

Press release

Project: Shift -> towards online and offline entrepreneurship community

Association "Center for Intercultural Dialogue " from Kumanovo on 22.10.2016 started implementing the project " Shift -> towards online and offline entrepreneurship community " within the IPA cross-border cooperation with Bulgaria Interreg-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria-Macedonia (2014-2020 year). The contract for the project was signed with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria as an administrative body of the program, and the project will be implemented by civil society organizations, **Association "Center for Intercultural Dialogue "** from Macedonia as a leading partner and "**No frontiers - 21 Century Association "**, from Kyustendil, Bulgaria as a project partner.

The primary focus of the project is in the border region of Macedonia and Bulgaria who are facing high unemployment and emigration problems are especially pronounced among young people.

The main objective of the project is to provide innovative and interactive tools for non-formal education so as to develop and promote knowledge and skills for the unemployed population, especially among young people and members of marginalized communities in order to create self-employment opportunities and increasing the competitiveness of individuals' in the labor market.

The basis of the project is the creation of an online web-platform as a common place for learning, knowledge sharing and practices by stakeholder and active entrepreneurs in starting a social enterprise, or join in the work of existing ones.

The web-platform will offer 4 vocational courses on the following topics: Entrepreneurship, Project Management, Business Communication and English that will be created by experts for online courses. Also on the platform will be available webinars, forums, blogs and so on, where participants will have the opportunity to interact with active and successful entrepreneurs from the region. Courses and all other information the platform will be available in Macedonian and Bulgarian.

The project envisions various interactive events, among which:

- 3-day seminars in Macedonia and Bulgaria on the topic Entrepreneurship focusing on unemployment

- 4-day study visits to the both countries where the participants will have a chance to visit successful social entrepreneurs and their established entities
- Entrepreneurial caravans in 6 cities in the border area, which includes meetings between municipalities, schools, civil society and other relevant institutions

The implementation period of the project is 15 months, from 21.10.2016-21.01.2018.

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