

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria



SOCIAL PLATE
SUPPORTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION
European Regional Development Fund



DELIVERABLE 1.1.2 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

5th 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 fifth (5th) report on the progress of the “SOCIAL PLATE” project, which is accompanied with the files collected, compiled and sent for the fourth certification of the LB's expenditure, certificate of the LB's 3rd expenditure certification request, the ongoing modification request and the 4th official Progress Report to be submitted to the Joint Program Secretariat for the period from 1/1/2019 to 30/06/2019.

The purpose of this report is to record the progress of the project from 21/04/2019 to 20/07/2019.

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 Lead Beneficiary of 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 funding, 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 EDUCATIONAL 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 LB's Project amounts to 218.750,00€.

1.2 The 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 of “SOCIAL PLATE” & Next steps

2.1 Central Market of Thessaloniki SA

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

- ❖ In the framework of project 1.1.2 (Project Management & Coordination) the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has received four (4) progress reports in total from the company EUROACTION SA for which it has paid the amount of € 14,400.00 and this is the 5th progress report.
- ❖ The Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has received deliverable 5.1.2 by EUROACTION SA company - Policy recommendations for fostering social entrepreneurship in Greece (€ 5,000.00), as well as deliverable 5.1.3 - Joint approbation of best practices in the local/regional area (6.000,00) €) and paid € 11,000.00 for them.
- ❖ In the framework of the contract between Central Market of Thessaloniki SA with the company ROSE EDIAROGLOU Ltd. - BUTTERFLY, Central Market of Thessaloniki SA, upon receiving the required corrections, received and paid for deliverables: 2.1.2 - Production of communication materials and tools, 2.1.3 - Publicity & promotion actions in the Mass Media

and 3.1.5 - Creation of the "food angels" platform, amounting to 19.700,00 € (excluding VAT).

- ❖ External partners with whom Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has a contract. In the framework of the Action 4.1.2, they continue to staff and support the functioning of the NGO in the current reporting period. A total amount of € 25.909,12 has been paid out of which € 18.505,60 has been paid in the current reporting period.
- ❖ The company ROSE EDIAROGLOU Ltd. - BUTTERFLY, in the framework of its contract with the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA, organized, in consultation with the competent Central Market of Thessaloniki SA executives, the event for the Presentation of best practices of the area, on 18 April 2019, as stipulated by the Deliverable 6.1.2. This deliverable was delivered to Central Market of Thessaloniki SA after the event and Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has paid the amount of 12.100,00 €.
- ❖ The Central Market of Thessaloniki SA received from the company EUROACTION SA the deliverable 5.1.5- Guide for franchising of social enterprises and paid for this amount of 9.000,00 €.
- ❖ In addition, Central Market of Thessaloniki SA paid the sum of € 26.00 for the transfer of money to Bulgarian Partner 3- Municipality of Borino under the action 1.1.2 Project Management and Coordination for the expenditure category 'Office and Administration'.
- ❖ Central Market of Thessaloniki SA also paid the amount of € 900.00 (3 equal installments of € 300.00) as a reward to the external auditor, who undertook the audit of the certification requests.

In addition, the Central Market of Thessaloniki received the Expenditure Certificate for the request for the 3rd expenditure certification, which was submitted through MIS and verified for the amount

of € 47,603.06. Central Market of Thessaloniki SA also sent the 4th request for certification of expenses of € 30,729.28 through the MIS system, which is under control. Overall certified for Central Market of Thessaloniki SA the amount of € 91.433,52.

Regarding the allocation requests, Central Market of Thessaloniki SA requested and received the amount of € 119,218.75.

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. Central Market of Thessaloniki SA paid the sum of 90,00 € for the travel expenses of the meeting.

It should be noted that the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA 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. In particular, it remains to implement part of the deliverable 1.1.2 - Project Management and Coordination as well as the deliverable 5.1.1 - Strategic Evaluation of operational activities for on-going development and 6.1.3 - Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions.

