



# SOCIAL PLATE

SUPPORTING  
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES  
IN COMBATING POVERTY  
AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION


## Project Partners



Thessaloniki Central Market S.A.  
7<sup>th</sup> km Thessaloniki - Athens motorway, N. Menemeni  
Thessaloniki GR-54628, Greece

Tel.: +30 2310 764 023  
e-mail: socialplate@kath.gr

<https://www.socialplate.eu>  
<https://foodangels.socialplate.eu>

 SocialPlate (@plate\_social)

“ Supporting  
Social Enterprises  
in combating poverty  
and social exclusion ”



The INTERREG V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and national funds from the countries participating in it.



# PROJECT RESULTS

## "Social Food Support Civil Non-profit Partnership"

In the frame of the project the "Social Food Support Civil Non-profit Partnership" was established from Thessaloniki Central Market S.A. and TECHNOPOLIS - International Education Institute. "Social Food Support", in cooperation with the organic waste and packaging management office, operates in Thessaloniki Central Market, with main goals the reduction of food waste, the combat of malnutrition, and recycling.

## Collection and distribution of food products

Within twelve months from the initiation of the project, the quantity of fruits and vegetables gathered from more than 60 traders of Thessaloniki Central Market amounts to 229 tonnes and 576 kilos, from which until March 2019 145,798 kilos were offered to more than 65 vulnerable social groups with final recipients more than 15,000 persons. At the same time the transformation of this quantity into organic waste was avoided.

## Platform for food donation and receiving "food angels"

In the frame of the project the platform "food angels" was developed, where social cooperatives and other companies and stakeholders can donate their surplus food to people in need, and also register their needs in food and accept food donations from donors across the food supply chain.

<https://foodangels.socialplate.eu/el-gr/>

## Networking and collaborating partners

More than 60 agencies participate in the food distribution, including: Social Grocery Stores of Municipalities of Thermi, P. Mela, Ampelokipoi - Menemeni, Municipality of Kodelio - Evosmos Food Bank, M. of Ampelokipoi - Menemeni, M. of Neapoli Sykies, Church of Agios Athanasios -Evosmos, Church of Agios Georgios - Neapoli, Alkyone, Ecopolis, Eterotopia, Philoxenia food and kindness in action, IOM Giannitsa, Lighthouse of the World (Faros tou Kosmou), Ithaki Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals, Arsis, Refugee Care Centre.



# THE PROJECT



The Project: "Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion" (Acronym: "SOCIAL PLATE") is implemented in the framework of the INTERREG V-A Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020 programme, Priority Axis: 4. An inter-border area with no exclusions, Thematic goal: 09 - Combating poverty, discrimination and social exclusion, Investment Priority: 9c. Providing support to social enterprises. The project is co-funded by the European Union (85%) and National Funds (15%) and its duration is 24 months. The partners implementing the project from Greece are Thessaloniki Central Market S.A. as lead partner and TECHNOPOLIS - International Education Institute. The partners implementing the project from Bulgaria are Municipality of Borino and Active Youths NGO.

The main action priority of the project addresses the combat of poverty and social exclusion and the support of social stakeholders with the same goals.

Food waste and loss is a major global problem with social and environmental impacts. It is estimated that 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted globally each year, while at the same time more than 1 billion people are malnourished and 1 billion people cannot cover their basic nutritional needs. Within this frame, main project goals are:

- ◆ The feeding of most vulnerable social groups
- ◆ The provision of employment opportunities to long-term unemployed
- ◆ The reduction of food waste and loss
- ◆ The recycling of packaging and organic waste management

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The idea for "Social Plate" was developed by TH.C.M. (Thessaloniki Central Market) S.A., as a solution to the problems of poverty and social exclusion. Specifically, the project aims to promote regional cohesion through the establishment and promotion of social enterprises in Greece and Bulgaria with the task not only to provide employment to long-term unemployed and marginal groups but also to nourish people from vulnerable social groups.

Main action of the project is the establishment of a social enterprise in Greece and its promotion in Bulgaria through social franchising. Main goal of the enterprise is the distribution of long lasting products that otherwise would have been wasted, promoting an environmentally conscious approach and employing at the same time people from socially and professionally challenged groups that ensure its daily operations. Within this frame, every day traders of TH.C.M. S.A. deliver non-marketable goods to the organic waste management office of the company and, under the supervision of the head of quality control, the products are separated into those that are appropriate for consumption and those that are not, and they are repackaged. Social agencies of the region working with the programme receive the recovered products and distribute them, cooked or raw, to vulnerable social groups (unemployed or homeless people, refugees etc).

### Other actions of the project include:

- ◆ Development of policy proposals for the promotion of social entrepreneurship
- ◆ Setting of strategic priorities for the social enterprises in the cross border area
- ◆ Development and operation of a platform for registering food needs and donating and receiving food
- ◆ Capacity building and exchange of best practices in social entrepreneurship topics
- ◆ Evaluation of the operation of the NGO in Greece and assessment of its scale-up potential of further development after the end of the project
- ◆ Communication and dissemination activities
- ◆ Project management and coordination