



3rd technical meeting of the project

"STRENGTHENING THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CULTURE AND
COLLABORATION IN THE ELIGIBLE PROGRAMME AREA"

Project Acronym: STRENGTHEN

General information:

Date: 15.12.2022

Organised by: Life Long Learning Center of Region of Central Macedonia, Regional Unit of Serres

Venue: Regional Unit of Serres 2ND Floor, "Konstantinos Karamanlis" Conference Hall (str. Konstantinos Karamanlis 36, GR 62121)

Type of the meeting: physical presence

Participants: Representatives of all four project partners attended the meeting (with physical presence).

Minutes of the meeting

The 3rd meeting between the partners of the project **STRENGTHEN** took place on Thursday, 15th December 2022. Representatives of four partners (*Chamber of Serres, Life Long Learning Center of Region of Central Macedonia, Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Blagoevgrad, European Informational and Consultancy center- BG Regions*) were physically present at the meeting.

The meeting was structured according to the following agenda:

Timetable	Activity
11.00 – 11.10	Registration
11.10 – 11:30	Project status - Presentation of the progress by each partner
11:30 – 12:15	All project partners Short term actions – next steps • PBs commitments • Time plan for future actions
12.15 – 12.30	Coffee Break (Optional)
12.30 – 12.50	Financial and administrative progress & challenges COM issues, I&P outputs
12.50 – 13.00	Meeting sum up
13.00	Lunch

The meeting was conducted by Mr Athanasios Kalathas director of Life Long Learning Center of Region of Central Macedonia, Regional Unit of Serres (LB) and the following main points were discussed among the participants:

- **Life Long Learning Center of Region of Central Macedonia, Regional Unit of Serres (PB2)**

The Director of Life Long Learning Center of Region of Central Macedonia, Regional Unit of Serres (PB2), Mr Athanasios Kalathas was present at the meeting and presented the status of the activities of the PB2 within this project.

Mr. Kalathas Athanasios informed that most of the tender procedures by the PB2 are contracted up-to date. Of the remaining procurements, the planned activities till the end of project are first contract trainers for the training programs in Bulgaria, then, organize two workshops for the dissemination of best practices on cluster activities in EU level. Also, he noted the participation in the elaboration of common strategy and future action plan and the participation in drafting the future collaboration agreement. With regards to implementation of project activities, the PB2 organised two training programs "Certified Executive of Food Safety & Quality Management", "Certified Export Trade Executive", participate in business mission in Blagoevgrad, participate in two trade fairs etc.

From a financial point of the project, PB2 informed that they have paid-out 68.615,29 eur until 15.12.2022. The Life Long Learning Center have verified expenditures 27.619,36€ until now, however they will verify the rest of approved budget in the future.

- **Chamber of Serres (LB)**

The status of the activities within the Leader Beneficiary, Chamber of Serres, were presented by project manager Mrs Thomai Boziou .

Mrs Boziou Thomai informed that Chamber of Serres contracted most of the procurements that were foreseen in the procurement plan. About next activities LB will organize the closing conference, will elaborate two studies for the institution of SEREXPO and growth opportunities for the Business Center Serexpo "CHRISTOS MEGKLAS", will contribute to the elaboration of common strategy and future plan, all partners received the content and the final deadline proposed at 28/2/2023. Also, she informed that will contribute to the elaboration of the future agreement (MoU), the indicative content include background, purpose and scope of the MoU, description of collaborative relationship, etc..

With regards to implementation of project activities, LB organized 1 focus group with stakeholders in Agrofood industry (December 14th, 2022). Moreover, the Chamber supported the participation of 30 Serres –based companies in the Strengthen Business Expo held in Blagoevgrad (14th-15th of October 2022), in cooperation with PB3 held business (B2B) meetings between Greek and Bulgarian companies, etc..

From a financial point of the project, LB informed that they have paid-out 66.328,54 eur until 15.12.2022, from approved budget 197.457,50 eur.

- **Chamber of Commerce and Industry- Blagoevgrad (PB3), European Informational and Consultancy Center-BG Regions (PB4)**

The status of the activities within the project of the Beneficiaries no.3, no.4, were presented by Mrs. Andriana Krasteva and Mrs Tatiana Kukoleva.

Mrs. Andriana Krasteva informed that all the tender procedures were developed, published and contracted and training programs are being implemented during this period.

Also, she informed that their biggest problem they faced and delay, generally all of participants of the program, are the certifiers. The long delay in the certification of expenses results on the cash flows not proceeding smoothly.

- **Decisions & future steps**

- LB will organize the final event in late March.
- PB2 will prepare the minutes of the meeting and send it together with the participants list and indicative photos to all partners and the JS officer;
- PP4 will propose possible dates for the focus group meeting in Creative Industries – please send the soonest possible a doodle link for partners to agree on the most convenient date
- PP3 will send justification for the project prolongation. In this regard, all partners should check any unused money and propose any possible modification with adequate justification
- Partners start working on the Joint strategy for the enhancement of collaboration in the cross-border area according to the task appointed to each partner. Deadline set: 28/2/2023
- Project partners will make the utmost effort to implement the project activities;
- Any problems or concerns regarding the project implementation, should be communicated directly and with no hesitation to the JS officer;
- All partners must be send progress reports until 20.01.23

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Meeting invitation
- List of participants
- Photos
- Presentations of all partners