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-  ОБЩИНА МОМЧИЛГРАД Municipality of Momchilgrad, Bulgaria www.momchilgrad.bg

Official site of the project:

<https://healthymunicipality.com>

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.

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

Deliverable 3.2.1-3.5.1: Population Socioeconomic Characteristics and Operating Health Infra structure.



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Disclaimer:

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The aim of the project is to plan prevention policies in the health sector, as well as to pilot implement them in primary local administration, particularly in detached areas, thus contributing to the enhancement of the provided health services to the inhabitants of these areas and to the overall enhancement of their living standards. In the context of this project, pilot actions are planned to be implemented in the Municipalities of Arriana and Iasmos, in Greece, as well as to the Municipalities of Krumovgrad and Momchilgrad in Bulgaria.

The project aims to establish a cross-border network of institutions,

1. Presentation of the area

1.1 Municipality of Arriana

It was established as a Municipality under the "Kallikratis" programme, by the merger of the Municipalities of Arriana and Filyra and the Communes of Organi and Kehro. The Municipality headquarters is in Filyra. Its population is 16,577 inhabitants (2011 Census).



1.2 Municipality of Iasmos

It came from the merger of the Municipalities of Iasmos and Sostis and the Community of Amaxades under the Kallikratis programme. The headquarters of the Municipality is in Iasmos. Its population is 13,810 inhabitants (2011 Census).

1.3 Conclusions

The two municipalities are of small population and large dispersion. There is lack of urban centers and structures. The main economic activity of the area is in the primary sector, agriculture and livestock. Inhabitants are distributed in 36 Local and Municipal Communes. Density is greater in the Municipality of Iasmos. Both Municipalities are mainly representing the Muslim minority. Both Municipalities have access to Egnatia, the Old National Road Xanthi - Komotini, the Railway Station of Komotini and the airport of Alexandroupoli.

2. Population

Both Municipalities are of particularly low population density (3-4 times lower density than the country average). Another key feature of these areas is the dramatic reduction of population. Low educational level is characteristic.

GDP per capita has become the lowest in country. The reduction of the active population is intense (23-30%) compared to the country average (0,6%). Concluding, the above elements indicate an area in deep economic and social crisis, which may have serious implications for the physical and mental health of its inhabitants.

3. Morbidity and mortality

The most important causes of death in the area are circulatory system diseases, neoplasms and respiratory system diseases. There is a significant increase of skin disorders, mental disorders, unspecified signs and ill-defined conditions, congenital anomalies, complications of pregnancy and neoplasms. The agricultural sector shows double frequency of workplace accidents compared to country's average. The presence of diseases transmitted by animals to humans, makes drastic prevention measures, as well as measures against infectious diseases necessary.

4. Health services

Local facilities face serious challenges, with serious deficiencies in personnel and equipment. Traffic in them is significantly affected by the accessibility of the inhabitants to visit structures outside the area. Secondary and tertiary health care is mainly provided by the Hospitals of Komotini and Alexandroupoli. The number of doctors per 1.000 inhabitants is much smaller than the country's average. The density of Pharmacies is also particularly low. Intervention of Local Administration in health includes a number of initiatives. The most widely accepted is the Programme "Help at Home", implemented by both Municipalities.