.
- The contract for Deliverable 5.4.1 is expected to be signed by the end of May 2019.

Concerning the implementation of the project, PB4 has completed the following:

- ❖ The office - incubator has been installed
- ❖ The incubator is fully equipped
- ❖ Deliverable 2.4.2 Production of communication material is under preparation
- ❖ Deliverable 2.4.3 – Publicity and promotion actions in the media have been completed.
- ❖ Deliverable 1.4.3 – Organization of 3rd project meeting with representatives of all project partners

About payments and certifications made by PB4 - Active Youths:

- Active Youths has incurred a total expenditure of € 4,500.00 under the project «Social Plate».
- In the near future Partner 4 will pay the deliverable 2.4.2
- The aforementioned amount is expected to be sent for certification in April 2019 to the first level of control of the Program Managing Authority.
- The above costs have been verified through the MIS system
- At the same time, Partner 4 is preparing the second request for expenditure certification that is expected to be over € 8,000.00.

### 3. Problems and modifications during the implementation of the project «SOCIAL PLATE»

As noted in the previous progress report, PB3 - Municipality of Borino will request a new amendment on the budget of refrigerated cabinets that will equip the office next time. A detailed request will be sent by PB3 to the LB, which must be signed by PB3's legal representative.

#### 4. ANNEX CONTENTS

The following finalized approved files are listed in the Annex in the following order:

- Documents of the LB's 3rd expenditure certification request
- LB Certificate of Expenditure Requirements 2 and 3
- Material of the 3rd meeting of the project "SOCIAL PLATE"

# ANNEX CONTENTS