

SeeG
“Empowering Businesses Seeking Growth”

Online Project Meeting
Minutes

Date: 25/01/2023

On Wednesday, 25th of January 2023, representatives of all partners of the project “Empowering Businesses Seeking Growth” with the acronym “SeeG”, participated in an online meeting via the Zoom platform. The scope of the meeting was the provision of information concerning the implementation of the project within the partnership. In more detail, each representative analyzed the activities that have been implemented by each partner so far as well as their planning for the remaining deliverables during the following months.

Firstly, the representative of the LB – Rodopi Chamber of Commerce and Industry –informed the rest of the participants that the LB is planning to proceed immediately with a verification of expenses around 37.000 euros. Furthermore, the LB pointed out that they have developed and launched the official project website which hosts information and outputs of the project. Furthermore, part of the communication material has been produced (poster, banner, flyer in both A4 and 3-fold format) and the first press conference was held on Thursday, January 12, 2022. In addition, the LB informed the rest of the participants about the activities of Working Package 4 (including trainings, boosting business skills short sessions, thematic workshops, group-based business support, personalized consultancy, group-based business coaching) explaining that their implementation has begun and is scheduled to take place from January to March 2023.

Then, PB2 – University of Macedonia - pointed out that they have completed the necessary actions and procedures for project management (tenders, payments, procurements, reports, funding, meetings, budget modification) and they have proceeded with the first verification of expenditures. The representative mentioned that their absorption is around 62.5% of their total budget and that PB2 will absorb most of its remaining budget within February. Also, they highlighted the fact that they have undertaken the structure of the “Mapping Study” and they have participated in the “9th International Conference on Opportunities and Challenges in Management, Economics and Accounting” which took place between 19th – 22nd of August 2022 in Paris as well as they completed a literature review. In addition, PB2 informed the rest of the partners that they have developed the “Business Growth Strategy Framework”, both in Greek and in Bulgarian language, and the tri-lingual “Bridging the Gaps Platform”. Furthermore, the representative of PB2 pointed out that they have organized the “Inno-Forum” event on December 10-11, 2022 covering the relevant staff and procurement costs. The "Innoforum" Event that took place at the University of Macedonia - Conference Room of Professor Elias I. Kouskouvelis, included 4 workshops: Talent Management (attendees 53), "Digital and Social Media Marketing" (attendees 56), "Quality and lean management in the digital era: The impact on the sustainable development of SMEs" (attendees 40), "Emerging technologies for SMEs and new Businesses" (attendees 42). Last but not least, PB2 indicated that they have developed the training material of their responsibility in Greek and in Bulgarian language.

Following PB2, the representative of PB3 – Economic Development Agency Bansko marked that they have signed all the contracts with the external experts as well as they have developed the communication material they were responsible for. They have, also, proceeded with a verification of expenses and they have gained a reimbursement of around 44% of their total budget. The

The Project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and National Funds of the countries participating in the Cooperation Programme INTERREGVA “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020”.

representative added, also, the fact that PB3 participated in the Inno-Forum held by PB2 in the University of Macedonia in December 2022. Moreover, PB3 indicated that the media announcements are pending and they are scheduled to take place within the following months. Additionally, PB3 is planning to proceed with the implementation of the trainings and of the publicity events during February and March 2023. They are, also, planning to organize the Extro-Forum in the end of March and they will inform the rest of the partnership a month ago about the exact dates.

As far as for the progress made by PB4 so far, the representative indicated that they have undertaken a verification of expenditures and they have gained a reimbursement of around 50% of their total budget. Additionally, PB4 stressed out that they have produced the communication printed material which has gained the approval of the Joint Secretariat. Moreover, they have concluded half of their publications and they have implemented three round-tables likewise a press conference. Furthermore, the representative added that PB4 participated in the Inno-Forum held by PB2 in Thessaloniki with 50 entrepreneurs. They have also delivered the enhancing skills adaptation training and the boosting business skills short sessions for 36 and 30 trainees respectively. It is, also, considered important that PB4 has developed the training material and has made five online and social media publications. Lastly, the representative of PB4 mentioned that the implementation of the two-days thematic workshops is pending likewise the consultancy activities of the Deliverable 4.4.5.

Closing, when the LB asked the rest of the participants if they would need a possible extension in the official duration of the project, PB2, PB3 and PB4 agreed that they will implement all activities on time.