

# Interreg Greece-Bulgaria



EUROPEAN UNION



European Regional Development Fund



## DELIVERABLE 1.1.2 –PROJECT MANAGEMENT & COORDINATION

### FINAL 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*

December 13, 2019

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

Under the contract between EUROACTION SA and the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA, this report is the final report on the progress of the "SOCIAL PLATE" project, accompanied by the documents collected, compiled and sent for the fifth LB's expenditure certification and the 4th and 5th LB's expenditure certification request.

The purpose of this progress report is to record the progress of the project from 21/07/2019 to the end of the project (31/12/2019).

### 1.1 A few words about the “SOCIAL PLATE” project

The project “**Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion**” with 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. On September 2019, Project Partners request of a three-month extension until 31/12/2019 and the whole duration of the project is 27 months.

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 beneficiaries 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 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 €), Borino Municipality (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 Deliverables to be undertaken as the LB's Project 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. Progress of the “SOCIAL PLATE” project & Next Steps

### 2.1 Central Market of Thessaloniki SA

Given that the Thessaloniki Central Market 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 context of project 1.1.2 (Project Management & Coordination) the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has received five (5) progress reports in total from the company EUROACTION SA for which it has paid the amount of € 22,320.00 and this is the 6th and final progress report.
- ❖ The company EUROACTION SA delivered on 04/11 to the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA Deliverable 5.1.1 - Strategic Evaluation of operational activities for on-going development and receipt and payment of the corresponding invoice (€ 5,000.00).

- ❖ Under the contract between Central Market of Thessaloniki SA with the company ROSE EDIAROGLOU Ltd. - BUTTERFLY, Central Market of Thessaloniki SA, received on 29/07/2019 and paid deliverable 6.1.3 - Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions and paid the amount of 5.400,00 € (not including VAT).
- ❖ External partners with whom Central Market of Thessaloniki SA has a contract under Deliverable 4.1.2, they continue to staff and support the functioning of the NGO in the current reporting period.
- ❖ Central Market of Thessaloniki SA it also paid the amount of € 900.00 (3 equal installments of € 300.00) as remuneration 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 4th and 5th expenditure certification, submitted through MIS and verified for the amount of € 30,729.28 and € 16.017.12 respectively. Overall certified for Central Market of Thessaloniki SA the amount of € 138,179.92.

It should be noted that the Thessaloniki Central Market in the coming period has the priority to complete invoice payments whose date will not exceed after 31 December 2019 and to prepare the remaining claims. In particular, it remains to pay part of the Deliverable 1.1.2 – Project Management and Coordination of the project and in particular the final progress report as well as the deliverables 5.1.1 - Strategic Evaluation of operational activities for on-going development.

## 2.2 Technopolis-International Educational Institute

PB2-Technopolis International Educational Institute, has contracted all the actions and in particular the following:

**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 deliverables was signed: 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4 and 3.2.5. Also on 21 May 2019 the contract for deliverable 2.2.2 was signed.

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

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

Three requests for expenditure certification have been sent:

The first request for expenditure certification of 22.307,08 euros, the second request for expenditure certification of EUR 18,435.50 and the third request for expenditure of 20.903,42 euros through the MIS system, which have been approved.

A total of € 61.646,00 have been approved and certified.

On Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 5:30 pm at Teatro Café at the Royal Theater in Thessaloniki, the event "Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions" organized by PB2 Technopolis - International Educational Institute of the program.

The event "Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions" has received publicity and more specifically the event's press release has been posted on grtimes, newsup.gr and dialektika.gr. Also the official page of the LB posted the press release while social media such as the profile of Social Plate on Facebook where all relevant announcements of the event were posted. Finally, "Fix in Art" posted a post on its Facebook page.

The event was attended by many students, university professors, and businessmen, representatives of social enterprises and institutions who were invited both by telephone and by informative mail. All participants were given the needed time to register and network around a host buffet.

The event was supported by representatives of both Greek partners who are actively involved in the "Social Plate" project. In particular, Mr. Papathanassiou Athanasios, President of Technopolis - International Educational Institute, Ms. Emmanouela Stefani, representative of Technopolis - International Educational Institute, Mr. Papadopoulos Theodoros, President of Central Market Thessaloniki SA, Mr. Bouris Antonios, Managing Director of Central Market and Central Market Agent on the part of the LB.

