

# Interreg

## Greece-Bulgaria

**E.VE.CR.I** *local*

European Regional Development Fund



## D 3.4

# COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES & ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Sofia 2021

**BULGARIAN ELECTRIC VEHICLES ASSOCIATION (BAEPS)**

**ALLIANCE OF THE PRODUCERS OF ECOLOGICAL ENERGY (SPEE-  
BG)**

### AKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## DELIVERABLE DOCUMENTATION SHEET

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08.01.2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approved by WP Leader [Ioannis Tsetsinas - CERTH]
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## PROJECT DOCUMENTATION SHEET

PROJECT ACRONYM	E.VE.CR.I.
PROJECT FULL TITLE	Electric Vehicles and Charging Crossborders Infrastructure
SUBSIDY CONTRACT	B6.3a.01/13.04.2021
PROJECT DURATION	24 months [13 April 2021 – 12 April 2023]
PRIORITY AXIS	01: A Competitive and Innovative Cross-Border Area of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A GREECE-BULGARIA 2014-2020
CALL IDENTIFIER	6th CALL for Project Proposals
PROJECT OFFICER	Jenya DINKOVA
LEAD BENEFICIARY	Alliance of The Producers of Ecological Energy – BG (SPEE-BG)
PROJECT BENEFICIARY 2	Centre for Research and Technology Hellas - Hellenic Institute of Transport – GR (CERTH-HIT)
PROJECT BENEFICIARY 2	Bulgarian Electric Vehicles Association – BG (BAEPS)
WEBSITE	<a href="https://local-e.eu">https://local-e.eu</a>
SOCIAL MEDIA	#evecri #local-e

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## TASK OUTCOMES

In summary, this activity led to the following achievements:

1. New government policy in support of the electrification of transport with a clear goal of 10'000 public charging stations by 2026;
2. Common stance of the 8 Bulgarian operators of charging stations regarding the need for simplification of the installation regulations;
3. Common stance of the Bulgarian Energy System Operator and the three Energy Utilities on providing support to public authorities and operators of charging stations for rapid installation of charging stations;
4. Government and municipal administrations engaged in the process of streamlining regulations regarding the installation of charging stations.

### I. COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

For the period March – June 2022 BAEPS subcontractor Neper EOOD has carried-out consultations with relevant stakeholders through BAEPS and has elaborated and confirmed with partners concrete strategic recommendations related to electric mobility to be presented to the government authorities. Neper EOOD had participated in series of political meetings, during which those recommendations were presented. Intensive lobbying was carried-out by representatives of Neper and BAEPS for those key measures to become political engagements and be integrated into the political agenda of the country through the new Recovery and Resilience Plan.

What be learned from the world experience is that there is no established business model, the technology is developing rapidly, both the world industry and emerging business models. The charging stations are infrastructure, and the operating and payment systems are separate from the stations.

At first glance, four reforms could be made:

- Limiting the access of air-polluting cars to central city areas
- Obligation for electricity distribution companies to invest in the electricity grid to ensure and achieve the target of building 15,000 public charging stations
- Simplifying and speeding up the procedures for building charging stations
- Removal of electromagnetic tests for cars with internal combustion engines converted into electric cars.

Regarding the specific investments and measures to attract investments:

- Program for the subsidized purchase of an electric car when scrapping an old car with a combustion engine. Subsidy estimate - 50,000 cars at €5,000 makes about €250,000,000.
- A guarantee scheme guaranteeing the buyback of the purchase of over 50,000 new electric cars, with a 5,000 euro guarantee - about a 250,000,000 euro guarantee.
- Subsidies for 10,000 charging stations - at 5,000 euros per station - about 50,000,000 euros
- Subsidies for municipal companies for urban transport - 30 large cities for about 1000 buses - at 300,000 euros on average - about 300,000,000 euros.

The recovery plan has no way of financing the subsidies for the purchase of EVs. These subsidies must come from the budget. Regarding the charging stations - this part can be considered within the operational programs. Regarding the third part, namely how to encourage the use of these electric cars through legislation - that depends more on society. There's also the social element to take into account - people don't see it as a top priority. A way must be found to reach people and make them understand how everyone's lives will be improved if pollution is reduced.

