Interreg - IPA CBC
Greece - Republic of North Macedonia

The Programme is co-funded by the European Union and by National Funds of the Participating Countries

INTERREG IPA CBC PROGRAMME
"GREECE – REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA 2014-2020"

7th MONITORING COMMITTEE (MC) MEETING
Online

March 19th, 2021

Brief Minutes & Decisions

The Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as MC) of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme "Greece – Republic of North Macedonia 2014-2020" convened online via the Zoom platform for its 7th Monitoring Committee Meeting on March 19, 2020, following an invitation by the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (hereinafter MA of ETCP), in agreement with the co-chairs.

Due to technical issues of the internet provider at that day, in the wider area where the MA of ETCP is established (MA was acting as the online meeting's host), the support of the Members of the MC with translations to English was only partially possible (English translation was limited). For this reason, and to ensure that the discussion would be concise and that brevity would be served, it was decided by the Chairperson, **Mr. Goran Milevski** and the co-Chairperson, **Mr. Georgios Zervos** that since the translation of the native languages of the participants is sufficiently provided, the discussion will take place in those languages and for the non speakers, e.g. EU representatives, a translation of the main points of the discussions will be provided by the Head of M.A. in English.
Since the presentations and all the necessary supporting documentation were available beforehand to all the participants in English, the esteemed members agreed that they possess the necessary information to participate in the discussion so as for the MC to take decisions on, namely:

1. The approval of the decision of the Steering Committee, as it was manifested through the 14th Written Procedure, regarding the 2nd phase evaluation results of the Project Proposals submitted under the 2nd Call for Proposals.
2. Discussion considering Projects PREVEN-T and AdvenTOUR, on whose evaluation results certain members of the Steering Committee expressed reservations due to issues pertaining to certain Beneficiaries' efficacy and ability to implement.
3. The approval of the Closure Manual.

The meeting was chaired by Minister Mr. Goran Milevski of the Ministry of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia. However, the Chair passed on the overall coordination of the meeting to the Head of the Managing Authority , **Mrs. Angeliki Bouziani** so that she was able to, inter alia, provide translations in English of the main points of the discussion to EU representatives and to facilitate the proceedings in general.
An entry analysis of the overall programme's implementation, the cash-flow temp and the n+3 rule performance for the years 2020 and 2021 was presented by the JS Coordinator, **Mr. Spyridon Arseniou**.

Decisions of the Monitoring Committee:

1. On the 1st issue the members of the MC unanimously agreed to approve the decision, reached by the SC through the corresponding 14th written procedure, and proceeded to approve for funding the following projects, per priority axis and specific objective, and to approve the projects that would form the reserve lists:

Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.1 - Approved Projects	
1. Be In	2. Fashion Employment Hub
3. I-Start	4. Renaissance
Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.1 - Reserve List	
1. BeCircular	2. ENTEG
3. IDEAS	4. INNO-ECOSYSTEM
5. G.E.M.S.	
Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.3 - Approved Projects	
1. Wine-up	2. NETOURAL
3. ALTER TRIP	4. Europ@st & future
Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.3 - Reserve List	
1. Bike cities	2. COunT
3. ABOVE	
Priority Axis 2, Specific Objective 2.4 - Approved Projects	
1. eFIDAR	2. SOLVE
Priority Axis 2, Specific Objective 2.4 - Reserve List	
1. FLOODSHIELD	2. VOLUnteer
3. sol-na	

2. On the second issue the following were decided:
   - As far as the Project **PREVEN-T** was concerned the members declared that all concerns raised during the 16th written procedure of the SC had been adequately addressed. After this concession, Project **PREVEN-T** was also approved for funding, without any further reservations.
   - As far as Project **AdvenTOUR** was concerned, after fruitful exchange of opinions and alternative solutions between the co-chairpersons (while **Mr. Constantinos**

