

# Interreg

## Greece-Bulgaria



European Regional Development Fund

„Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas”,

акроним: „Здрава община”/acronym „The Healthy Municipality”

### PROTOCOL

from

Local Information Seminar / Press Conference in Krumovgrad to Disclose Objectives and Planned Activities under the Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas project, acronym: "Healthy Municipality" / acronym "The Healthy Municipality", funded under the Interreg VA Program "Greece-Bulgaria, 2014-2020"

Today, 22 November 2018 at 10 am, a local information seminar / press conference / in Krumovgrad was held in the conference hall of the Municipality of Krumovgrad, 5 Bulgaria Square in Krumovgrad to disclose the objectives and planned activities under the "Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas" project, acronym "The Healthy Municipality", financed under the INTERREG VA Program "Greece-Bulgaria, 2014-2020".

A list of those attending the seminar is attached to the Protocol.

The seminar was opened at 10.30 am by Mrs. Leila Karaibryam, Director of the NEMP Directorate in Krumovgrad Municipality and Head of the Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in the Deprived Areas ", acronym "The Healthy Municipality ", financed under the INTERREG VA Program "Greece-Bulgaria, 2014-2020 ", which presented to the participants the topics of the seminar and briefly the main objective of the project, the envisaged activities, the target groups and the expected results:

The project "Policies to Ensure Access to Health Services to Remote Areas" has been implemented since November 2017 under the Interreg - Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020 cross-border co-operation program. 85% of the project funding comes from the European Fund for regional development and 15% for national funding. Interreg's main idea is based on the fact that countries face different issues that can be better achieved if they can work together with their neighbors than if everyone remained limited within their borders. For this reason, the EU together with Greece and Bulgaria provide € 130 million from 2014 to 2020 to promote activities that bring our peoples together.

The Healthy Municipality project has been approved for funding under priority axis 4 of the program together with 13 other proposals under the investment project "Investment, Health and Social Infrastructure".

Project partners are: from the Greek side the leading partner is the Rhodope Regional Development Agency; the other partners are Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department

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of Economics, Ariana Municipality, Yasmos Municipality, Agency for Cross-Border Training and Development. On the Bulgarian side, the partners are: RZI - Haskovo, Association of Rhodope Municipalities, Krumovgrad Municipality and Momchilgrad Municipality.

The overall objective of the project is: Develop and implement policies at municipal level to prevent health in remote areas of the cross-border area.

The specific objectives of the project are: to study the causes of morbidity, to develop population morbidity maps, to study access to the degree of coverage of healthcare needs in the cross-border region, to identify vulnerable groups, to take various measures and policies for health prevention.

To ensure the achievement of specific goals, the project is organized in 6 work packages. The first work package is "Project Management and Coordination" - its activities aim to ensure its full implementation in solving the problems and financial control.

Work Package 2: "Communication and dissemination of information". All activities and results achieved will be promoted in order to achieve better public awareness.

Work Package 3: "Data Recovery": the planned activities are aimed at analyzing the socio-economic characteristics of the population and the current health infrastructure in the cross-border area.

Work Package 4: Early Warning System: In this Work Package, it is planned to prepare protocols on the need to carry out medical examinations and surveys of the local population as well as the development and implementation of a system for recording and storing the results obtained and making them available to all healthcare stakeholders.

Work Package 5: "Developing Local Policies and Prevention and Pilot Actions". It is envisaged to develop common policies and activities on population health prevention in the cross-border area as well as their implementation and testing.

Work Package 6: "Policy Assessment": summarizing results and evaluating pilot activities, as well as developing local policies to prevent population health in the cross-border area.

The duration of the project is 24 months; total project value and EUR 1 135 147, with 100% being a grant.

Mrs. Karaibryam added to the presentation that in fact the Krumovgrad municipality received EUR 226,000. In the framework of the project, the sector D is repaired from the hospital, where a medical center will be established, will be equipped with the necessary medical equipment and an ambulance will be purchased. Repair works are scheduled to be completed by the end of November.

Within the framework of the project, 500 people from the municipality will be surveyed. One of the partners of the project is RAS - Haskovo and they are currently summarizing the questionnaires made by the population and on the basis of the data they will

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be made survey of 500 inhabitants of the municipality on the most common diseases. Medical specialists and mayors of the settlements were invited to assist in conducting these studies. The laboratory where she will be engaged in these studies has not yet been selected. The idea is that, once these tests are done, a map will be made to each of the participants surveyed, in which these results will be recorded.

