

“INTERREG V-A COOPERATION PROGRAMME: GREECE – BULGARIA 2014 – 2020”

Project: “Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas”

“THE HEALTHY MUNICIPALITY”

MIS CODE 5011021

Minutes

“THE HEALTHY MUNICIPALITY” project

Transnational meeting in Krumovgrad Municipality

Date: Tuesday, 7th of August 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m – 16:00 p.m.

Location: Krumovgrad Municipality, Municipal administration Conference Hall,
Bulgaria

AGENDA

1ST Session – Welcome speeches

10:30 - 11:00	Registration
11:00 - 11:15	Welcoming by the Mayor

2nd Review of the project progress

11:15 - 11:45	Review of the project progress / Key Points /
11:45 - 12:15	Coffee Break
12:15 -13:30	Analysis of WP1/Management & Coordination / Analysis of WP2/Communication and Dissemination / Analysis of WP3/Stocktaking /
13:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	Analysis of WP4/Developing Tools - EWS / Analysis of WP5/Designing Local Prevention Policies&PT Analysis of WP6/Evaluation and Mainstreaming /
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-16:00	Project Steering Committee/ Sum-up & Conclusions /
16:00	Closing of the Meeting

PARTICIPANTS	
LB 1: ANRO – Regional Development Agency of Rodopi SA (LP – P1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efsthios Kefalidis • Afentoulidou Kyriaki
PB 2: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - Special Account for Research Funds - Department of Economics	
PB 3: Municipality of Arriana (P3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikolitsa Gartsoni • Eleni Fotiadou
PB 4: Municipality of Iasmos	
PB 5: Agency for Transnational Training and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sakis Karamoschos
PB 6: Regional Health Inspectorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delcho Pehlivanov • Nely Stefanova
PB 7: Association of Rhodope Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zlatka Nikolova • Sofka Asenova
PB 8: Municipality of Krumovgrand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leyla Karaibryam • Ivaylo Mitkov • Asen Hadziev • Nezhdie Akif
PB9: Municipality of Momchilgrad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sevdalin Ognyanov
Region of East Macedonia and Thrace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spyridon Arseniou
LAG – Municipality of Krumovgrad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariyka Hristozova • Ayhan Kurt

DISCUSSION

On Tuesday 07th of August 2018, the Municipality of Krumovgrad successfully organised the transnational meeting of the project entitled: “Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas” (acronym “THE HEALTHY MUNICIPALITY”). The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the Municipal administration.

The mayor of Krumovgrad, Mrs. Sebihan Mehmed, welcomed the Project Beneficiaries (PBs) and the special guests. Mrs. Sebihan Mehmed shared her experience over the health problems which the area is facing. The Cross-Border (CB) area includes some of the most deprived and isolated communities of both countries. Current provisioning of health services in the CB areas primarily focuses on coping with emergency cases and not on the prevention. This means low level of health services & degradation of the quality of life of the local population, high costs of health services both for the local population and for the provisioning of health services at the service providers.

As the presentations commenced, initially Mr. Ivaylo Mitkov, expert on behalf of the Krumovgrad Municipality (PB8), made a short presentation about the Health Structures operating in the Municipality of Krumovgrad. The presentation was encompassing a general overview of the provided health services and the respective everyday issues with which a patient-inhabitant is dealing in order to take care of his personal health care and/or the health care of his family members.

The hosting partner asked the PBs to validate the minutes of the previous meeting, which was organized by the Health Inspectorate of Haskovo (PB6) and the PBs did so. Right after that, the organizers gave the floor to Mr. Karamoschos, Director of the “Agency for Transnational Training and Development” -“TRANSCOOP S.A.”, in order to coordinate the detailed scan of all the WPs and of each separate deliverable, also to point out the most significant deviations from the initial time framework and to comment what follows next.

During the above mentioned procedure each PB had to make a brief statement/report about its overall view over the implementation of the physical object by its side, its concerns and potential solutions towards resolving matters which cause delays and hinder the progress of the project.

The analysis of the first two WPs, (WP1 and WP2) had no further issues to be commented since the last meeting which was held less than a month ago.