And some of the invited entities received the honorary plaque as part of the event "Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions" gave the present Ms. Paika - Dalambyra Anneta, responsible for the priesthood common meal of the Tree Hierarches Church, Mr. Dionysis Zafiridis and Mrs. Evita Stavrou, representatives of Fix in art representatives of the Community Grocery Pavlos Mela, representatives of the Estia Trinity Association, Ms. Malliarou Marianna from the Society Mr. Lazaridis Kostas from the Care Center Refugee Care, representatives of the Social NGO "Arsis".

Mr. Patikas Dimitrios and Ms. Adamidou Maria were also present at the awards.

Finally, Mr. Nikolaos Kostas, Professor of Ecology and Social Solidarity Economics (SSE), attended the event at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and President of the Popular University, Mr. Apostolos Argyropoulou representatives of IAAS Thessaloniki Student Organization.

Ms Stephani Emmanouela, as a spokeswoman for PB2-Technopolis, warmly welcomed all participants and emphasized in her speech the importance of the project to the demands of today's age where many disadvantaged groups need food assistance. Then, spoke Mr. Papathanasiou Athanasios, President and CEO of Technopolis - International Educational Institute, who emphasized that the project is moving on the basis of supplies, availability and distribution. He expressed his ideas and thoughts on the work on common policies in the framework of the common European policy, while stressing the need for the adoption of the law on volunteering and food protection. Mr. Papathanasiou also spoke about the proposals for various community actions for businesses of all kinds, the immediate tackle of tax and legal issues related to volunteering and what is the motivation for someone to distribute food to the NPO and social organizations. Mr. Papathanasiou also emphasized that better results of the project require the awareness of the community about the dimension of the problem as well as better organization, and said that the project works in the context of social responsibility and environmental sensitivity. Finally, Mr. Papathanasiou referred to the circular economy, giving an example from France and the prediction of the agri-nutritional chain.

Afterwards, Mrs. Stephani Emmanouela, after thanking Mr. Papathanasiou for his brief speech, gave the floor to Mr. Papadopoulos Theodoros, President of the Central Market of Thessaloniki. Mr. Papadopoulos welcomed those present and said he was very happy that the project was completed

smoothly and without problems. He underlined that the closure of the project is formal, as the functioning and operation of the NGO will continue. At the same time, Mr. Papadopoulos thanked all the traders who became aware and helped in the work by giving the unhealthy foods to be sorted. In addition, he said that there are several beneficiaries of the project who receive food to be eaten through social agencies such as Municipal Grocery Stores and Church Temples. Finally, Mr. Papadopoulos said that on the initiative of the Region of Central Macedonia in the framework of the European program "Bioregio", the Social Plate was voted the best practical idea among the Interreg programs.

Mr. Papadopoulos gave the floor to Mr. Bouris, Managing Director of the Central Market of Thessaloniki. Mr Bouris typically said that if one said one and a half years ago that the project would have this development, they would be considered over optimistic. However, the final results of the project, which is being completed shortly, show its positive development. Mr Bouris said that only 1/3 of the traders in the Central Market of Thessaloniki participate as the quantities given daily are unsatisfactory. In addition, the CEO of Central Market of Thessaloniki SA said that the project does not stop but is now starting for everyone and for the NPO to be viable for more years, the Thessaloniki Central Market has reached out to several sponsors who will be able to support both the material and the financial function of the NGO. At the same time, Mr. Bouris said that the project has both a social and environmental impact while its environmental footprint is brought about through waste reduction. Mr. Bouris also said that he is happy that the project is being implemented in an advanced country such as Greece, as food with malformations never reaches consumers. Traders can thus distribute undistributed fruits and vegetables and thus reach all those in need through the NGO. Finally, Mr. Bouris thanked all those present for their active presence and participation in the project as well as for the voluntary support of the actors in the functioning of the NGO.

Afterwards, the coordinator, Mrs. Stephani Emmanouela, spoke again and invited Mr. Papathanasiou Athanasios to the awards ceremony. Mr. Papathanasiou awarded the entities that have received large quantities of unsalted edible foods and have voluntarily contributed to the action of "Social Food Aid".

Ms. Paika-Dalambyra Anneta, a spokesman for the Three Hierarchs of Evosmos Church, received the prize for the contribution of the Holy Temple and stressed that they have been supportive for many families of the NGO's activity since the beginning and wish that the food donations never end.

