

“Policies for Enhancing Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas” (The Healthy Municipality)

Deliverable 6.5.4 - Setting up Cross
Border Lab on Prevention and
Primary Health Policies
Proposal on the Framework

The Healthy Municipality project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme.



Disclaimer:

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European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, is one of the two goals of the EU Cohesion Policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States.

The Interreg programmes are financed in the framework of the EU Regional Policy, also referred as Cohesion Policy due to its aim to dissolve regional disparities between Europe's regions.

This investment policy consumes around one third of the EU's budget. It targets all regions and cities in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens' quality of life.



General

Establishing and operating a “Cross Border Lab” is foreseen as Activity 6.4 of the project. Aim of the particular action is to summarize the experience and knowledge during the lifetime of the project and to capitalize on it. The Lab takes over the achievements gained and pursues to further work in order to providing “policy partners” with guidance and support in the implementation of their health policies.

The action of the specific Lab addresses those partners, which designed and applied a local primary health policy in their areas in the pilot phase and are expected to mainstream the project experience, namely the 4 Municipalities.

The Lab is the main vehicle of the project in terms of sustainability of its results. It should empower its Municipalities - members to valorizing prepared infrastructure and tools and should support them with the help of external experts. It should care for the dissemination of the project results.

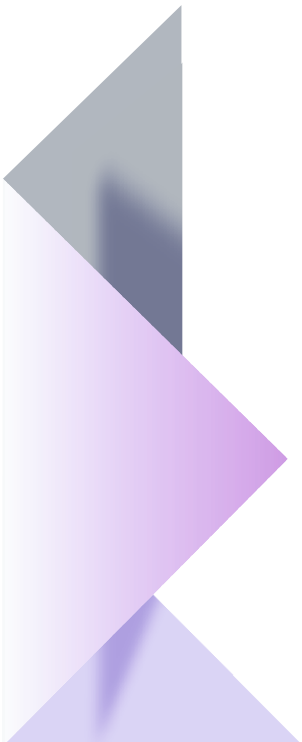
Resources' Allocation in the Context of the Lab

The **activities of the Lab** foreseen to be implemented **during the project:**

- Development of the business plan for organizing and setting up the cross border lab
- Organizing 7 cross border Lab meetings

The Scope of the CB Lab

The Lab is directly linked to the sustainability of the project achievements and moreover to the valorization of its results.



Valorizing the “Healthy Municipality” experience, extending and improving it, along with disseminating achievements, should be the scope of the Cross Border Lab operation.

The Theoretical Framework – The Basis for the Lab on Health Prevention

In the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all its 17 Sustainable Development Goals are relevant to health issues, mainly the Goal 3: **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

The Healthy Cities approach of the World Health Organization recognizes the determinants of health and the need to work in **collaboration across public, private, voluntary and community sector organizations.**

The Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors sets out six areas for action to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens: people, places, participation, prosperity, peace, and planet.

Health21, the European policy framework laid out **21 targets** for improving the health of Europeans

According to the WHO publication on **Prevention of Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs): Cities are in prime position to support people living with NCDs, to co-create health with patients and communities, build health literacy and foster empowerment and build physical, socioeconomic and cultural environments that tackle NCD risk factors.**

According to the **2018 Declaration of Astana success of primary health care will be driven by:**
knowledge and capacity-building;
human resources for health; technology and financing.

The “Healthy Municipality” project lies in the core of the above declarations of the respective international institutions and organizations. Undoubted is also the need for the continuation and upgrading of the specific attempt, so as for its achievements to come closer to the above stated policies and objectives and to become a source of experience and knowledge.

The Objectives of the Lab

The main objectives of the Lab could be defined as follows: I. Enriching perception of health;
II. Mainstreaming and Improving application of Local Health Plans;
III. Responding to Selected Needs/ Shortages of specific areas of application;
IV. Increasing capacities and impact of local action in Health Prevention;
V. Disseminating experience and results.

The Mode of Operation of the Lab

General

The CB Lab is viewed as a body operating on a voluntary basis with the aim to promoting health at local level and contributing to improve prevention in the health sector.

The Status of the Lab

The status of the Lab is that of a non-profit body and the Lab does not distribute any profits to its members.

Membership

The Lab addresses the partners of the specific project. It is these organizations, which have to take the initiative of setting up and operating the Lab and to this end an amount of resources is allocated in the project budget. Hence the specific group of organizations should constitute the first group of members of the Lab. The specific group of Lab members should constitute the Assembly of the Lab. The Assembly of the Lab should be considered the highest decision making organ of the Lab.

The Coordinating Team

A small team, e.g. of three PBs, from both countries should undertake the responsibility of the coordination of the partners' network. Those three PBs should nominate a Chairman and they should allocate operational responsibilities and duties to each other.

The Governing Documents

At a first stage the Lab is not considered necessary to have a statute. The Lab should operate over one year upon the project action plan. Further documents of the Lab should be the yearly plan of activities (action plan), the yearly budget, the yearly activity report and the statement of revenue and expenditure.

Resources of the Lab

Resources for the first period of the Lab are the resources allocated in the project.

The Timeframe of the Lab

At a first stage the timeframe of the Lab should follow the implementation of the Healthy Municipality project.

Activities of the Lab during the Project Lifetime










- Design of the Business Plan of the Cross Border Lab
- Organizing 7 Cross Border Lab meetings

Prospects of the Lab

In accordance with the initiatives to be taken, in the first period of the Lab, the activities should concentrate on two general axes. Empowerment of the participating Municipalities to play the central role in the local health service provision in their areas, support in coordinating the local interventions in the health sector, increasing efficiency of local health systems, elaborating solutions to selected problems and embedment of CB Lab should be the activities along the first axis.

Broadening of the Lab membership composition, theoretical interventions by experts, discussion workshops with further community actors and active dissemination work should cover the action of the second axis.

Project Beneficiaries

- 1  Regional Development Agency of Rodopi S.A., Greece www.anro.gr
Lead Beneficiary
- 2 
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – Special Account for Research Funds, Department of Economics, Greece www.auth.gr
- 3 
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΡΡΙΑΝΩΝ Municipality of Arriana, Greece www.arriana.gr
- 4 
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΙΑΣΜΟΥ Municipality of Iasmos, Greece www.iasmos.gr
- 5 
TRANS COOP Agency for Transnational Training and Development, Greece
www.transcoop.gr
- 6 
Министерство на здравеопазването
Регионална здравна инспекция - Хасково Regional Health Inspectorate-Haskovo, Bulgaria www.rzi-haskovo.org
- 7  Association of Rhodope Municipalities, Bulgaria www.arm-bg.net
- 8 
ОБЩИНА КРУМОВГРАД Municipality of Krumovgrad, Bulgaria www.krumovgrad.bg
- 9 
ОБЩИНА МОМЧИЛГРАД Municipality of Momchilgrad, Bulgaria www.momchilgrad.bg