2.2 Technopolis – International Educational Institute

PB2 – Technopolis- International Educational Institute, has so far contracted the following actions:

Expenditure Category: Staff

3.2.1 Evaluation and Selection of Social PPs: Conduct of 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 Mapping the needs in food of the Social PPs: 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 Creation of a distribution plan to the Social PPs: 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 Establishing collaboration with Social Cooperatives: 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 Contribution to the Creation of the "food angels" platform: Contribution 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.

4.2.3 Training of NGO employees along with unemployed women and young people of the area: Design and implement 2,50-hour training, programs for 30 people in total. The training is addressed to the NPO staff created by the Greek partners of the Social Plate project, as well as to unemployed women and young people in the region

5.2.4 Coaching & Mentoring Joint Seminars open to the target groups of the project: This action involves the design and implementation of 2,50-hour training, programs for 30 people in total. The training aims to help guide vulnerable groups in the region to become active in the field of Social Entrepreneurship. This action will create a curriculum focused on marketing strategies.

Expenditure Category: External Expertise

1.2.2 Project management and coordination

2.2.2 Production of communication materials and tools

2.2.4 Open and closing international conference

3.2.1 Evaluation and Selection of Social PPs

3.2.2 Mapping the needs in food of the Social PPs

3.2.3 Creation of a distribution plan to the Social PPs

3.2.4 Establishing collaboration with Social Cooperatives

3.2.5 Contribution to the Creation of the "food angels" platform

6.2.1 Joint Policy Round Table

6.2.3 Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions

- From the above actions, all actions from the Staff Costs Budget line have completed except from 4.2.3 and 5.2.4 from the External Expertise and Services Budget line :
 - 1.2.2 Project management and coordination
 - 2.2.2 Production of communication materials and tools
 - 2.2.4 Open and closing international conference
 - 3.2.1 Evaluation and Selection of Social PPs
 - 3.2.2 Mapping the needs in food of the Social PPs
 - 3.2.3 Creation of a distribution plan to the Social PPs
 - 3.2.4 Establishing collaboration with Social Cooperatives
 - 3.2.5 Contribution to the Creation of the "food angels" platform
 - 6.2.1 Joint Policy Round Table
 - 6.2.3 Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions

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. In March 2018 the respective contract for the deliverables 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4 and 3.2.5 was signed. Also on 21 May 2019 the contract for deliverable 2.2.2 was signed.

For the training of deliverables 4.2.3 & 5.2.4 a call for competition was announced and a contract was signed on 10/5/19 with IDEA Ltd company while the same deliverables for staff costs have already been contracted (March 2019).

About Payments and Certifications Made by PB2 - Technopolis International Educational Institute

Two applications for expenditure certification have been sent:

The first application for expenditure certification of EUR 22,307.08 and the second application for expenditure certification of EUR 18,435.00 through the MIS system, which have been approved.

A total of € 40.742,58 have been approved and certified.

On April 19, 2019, PB2 organized Deliverable 6.2.1-Joint Policy Round Table, in which representatives of all partners involved in the Social Plate project were invited.

As part of this action, PB2 invited each stakeholder to participate to be informed, be networking active and exchange experiences with the social partners already involved in the NGO under the name "Social Food Brand" developed under the project "Social Plate". As part of this deliverable, Roundtable aims to bring together representatives from different sectors to multiply the project beyond the scope and timing of the co-financing program. Therefore, it aims at the viability of the NGO and the work it offers here in more areas.

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

Speakers at the Round Table were representatives of the project partners from Greece. Ms. Demertzi Katerina, on behalf of the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA presented a brief overview of the Social Plate project. Afterwards, Ms. Gioldeli Kiriaki, a representative of the NGO created as part of the project, presented in turn the NGO project and the online platform "Food Angels". Ms Kotsali Kiriaki, from the Technopolis-International Educational Institute, presented the role of the Joint Policy Round Table and invited participants to contribute actively to the debate.

The Round Table was divided into two groups. On the one hand, representatives of the social partners of the NGO, who described their experience of participating in and using the Food Angels platform. On the other hand, the representatives of non-participants in the Social Plate project, who contributed their own experiences 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 Borino on 18 March 2019 organized by PB4-Active Youths of the project.

