

INTERREG V-A COOPERATION PROGRAMME
GREECE – BULGARIA 2014 – 2020
Reinforcing Protected Areas Capacity through an Innovative
Methodology for Sustainability
– **BIO2CARE** –

Minutes of the 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting

16-18 April 2018,
Venue: **Bachinovo Sport Centre, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria**

The 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Project "BIO2CARE" took place in the Bachinovo Sport Centre in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria on 16-18 of April 2018. In total, 23 participants representing all 9 Project Beneficiaries (PBs) participated in the meeting. The meeting started on Tuesday 17 of April (1st day). Mrs. Lidia Sakelarieva, representative of South-West University Department of Geography Ecology and Natural Preservation, welcomed the participants and highlighted the significance of the project.

Then, the Project Manager of BIO2CARE Assoc. Prof. Georgios Gaidajis summarized the actions completed during the first six months of the Project, as well as the expected results for the near future. Dr. Gaidajis mentioned, once again, that BIO2CARE combines different scientific fields and produces a wide range of deliverables that can be utilized by various agents increasing the added value of the project. He then proceeded with the presentation of Work Package 1, its timeline and respective deliverables. Issues discussed included (a) the time and place of the next PSC meetings, (b) the 2nd progress report, and (c) the initiation of the procedures for the evaluation of the project.

Following Dr. Gaidajis' presentation, Mrs. Simana Markovska, representative of PB9, Pirin Tourism Forum (Responsible Partner for Work Package 2), proceeded with the presentation of the Work Package 2, its timeline and respective deliverables. Issues discussed included (a) the need to finalize procurements and experts assignment for all partners, (b) the compilation of the final version of the Communication Plan, (c) the compilation of the first newsletter of the project, (d) the development of the relevant promo material, (e) the structure of BIO2CARE website. During this session, Mr Alexandros Mourouzis (representative of PB5)

presented the Project's website (www.bio2care.eu) which is currently on the final stage of development.

After a quick break, Dr. Komninos Angelakoglou and Mr. Ilias Kakanis, senior researchers/representatives from LB presented a more detailed description of Work Packages 3, its timeline and respective deliverables and led a discussion. Issues discussed included (a) the finalization of the methodological framework for the Deliverable 3.2, (b) gathering all the relevant contributions for Deliverable 3.1, (c) tasks and specific contents for Deliverables 3.3 and 3.4.

Following the presentation of WP3, Mr. Miroslav Ivanov, representative of PB8 (South-west University Neofir Rilski – Responsible Partner of WP4), proceeded with the presentation of WP4, presenting its timeline and respective deliverables and leading a discussion. Issues discussed included (a) the specifications of the monitoring system that will be applied in the areas of interest, (b) accessibility issues for the disabled people in the visitor centre of Rila National Park.

During the 2nd day of the meeting (18 April 2018) the Project Activity Planning (Part B) continued, including a description of the Work Package 5 following the same approach described above. Since, works for WP5 have not started, the representative of PB7 (Rila National Park, Responsible Partner of WP5), presented an overview of the deliverables, the timetable and the relevant actions needed in order to move forward. In the end of the session, Dr. Gaidajis had the opportunity to present the final remarks and conclusions of the meeting. The 1st PSC ended up with a Team-Building field trip where partners had the opportunity to visit the Rila Monastery and Rila National Park and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Overall, the 1st PSC meeting was very successful and all partners gained a clearer picture of their obligations and the objectives of the BIO2CARE project, in order to move forward with a fruitful co-operation.

Based on the discussions during the meeting the Project Steering Committee decided that:

- The next Project Steering Committee meeting will be held in Greece, between 20/10/18 – 15/11/18.
- All the necessary actions for the successful submission of the 2nd progress report will be completed until the end of June.
- LB will initiate the procedures for the evaluation of the project in due time.

- The Communication Plan must be completed and delivered in the first days of June.
- The first project newsletter will be completed within one month from the 1st PSC meeting.
- BIO2CARE website will be up and running within one month from the 1st PSC meeting.
- Every partner is responsible for providing content for the successful operation of the BIO2CARE website.
- LB will send relevant information for the successful completion and implementation of the methodological framework developed under WP3.
- LB will provide specific contents and tasks for Deliverables 3.3 and 3.4 to all partners involved.
- PB7 and PB5 will communicate in order to ensure the accessibility of the visitor centre.

On behalf of the LB and PSC
Georgios Gaidajis



Project Manager of BIO2CARE Project
Director of Laboratory of Environmental Management & Industrial Ecology
Department of Production Engineering and Management
School of Engineering
Democritus University of Thrace

ANNEX 1 – 1st Project Steering Committee Agenda

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**Final Agenda - 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting
 16-18 April 2018,
 Venue: Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria**

Time	Task	Responsible
Monday 16/4		
Arrival to Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria		
Tuesday 17/4		
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	[]
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome Messages by: - Representative of SWU Department of Geography Ecology and Natural Preservation	Lidia Sakelarieva
10:00 – 16:00, Project Activity Planning - Part A		
Each WP Leader will present a more detailed description of the Work Packages, timeline and respective deliverables and lead a discussion. Issues to be discussed include the work done so far, current and future responsibilities by all partners, analytical description of deliverables and deadlines etc. Every PB participating in the WP must be ready to present the progress achieved so far (e.g. experts assigned, tasks accomplished, problems etc.).		
10:00 – 11:00	Work Package 1: Project Management & Coordination - Progress - Future goals and activities - Discussion and problem solving	Georgios GAIDAJIS (LB)
11:00 – 12:00	Work Package 2: Communication & Dissemination - Progress - Future goals and activities - Discussion and problem solving -	Simana MARKOVSKA (PB9)
12:00 – 13:00	Coffee break	
13:00 – 14:30	Work Package 3: Integrated Management – Decision Support System - Progress	Komninos ANGELAKOGLU & Ilias KAKANIS (LB)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future goals and activities - Discussion on del. 3.2 and 3.3 and problem solving 	
14:30 – 15:30	Work Package 4: Mitigating illegal activities and promoting protected areas Sustainable Development: Circular Economy and Green Entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future goals and activities - Discussion and problem solving - 	Miroslav Ivanov (PB8)
15:30 – 16:00	Summary – Closing remarks of 1 st day	George Gaidajis (LB)
18:45, Welcome Dinner		
Wednesday 18/4		
9:00 – 9:30	Registration	[]
10:00– 11:00, Project Activity Planning – Part B		
9:30 – 10:00	Work Package 5: Integrated Approach – Policy Recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future goals and activities 	Tanya SPASOVA (PB7)
10:00 – 11:00	Summary – Final remarks of the 1 st Project Steering Committee Meeting	Georgios GAIDAJIS (DUTH)
11:00 – 15:00	Field trip – site visit to Rila Monastery and Rila National Park	SWU “Neofit Rilski”
15:00 Departure		

ANNEX 2 – Photographic Documentation