The final proposal contained the following measures for which there appeared to be broad political and expert agreement:

1. Designation of the Ministry of Economy as the coordinating institution for electromobility policies;
2. Ministry of Regional Development to take regulatory decisions to limit polluting vehicles to the central parts of large cities;
3. The Commission for Energy Regulation to take the necessary actions to stimulate the Electricity distribution companies to build the necessary infrastructure for the construction of 15,000 public charging stations within 3-5 years;
4. The Ministry of Regional Development together with the Association of Electric Vehicle Owners, the Electric Vehicle Industrial Cluster and the Bulgarian Electric Vehicle Association to offer municipalities a model of simplified regulation for placing charging stations;
5. The Ministry of Regional Development, together with the municipalities, to propose a regulation to allocate places for the placement of charging stations and, accordingly, for parking during charging in the inter-block spaces of the 50 largest cities;
6. Simple and quickly solvable issues:
  - completion of the procedure for the entry into force of green registration numbers for electric vehicles;
  - ending the requirement for electromagnetic tests for converted electric vehicles, from cars with combustion engines;
  - ending the amalgamation of battery electric cars with hybrid cars;

7. Clarifying and synchronizing the programs for European and national subsidies between the Ministry of Finance, the Fund of Funds, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of the Environment regarding and the National Trust Eco Fund:

- subsidies for electric cars in conjunction with scrapping old cars;
- guarantees for importers or lessors, including for second-hand electric cars;
- subsidies for taxis and light vehicles for urban deliveries;
- subsidies for municipalities for charging stations next to transit streets and in inter-block spaces;
- subsidies for charging stations for the Road Infrastructure Agency;

As a result of the effort all of the above recommendations were integrated in the RRP, as can be seen from the strategic document, available on <https://nextgeneration.bg/14>

## **II. COORDINATION WITH ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

This activity was carried-out by BAEPS' subcontractor Neper EOOD and SPEE-BG's staff, who was involved with meeting the local and regional authorities and utility providers to ensure their knowledge about the project and support for installations of EV charging stations. The purpose of this activity was on one side to gather initial input and consecutive feedback from relevant stakeholders for the three studies in this Work package, conducted in the period January – December 2022:

- Construction & Grid Connection Regulations,
- European & Bulgarian Charging Operators and
- Charging Stations Interoperability Across Europe,

and on the other side to promote the activities in front of operators and utility providers to facilitate the process of installing EV charging stations. BAEPS's subcontractor has initially involved all operators and representative organizations which resulted with the signing of a 5 year Memorandum between:

- Electricity System Operator EAD
- Bulgarian Chamber of Electricians
- Bulgarian Association for Electric Vehicles
- National association of Municipalities of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Industrial cluster "Electric vehicles" and
- Association of electric car owners

The memorandum's objective is to facilitate the information transfer and the coordination of activities between the parties for appropriate infrastructure development and environment establishment for EV mobility.

SPEE's staff was to support this effort and included:

- Identification and maintain of list of stakeholders.
- Regular contact with local and regional authorities and utility providers in order to facilitate measures and policies in favor of electric mobility and support for the construction of charging stations in the cross-border area Bulgaria - Greece.
- Initiation and participation in in conversations with suppliers and operators of electrical stations. in order to negotiate and install charging stations at selected locations in the region.
- Regular contact with other identified stakeholders.

Communication with EV CS operators were maintained in 2022 with the objective to steer and level-up their interest and involvement in the project for next activities (establishment of EV CS in selected localities and inclusion in common platform).

Several meetings with representatives and members of the Association of Owners of Electric Cars in Bulgaria were held in order to investigate the need for establishing EV CS infrastructure and to discuss the current regulations in this field.

A meeting with the Regional Administration in Blagoevgrad was held in order to integrate the project goals into the regional programme for energy efficiency and in the Integrated Territorial Strategy.

Liaising with Electrohold the main electricity company and The National Association of Small and Medium Businesses resulted with a letter of interest, issued for the project.

Electrohold is a leading financial and energy group operating in the region of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The company develops businesses in the fields of electricity distribution and supply, serving nearly 3 million customers and maintain an electricity distribution network with a total length of over 58,000 km.

The National Association of Small and Medium Business (NASMB) is one of the working Bulgarian employer's organizations active in the fields of innovation and knowledge economy. It supports and fosters the establishment of a favorable business environment for small and medium businesses development and to raise SMEs competitiveness. Its activities encourage the growth of the economies in the region through the promotion of innovation and transfer of advanced technologies and know-how.