

**Duration of the project: 24 months**

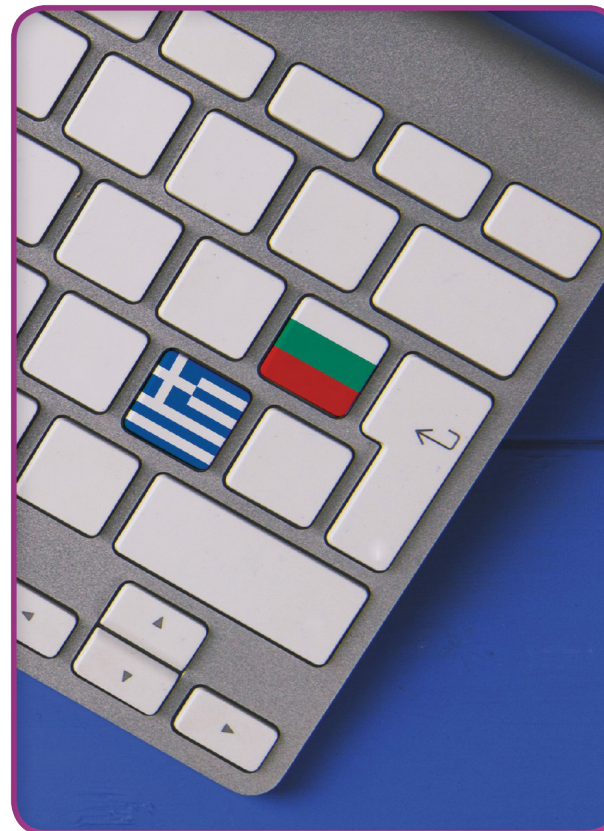
**Budget: 475.573,76 €**

	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Country</i>
	<i>Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis</i>	<i>Greece</i>
	<i>Management and Administration Authority Technopolis Thessalonikis SA</i>	<i>Greece</i>
	<i>Municipality of Rudozem</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>
	<i>Local active group Zlatogerad - Nedelino</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>

### Best Practices

“Success Stories” events take place with guest speakers from the Cross Border area and other countries. Guests and speakers share their stories, discuss and collaborate with the participants. Additionally, the project encourages knowledge transfer and capacity building to all project beneficiaries, through seminars, workshops and study visits, in order to achieve maximum effect in the local communities, interested parties and new social entrepreneurs.

A “Guide on Opportunities for new Social Entrepreneurs” is produced. The guides will be distributed by The Local Office for Social Entrepreneurship in Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis to the public, free of charge.



*The content of this flyer is sole responsibility of Municipality of Pilea-Hortiatis and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat*

**Interreg**  
**Greece-Bulgaria**  
**Growing Social**  
 European Regional Development Fund



## Enhancement of social entrepreneurship

through the establishment of support structures in the Cross Border area.



**A cross-border area without social exclusion**

*The project is implemented in the framework of INTERREG V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme and is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in the Programme*

## Project target

Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis is the Lead Beneficiary in the INTERREG V-A COOPERATION PROGRAMME GREECE – BULGARIA 2014 – 2020, with the acronym “Growing Social”. The main goal of the Programme is the promotion of social entrepreneurship as a local-area development and decentralization tool. The employment and social inclusion through social entrepreneurship is enhanced by support structures schemes and through the dissemination of good practice at local level.

The project shares this view and aims at establishing support mechanisms for interested parties, stakeholders and new social entrepreneurs in the Cross Border area, providing young unemployed people with the opportunity to enter the labour market, while simultaneously have a positive social impact through their work.

### ***The support mechanisms created in the framework of the project include:***

- 1) Two Local Offices for Social Entrepreneurship in total, one in Greece and one in Bulgaria whose objective is threefold
  - Provide accurate information, guidance and support to potential new social entrepreneurs
  - Networking between individuals and groups while promoting social entrepreneurship ideas to existing non-profit and profit organizations with the aim of developing and implementing ideas
  - Networking between existing SEs who are looking for staff and unemployed or underprivileged people
- 2) An incubator for Small Enterprises that will support them in their early stages, while providing access to tools and resources, networking, mentoring, coaching, etc.

## Role of Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis

The Local Office for Social Entrepreneurship in Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis is a nationwide innovation. The Office is located at the Municipal Community of Asvestohori and more specifically at the former Town Hall of Asvestohori, at 1, Dimokratias Str., 57010. Two experts in Social Entrepreneurship are employed and offer their services.

The concept and implementation of the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Programme GREECE – BULGARIA 2014 – 2020 promotes the active participation of citizens in a wide spectrum of social protection and solidarity actions, while supporting vulnerable social groups, enhancing entrepreneurship and local economic growth, tackling unemployment and developing cooperation between citizens and other entities.

Additionally, citizens of Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis have the opportunity to receive information and support from the Office, in order to actively participate in Social and Solidarity Economy entities.



Unemployed citizens can seek support from the Office in order to be informed for employment opportunities through participation in Social and Solidarity Economy entities. Moreover, entrepreneurs and freelancers can receive information over financial instruments (grants, loans, etc.) for Social Enterprises. Additional services include guidance over composing and submitting a business plan, as well as support over its implementation.

The Office supports and encourages constant networking among Social and Solidarity Economy entities and actively participates in dissemination events and actions.

***All services by the Local Office for Social Entrepreneurship in Municipality of Pilea – Hortiatis are provided free of charge***

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