2.3 Municipality of Borino

PB3 – Municipality of Borino, has contracted all deliverables

- Deliverable 1.3.2 – Project Management and Coordination
- Deliverable 1.3.3 – Project Meetings
- Deliverable 2.3.1 – Information and Publicity Plan (for the Bulgarian side)
- Deliverable 3.3.1 – Joint Assessment of the existing situation in local/regional/national level
- Deliverable 3.3.2 – Establishment of a network of local training SE with higher educational/research institutions
- Deliverable 3.3.3 – Producing the curricula (crash-course) of the summer school
- Deliverable 4.3.1 – Creation of an NGO (Delivery of equipment and staffing of the office with two (2) external partners)
- Deliverable 5.3.1 – Innovative Ideas for Social enterprises Competition
- Deliverable 5.3.2 – Training of civil servants on assisting SE to scale-up & internationalize
- Deliverable 5.3.3 – Training of people for NGO employees and generally unemployed people
- Deliverable 6.3.1 – Joint Policy round table

Regarding to the implementation of the project, PB3 has completed the following:

- Establishment of a social enterprise founded by the Mayor of Borino (Deliverable 4.3.1)
- Send input to Lead Beneficiary 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)
- Conducted two training activities for civil servants dealing with social entrepreneurship and also sessions for NGOs and vulnerable groups on setting up and running an NGO. (Deliverables 5.3.2 & 5.3.3)
- Deliverable 1.3.2 - Project Management and Coordination

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 PB3 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:

- Municipality of Borino has so far made payments of € 45.282,40 and certified the same amount.

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 2.4.2 - Production of communication materials
- Deliverable 2.4.4 - Open and closing conference
- Deliverable 2.4.3 - Publicity and promotion actions in the Mass Media
- Deliverable 4.4.2 - Creation of an incubator for start-ups
- Deliverable 5.4.2 - Summer School for award winners & already members of SE (in the process of being tendered and expected to be completed by the end of August 2019)
- Deliverable 6.4.1 - An annual European Forum on Social Enterprises

The contract for Deliverable 5.4.1 is expected to be signed by the end of August 2019.

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

- ❖ The office - incubator has been installed
- ❖ Incubator for start-ups is fully equipped and operational
- ❖ Deliverable 2.4.2 - Production of communication materials is under preparation
- ❖ Deliverable 2.4.3 - Publicity and promotion actions in the Mass media have been completed.
- ❖ Deliverable 1.4.3 - Organization of the 3rd project meeting with representatives of all project partners
- ❖ Delivered 2.4.4 Open conference organised at Simitli

About payments and certifications made by PB4 - Active Youths:

- Active Youths has spent a total of € 14.083,29 under the Social Plate project.
- Within the next time PB4 will pay the Deliverable 2.4.2
- The aforementioned amount is estimated to be sent for certification to the first level of control of the Program Managing Authority.
- The above costs have been verified through the MIS system

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

The Lead Beneficiary - Central Market of Thessaloniki SA plans to submit a modification request in July 2019 to extend the project duration by 3 months. In particular, PB2 of the project - Technopolis - International Educational Institute has already sent a letter to the Lead Beneficiary explaining the reasons for the required enlargement in detail. Specifically, the Lead Beneficiary stated that an additional 3 months are needed due to the fact that there was a delay in the call for tenders for the deliverables 2.2.2, 4.2.3, and 5.2.4. In addition, with regard to Deliverables 2.2.4 and 6.2.3, an extension of three months is required, as the pilot operation of the NGO set up under the project will have to be completed to deliver safe results.

4. ANNEX CONTENTS

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

- ✓ Documents of the 4th Lead Beneficiary's expenditure certification request
- ✓ Certificate of 3rd Lead Beneficiary expenditure certification
- ✓ Request to modify the duration of the project
- ✓ 4th official Progress Report to the Joint Program Secretariat

ANNEX CONTENTS