In brief it was mentioned that as far as the **WP1 “Management & Coordination”** is concerned, no further progress has been accomplished by the LB on the matter of hiring personnel as foreseen within the JoB or the deliverable of D1.1.3., ‘internet portal for project management’ (which is a useful tool for internal communication and coordination) since there is still no hiring procedure on yet and no procurement publicity so far respectively. However, there was a significant development on the matter of the ‘evaluation of the project’ (D1.8.5) by the PB8, by whom it was stated that during the next few days there will be a contractor and that it will be asked to start immediately the implementation of the specific deliverable.

As a result it was underlined that with the exception of the internet portal, no deviation from the planned actions and outputs is observed.

Concerning the **WP2 “Communication & Dissemination”**, the partners in brief underlined the responsibilities of each PB (PB7 is the overall responsible body for this WP), as they are indeed split to many PBs. The Communication policy has been prepared and will be sent to PBs and the project website will be prepared also by the LB, while PB5 and PB7 are responsible for preparing the publicity material. Furthermore PB5 will prepare a draft of the project’s flyer and send it to PB7, so as for them to design something similar.

PB2 will host the closing conference. LB, PB3, PB4, PB8, PB9 will also host the local information seminars in the partner areas. It is of significance, as it was stated, to respect the foreseen deadlines as Mr. Karamoschos stated, and at the end of the meeting a special discussion will take place about the set deadlines for each deliverable. Once again it was underlined the necessity for the LB to proceed to the foreseen procurement procedures, as many of the other deliverables rely and depend on those.

After discussing some details of the above mentioned WPs, Mr. Karamoschos, continued with the discussion on the **WP3 “Stocktaking”** in simple words Identifying the socioeconomic characteristics of the population, morbidity, coverage of the area on health services for which PB5- Agency for Transnational Training and Development is responsible. At that point, Mr. Karamoschos made a detailed presentation of D3.X.1, D3.X.2, D3.X.3 and D3.X.4 which are essential for the proper continuation of the project. D3.X.1 is progressing very well, while the other Deliverables expect the input of PB2. However the time is flying away and PBs should accelerate their works. The floor was given to every PB in order to share his/her reflections and concerns over these specific deliverables. Regarding D3.X.1., the Regional Health Inspectorate of Haskovo (PB6) informed the PBs that in a few days there will be contractor to work on this deliverable and as soon as he begins a short deadline of 20 days will be given in order to have the deliverable ready. Representatives of PB6 also informed PBs that the Ministry of Health has finally approved the procurement procedure of the body.

As far as the D3.X.2. is concerned it was stated that since this will be implemented by own means by the PBs which are involved (PB2, PB5, PB6) in order to do that, specific questionnaires have to be prepared towards mapping the partner areas. At this point the involved PBs expressed their will to proceed with the deliverable. However in order to do that, they must receive the specifications from the Aristotelian University (PB2) as decided during the previous meeting in Haskovo. Additionally, representatives of PB6 expressed their estimation that, if they receive the specifications on time, then the deliverable will be ready before November 2018. The same concerns were discussed about the D3.X.3 for which the procurement procedure of the involved PBs cannot take place without the specifications to be provided by the Aristotelian University (PB2).

Concerning D3.X.4. it was clearly stated by the Health Inspectorate representatives that the assigned contractor will have just 30 days deadline in order to deliver the outputs and this is definitely positive for the proper implementation according to the initial time framework of the project.

A short coffee-break took place in the conference room, during which the partners had the chance to discuss about issues which concern the hosting partner and the everyday life in the municipality as well as the attractions of the wider area.

After the short break, PBs continued with the **WP4 “Developing Tools - Early Warning System”** for the effective management of health information and the effective response of health services. PB8 is responsible for this WP. Taking the floor as coordinator of the discussion, Mr. Karamoschos made a brief explanation about the state of the art of the D4.X.1, during which it was explained the significance of the protocols and their importance for the remaining part of the project. D4.X.2, which had also to be discussed in detail in order to clarify issues which concern the digital data bases and more specifically: the number of the databases, the time of the implementation, the specs and which areas they concern. It was clarified that: The databases will be four, as exactly was mentioned in the AF of the project. The four Databases, however, should be similar in their structure. Subject of PB 2 is to develop the Database/s for the Greek PBs and then PB6 should translate it in Bulgarian and adapt it to the local conditions. Local PBs (Municipalities) should make further adjustments and adaptations to the local conditions. The Databases should be able to operate together in a single digital information system. The deliverable should be implemented prior to recording the results of D3.X.4 (Sampling), so as to apply it for the 500 people to examine in each area (D.3.X.3.). It was also explained to the PBs which exactly are the areas of the intervention (the involved four municipalities, 2 GR and 2 BG).