Each of the project participants is engaged in activities; for example, the University of Thessaloniki was involved in drawing up the questionnaire, RAS - Haskovo are engaged in population surveys and analysis of the most common diseases; we, the Ariana, Yasmos, Krumovgrad and Momchilgrad municipalities, will be directly involved in these population surveys.

A coffee break was announced at 11:30.

At 12:00, the seminar continued with a presentation on "Structure for provision of health services in the municipality of Krumovgrad".

According to the Bulgarian legislation, the structure of the health system is organized in health care institutions. Medical assistance in the municipality. Krumovgrad is provided in hospital care, outpatient care: primary and specialized, and emergency medical care. The hospital assistance is provided by the Multiprofile Hospital for active treatment "Life +" EOOD.

At the medical establishment, the medical specialists, together with other staff, treat the persons with acute illnesses and acute chronic diseases and conditions requiring hospital treatment in the main medical specialties: internal diseases, children's diseases and obstetrics and gynecology. Outpatient care - primary and specialized, individual practices have 4 physicians; physicians in dental medicine - 11, individual practices in specialized outpatient care - 7. There are 4 municipal and 10 rural outpatient clinics in the municipality of Krumovgrad for primary outpatient medical care. The staffing of rural practices in remote border areas has been heightened due to transport and housing disturbances, lack of medical equipment and strong building stock depreciation.

In Krumovgrad there will be a medical center, which will provide the provision of pre-hospital medical care in various fields of medicine. Emergency Medical Assistance in Krumovgrad is a subsidiary of the Center for Emergency Medical Care - Kardzhali. General. Krumovgrad appoints medical specialists to schools and kindergartens on the territory of the municipality.

At present, 15 specialists provide health services to children in 9 kindergartens and 12 schools.

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The health problem in the Krumovgrad municipality is that 45% of the total working-age population is uninsured. The health status of the rural population is deteriorating compared to that of the city's population.

The reason for this may be the socio-economic factors, living conditions, social status that are worse than those in the city.

In many villages there are no medical practices. Due to financial difficulties and the lack of the opportunity to visit an appropriate medical establishment, a large part of the adult population does not carry out adequate and timely treatment, which leads to worsening and deepening of the health problems in the risk groups.

The "Policies to improve access to healthcare in remote areas" project will help address some of these issues. The overall objective of the project is the introduction of policies for disease prevention at municipal level in the remote areas of Greece and Bulgaria. Specific objectives of the project are to study the causes of morbidity, to develop population morbidity maps, to study access to the coverage level of healthcare needs in the cross-border region, to identify vulnerable groups, to take various measures and policies for health prevention.

Opinions: Ms Hristozova says admiration for this project. He congratulates his colleagues on the initiatives.

Between 13:00 and 14:00 a break for a light lunch of the participants was announced.

At 14:00, the seminar continued with a discussion on the submitted presentations and answers from the project team on the questions posed by the participants.

Deputy Mayor: The equipment that is set up is quite modern. There is a dedicated echograph. There is a contract for delivery, we only expect to complete the repair activities. I.e. after real We will have a modern building for the medical center with the appropriate equipment and the ambulance.

For emergency medical aid, last year we donated a room on the first floor, just below the premises where the medical center is located. They have also won a project under the "Growth Regions" 2014-2020 Operational Program and, as far as I know, have launched procurement procedures for contractor selection, I want to say that this wing will be finished, there will be only a few details that I think we will finish. I.e. entering this wing of the hospital - the so-called Sector D - will be completed. Thanks again to the team. Whatever we can, we also help as colleagues.

Several projects are currently being implemented. The problem of the entire hospital building is that they are made in parts. The sanitary department, the temporary

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accommodation center, medical, emergency services are sanitized; the problem is that things are done like that in a piece. There are some facades, not even whole facades. There is money to complete. There is money for social entrepreneurship, we will try to fix the yard of the hospital.

The good thing is that they are closed in many places and we are trying to create.

The seminar was closed by the Project Manager at 4 pm

Prepared by:

Nedko Dachev



Project Manager:

Leila Karabibram

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