Michailidis by the Region of Central Macedonia and **Mr. Vasileios Ampas** by the Region of Western Macedonia took the floor as well) the following was decided, on the insistence of the Ministry of Local-Self Government and the National Authority:

- ✓ PB3 – the PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL NATIONAL PARK PELISTER is to be given a period of sixty (60) days in order to come forward with specific documentation pertaining to its ability and readiness to implement its proposed activities of the Project.
- ✓ **In case** the Beneficiary manages to provide the required documentation, the Project will proceed to be funded without any further modifications to its partnership composition.
- ✓ **In case** the Beneficiary fails to obtain the required documentation, a substitute Beneficiary, of similar scope, will be sought after, in order to substitute the National Park Pelister. In such an instance, Project Beneficiary 4 – THE ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES PRO LOCAL BITOLA will also be substituted, as the Chair, representing the Ministry of Local Self-Government, was of the opinion that the two Beneficiaries were meant to work in tandem within the Project and the eventual exclusion of the first necessitated the exclusion of the latter as well. This position was seconded and reinforced by the National Authority. The co-Chairperson conceded to the condition and, alongside the rest of the members, agreed with the Chair's proposal. It should be noted that the appropriateness of PB1 and PB2 was never questioned and, therefore, the Project is to be funded with PB1 & PB2 retaining their participation in the Partnership in every eventuality, i.e. the Greek Beneficiaries of the Partnership will continue to be part of the Project's partnership, alongside with new partners from Republic of North Macedonia, in case the PB3 & PB4 will fail to fulfil the set condition.

3. On the third issue it is noted that the Closure Manual was approved without any comments from the Members.

Other issues discussed:

Following the decisions in regard to the 2nd Phase of the 2nd Call Evaluation Results, it is noted that the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, **Mr. Dimitar Mitrevski**, intervened, requesting that it was investigated whether the name of

the Programme could be altered in such a fashion that the denomination of both countries was alike, e.g. either "the Hellenic Republic – the Republic of North Macedonia" or "Greece – North Macedonia" etc. and argued that if such a change was possible that all references to the Programme (e.g leaflets, documents etc) would have to conform to the new Programme name.

On the issue, the Programme Officer expressed the opinion that such an alteration should be considered in order to respect the Prespa agreement, which is in force since 2019. **Mrs. Klaudia Feurle** took the floor in order to remind the participants that the term "Republic of North Macedonia" was adopted after the Prespa Agreement and that the Commission's modus operandi is that the name is used in every document the first time it is mentioned as "the Republic of North Macedonia", and should thereafter in the document refer to the short name "North Macedonia". The Programme Officer went on to say that latest for the 2021-27 programme, the name changes have to be integrated into all programme documents adequately.

However, the Head of the MA of ETCP stepped in to mention that discussion of such an issue superseded the jurisdictions of this Monitoring Committee and that any such concerns should be taken up with other, properly responsible bodies, namely the Commission etc.

Before the closing of the 7th MC, Mrs. Klaudia Freule pointed out that according to the RoP of the JMC, the discussion should be held in English, which is the official language of the Programme.

Mrs Angeliki Bouziani apologized for the inconveniences in English translation, which appeared during the meeting as a force majeure and invited the participants to take the floor in order to highlight any issue or to ask for clarifications if needed.

No participant of the JMC took the floor, confirming that way that each of them have full and thorough knowledge of the discussion and the decisions taken.

Following the above the 7th Monitoring Committee meeting was adjourned, with the instructions of the Chairperson and of the Co-Chairperson of its decisions to come into force.

This document is signed digitally by the two co-chairpersons.

The Co-Chairpersons
of the Monitoring Committee

Co-Chair
Mr. Giorgos Zervos

Special Secretary for ERDF & CF programmes
Ministry of Development and Investments

Co-chair
Mr Goran Milevski

Ministry of Local Self Government

Attachments:
1. Agenda of the 7th Monitoring Committee meeting
2. ZOOM participants' list of the 7th Monitoring Committee meeting