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“FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

PRESS RELEASE

Launching of the project "Symbiotic networks of bio-waste sustainable management" SYMBIOSIS implemented within the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Greece – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020

The project "Symbiotic networks of bio-waste sustainable management" starts its' implementation with the 1st Project Meeting that will be held in Chiflik Winery Bitola on 29th of June, at 11:00 am.

This project is co-financed by the European Union and by the national funds of the participating countries upon the 1st Call for proposals within the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Greece – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020

Total Project budget amounts 898.853, 33 EUR, i.e. 482.086, 00 EUR for project activities that are to be implemented in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while the remaining amount of 416.772, 33 EUR is allocated for the implementation of activities in Greece.

The project will be implemented by five partners from both countries:

- Project partners from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:
 - Public Enterprise KOMUNALEC Bitola, Lead Partner;
 - Public Enterprise for communal works KOMUNALNA HIGIENA Novaci
 - Movement for Environment MOLIKA DOM Bitola
- Project partners from Greece:
 - Waste Management of Western Macedonia DIADYMA SA Waste Management of Western Macedonia DIADYMA SA;
 - InnoPolis - Centre for Innovation and Culture;
 - National Technical University in Athens.

The project duration is 24 months.

This Project foresees range of activities especially focused towards the establishment of an integrated, sustainable bio-waste management system and development of trading schemes within the cross-border region.

Specific objectives of the project:

- To set-up a cross industry resource efficiency through organic material trading and sharing assets;
- To create industrial sustainable networks especially in the agro-food industry;
- To achieve maximum efficiencies in energy and water use;
- To have a reference point where the demand will meet the offer of bio-waste materials in CBC area;
- To improve the local policies on the management of bio-waste streams and tackle this issue individually following the directions of the EU policy for less bio-waste to the landfills and better utilization for other uses;

- To improve the environmental benefits by reducing the bio-waste streams that were disposed into landfills;
- To generate tangible social benefits to local communities by better use of bio resources from the food industry in favour to social activities;
- To improve the cooperation among sectors and businesses in cross-border area thus improving the local economies and boosting entrepreneurship;
- To support the local economies by safeguarding raw materials or fuel coming from bio-waste;
- To promote job creation in the regions into question by exploring the trade opportunities and using the waste as a resource.

Expected results:

- Created new jobs in the bio-waste sector;
- Developed implementation strategies at the level of decision-making by the competent authorities;
- Reduced quantity of bio-waste that is deposited on the landfills on a daily bases;
- Enabled economic benefits for local and regional businesses through the use of the platform, which is a powerful tool for networking and trade in bio-waste;
- Reduced load on the environment. For each ton of bio-waste that will not be delayed at the landfill, a reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and / or methane (CH₄) will be recorded. 10 000t per year in the cross-border region will result in 300t reduction of methane emissions or 6.300t CO₂ eq.

Contact person:

Biljana Lukich Tanchevska
SYMBIOSIS Project Manager
PE KOMUNALEC Bitola

Mob: + 389 71 222057

E- mail: symbiosis@komunalecbit.com.mk

“The views expressed in this Press Release do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries and the Managing Authority”.