Mr. Dionysis Zafiridis and Evita Stavrou received the Contribution Award from the "Fix in Art" organization.

From the Social Grocery of the Municipality of Pavlos Melas the contribution award was received by Ms. Tsiouklis Dimitra, employee of the Social Grocery.

The President of the Association "Estia Tritekonon", Mrs. Ioanna Bougiouklis, received the contribution award and thanked warmly for the food assistance that the club received throughout the project.

From the Social Grocery of the Municipality of Thermi, Ms. Malliarou Marianna received the award as a tribute to the contribution of the Social Grocery.

Mr Lazaridis, a spokesman for the Care Center Refugee, received the award and emphasized that the Social Plate project should be inspired in other cities and especially in Athens where the food problem is more intensive.

Mr. Haris Stamkopoulos from the Social Non-Governmental Organization "Arsis" attended and received the contribution award and emphasized in particular to the president of Central Market of Thessaloniki that the distribution of junk food was done even before the NPO was created but now the whole process is more organized and operative.

No one could attend the event from the common-meal of the Church of St. George of Neapolis to receive the honorary prize.

Then, for the rest of the contribution awards, the two representatives of the Lead Partner, Mr. Papadopoulos and Mr. Bouris, received their awards.

The traders who were awarded for their contribution to the NGO operation with the food they provided were Makarika Moschou Brothers, Mr Tsilibis Dimitrios, Mrs Kyriakidou Ermioni, Mr Patikas Dimitrios, Mrs Adamoulos Ntimios and Mrs Adamidou Maria. From the selected traders,

because of their contribution to the ABC, only Mr Patikas Dimitrios and Mrs Adamidou Maria were able to attend and receive the awards.

Afterwards, Ms. Emmanuela Stefani invited people and entities who have a strong social and voluntary action in the cross-border area to be awarded.

Mr Nikolaou Kostas attended the event and received his award for his intense social action in the cross-border area. Mr Nicholaou warmly thanked for the honor of being awarded for his work, but underlined that it was not about charity but about social solidarity, which means both horizontal and collective. He pointed out that the award goes to all the members and associates of the Popular University of Social Solidarity Economics “UnivSSE Coop”.

Mr. Tsoukalas Apostolos, from the OMNES N. Kilkis association, thanked for the honor of being awarded for the association and gave a brief overview of the association's action.

The IAAS Thessaloniki Student Organization's contribution to social action was received by volunteers Tsimas Thanasis and Argyropoulou Ermioni who thanked for the honor.

For his contribution and work under the Social Plate program, Mr Hambidis Dimitrios, a previous president of the Central Market of Thessaloniki, was selected who could not receive his prize.

In closing, Ms Stephani thanked all those who attended the event and underlined that it was a great joy for everyone and the presence of the awardees at the event. Finally, everyone wished that the Social Food project will be able to remain active for a long time even with the availability of even greater quantities of food to more social entities.

The event ended with an invitation to all social actors and traders to attend the project's International Closing Conference on December 17, 2019.

## 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 - Borino Municipality:

- Borino Municipality has prepared four (4) certification requests (€ 12.775,20 / € 15.630,40 / 16.876,80 € / 27.500 €), of which three (3) have been certified (€ 45.282,40) and the amount of € 27.500,00 remains to be certified.



Please note that in the next period PB3 will complete the remaining payments and proceed with the preparation of the corresponding certification requests.

## 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 PB 4 - Active Youths:

- Partner 4 has received the certificate from its 1st certification request for the amount of € 12.696,64.
- Prepares the 2nd certification request and will complete all payments within the next time.

### 3. Problems and modifications during the implementation of “SOCIAL PLATE” project

During the reporting period e-mails were sent from PB 3 and PB4 to the LB, indicating their need to extend the project duration by one month, until 31/01/2020. The reasons for the prolongation are due to the lack of funding to pay external partner invoices, which according to Bulgarian legislation must be repaid immediately after they are issued. As a result, the process of issuing such invoices is hampered. Their request is reviewed by the LB.

## 1. ANNEX CONTENT

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

- Documents of the LB's 5th expenditure certification request
- Certificate of 4th LB's expenditure certification request
- Certificate of 5th LB's expenditure certification request

# ANNEX