

Interreg - IPA CBC

Greece - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
HELP

Launching of the project “Integrated Operations Center for Providing Humanitarian Assistance” HELP implemented within the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Greece – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020

The project “Integrated Operations Center for Providing Humanitarian Assistance” (HELP) started its implementation with the Kickoff Meeting that was held between the collaborating partners in the facilities of the Technological Educational Institution of Central Macedonia (TEICM) in Serres on May 29th, 2018. The Department of Mechanical Engineering of TEICM is the Lead Partner in project HELP that is financed by the INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme.

The total project budget amounts 905,553.30 EUR, of which 543,436.80 EUR is allocated for project activities in Greece and 362,116.50 EUR is allocated for the implementation of activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The budget for the activities undertaken by the TEICM is 420.810,50 EUR. The project duration is 18 months.

Official start date: April 2nd, 2018

Official end date: October 1st, 2019

The project HELP will be implemented by five partners from both countries:

1. Technological Educational Institution of Central Macedonia, Dept of Mechanical Engineering (Lead Partner) - Greece
2. Ministry of Interior (Sector Macedonia - Thrace) – Greece
3. Centre for development of the South-East planning region – FYROM
4. Hellenic Rescue Team- Greece
5. Crisis Management Center - FYROM



The overall objective of the project HELP is to improve the strategic and operational efficiency of public administration and public services in preventing, mitigating and managing natural disasters, risks and hazards within the wider Greece-FYROM cross-border area (CBA). The project will achieve this by increasing the CBA humanitarian relief capacity and preparedness.

Specific objectives of the project:

- To provide an integrated operations center for providing humanitarian assistance that will include a cluster of three interconnected prototype 20ft containers, of which two (2) will function as “Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Centers (C4I)” and one (1) will be the on-site medical treatment facility (MED).
- To deploy existing assets in both countries, the experience and knowledge of the involved stakeholders, and jointly extend this capacity in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and management
- To develop a Crisis Management Plan for the effective use of the containers, and train stakeholders on how to use them
- To raise the awareness of individuals and local communities and to promote volunteerism for maximizing the impact and practical effectiveness of HELP

The expected outcomes of the project will allow public authorities, NGOs, and organizations of volunteers to make decisions based on reliable information. They will also be able to respond faster and more effectively to a crisis, given the training, planning, pre-positioning occurred, the coordination mechanisms established, and the simulation exercises held. Indicative benefits are the minimization of the response time, setup workload, cost, setup problems, and maximization of transportation safety, preparedness, etc.

The next project meeting will be held on 24th and 25th of September 2018 in Strumica, FYROM.



The project is co-financed by the European Union and by the national funds of the participating countries upon the 1st Call for proposals within the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Greece – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020.

For more information, contact projecthelp@teicm.gr

“The views expressed in this Press Release do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries and the Managing Authority”.