A detailed discussion took place about the digital platforms (D4.X.3.) and the responsible PBs

for setting them up, as well as their potential collaboration towards achieving economies of scale and faster progress of the deliverable.

With regard to D.4.X.4. it was discussed the equipment which was foreseen to be bought by the respective PBs (Municipalities in both countries). An important question was raised by the Mayor of Krumovgrad which concerned part of the equipment for the PB8 (Ambulance) and it was stated that the LB will soon contact the JS Officer in order to clarify this matter. Last but not least the deliverable D.4.X.5 was presented and discussed amongst partners, the content of the networking and the future benefits to the project sustainability.

Proceeding to **WP5 “Designing Local Prevention Policy and Pilot Testing”**, it was mentioned that the overall responsible is PB6 and that PB2, PB5, PB7 are actually responsible for designing the local health policy plans (D5.X.1.) after having received the common methodology. Additionally, LB, PB5 and PB6 have to collaborate towards setting up a common cross border prevention plan for pilot testing, D5.X.2. LB, PB3, PB4, PB7, PB8 and PB9 organize communication actions (1 per partner) for applying this common plan in the project areas (with reference to local specificities) targeting local population, health personnel, medical staff D5.X.3. Besides that, LB, PB3, PB4, PB8 and PB9 should implement pilot applications (clinical exams for 600 persons in each of the areas of PB3, PB4, PB8, PB9 and four (4) sessions for preventive health issues, organizing programs for the local population coupling light exercise with other activities e.g. sightseeing, environmental awareness etc. in each of the areas of PB3, PB4, PB8, PB9) as foreseen within D5.X.4.

As far as the **WP6 “Evaluation and Mainstreaming”** is concerned, it was mentioned that PB2 is the overall responsible partner. More specifically, PB2 along with PB7 contribute to the Evaluation of the results of the pilot application at local level (D6.8.1.), while LB, PB2 and PB7 prepare a synthesis report on problems and good practices of pilot application in the entire cross border area (D6.8.2.). At a later stage, PB3, PB4, PB5, PB7, PB8 and PB9 are proceeding (D6.8.3.) to adapting the local plans to the results of the pilot applications (action plan, expenditure analysis, sources of financing, time table). The pilot areas concern the two (2) Municipalities on the Bulgarian side and the two (2) ones on the Greek side respectively. Additionally to that, it was underlined that an introduction to this deliverable will concern an overview to the areas of Region of East Macedonia and Thrace in the Greek part and the Regions of Haskovo, Kardzali and Smolyan on the Bulgarian side (all of them eligible areas under the GR-BG 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme Interreg VA).

All PBs will contribute to setting up the cross border lab on prevention and primary health policies (D6.8.4.).

A short coffee break was held before the PBs proceeded with the SUM-UP part of the

meeting and the Conclusions.

As soon as the coffee break ended, the floor was given to the LB representatives who reminded PBs that the next meeting will take place in Arriana Municipality (PB3) and will be actually back to back with the Local Information Seminar.

A SUM-UP discussion took place concerning the set deadlines for each Deliverable according to the STTP and the general output, as decided by the PBs, was to avoid further deviations from the initial planning, thus to work intensively on the procurement preparation procedures in order to catch up with the time, which was lost in the first period of the project.

Special reference and attention were made to the deliverables (and the responsible PBs), which are essential in order for the other PBs to proceed with the follow-up activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agenda and Invitation
- List of participants
- Photos

Invitation

**“THE HEALTHY MUNICIPALITY”
TRANSNATIONAL MEETING**

INVITATION

Tuesday, 7th of August 2018

Krumovgrad, Bulgaria

Municipality of Krumovgrad has the pleasure to invite you to participate at the “HEALTHY MUNICIPALITY” Transnational meeting on Tuesday, 7th of August 2018 ,10:30 h in Krumovgrad, Bulgaria. The meeting will take place in the building of the municipal administration, 5 “Bulgaria” Sq., 6900, Krumovgrad, Bulgaria.

Regards,
Sebihan Mehmed
Mayor
Krumovgrad Municipality



Photos



