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Project Acronym **BRIDGES (BSB 861)**

Project Title
BRIDGES OF TRADE

LB: Municipality of Nestos (GR)
Common borders. Common solutions.



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Project Duration: 24 months

- **Start date:** 01 Jun 2020 - End date: 31 May 2022
- 2nd Call for Proposals of the **ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020** www.blacksea-cbc.net
- **Programme Priority 1.2** - Increase cross-border trade opportunities and modernization in the agricultural and connected sectors
- **Programme Specific Objective**
- **1** - Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin



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Partnership: 5 eligible countries

- **Lead Beneficiary/Beneficiary 1**

Municipality of Nestos (GR)

- **Beneficiary 2**

Association of Cross-Border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion"
(RO)

- **Beneficiary 3**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Armenia (AM)

- **Beneficiary 4**

City Hall of Bălți Municipality (MD)

- **Beneficiary 5**

Çatalca District Governorate (TR)



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Description of LB project activities till now

- Based on the approved AF and the national legislation, LB proceeded **Sep 2020** with the required internal actions in order to start the procurement and contracting of the project management under BL “**External expertise and services**” (A.M.1, A.M.3, A.T1.1, A.T1.2, A.T1.4, A.T2.1 according to the procurement plan).
- LB has already transferred to all PBs the pre-financing instalment (40% of the ENI Grant foreseen for the implementation of the project as set out in Annex II) made by the MA.



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Problems/deviations from the Work Plan

- The implementation of activities and deliverables has not started yet because of the epidemiological restrictions relevant to COVID-19 and lack of time to conclude to procurement procedure.
- LB is currently in final stage of contacting and finalizing the procurement procedure **Dec 2020** for the main activities related to the project management and implementation under “External expertise and Services”. Thus, the implementation of all activities based of AF are going to start imidiately after this assignment to responsible external expert.



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Description of project activities

- The "BRIDGES OF TRADE" project aims at bridging the gap between **buyers** and **sellers** in agriculture and sectors connected products, by developing ICT trading links with potential importers from the 5 PBs' regions.
- Steps to be followed based on AF: Identification of the products to focus on => Recording the potential beneficiaries => Launching of open calls for participation in the project => Conference to recruit beneficiaries and selection procedure => Buyers - sellers matching and organisation of **5 meeting events** ("BRIDGES" events), one in each partners' region => On-the-spot (at the end) and ex-post (4 months after each event) assessment => Network creation (**1 TRADING BRIDGES NETWORK**)



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Project Budget

- **LB Total Eligible Budget : 141 115.00**
- **PB2 Total Eligible Budget : 105 359.00**
- **PB3 Total Eligible Budget : 106 353.00**
- **PB4 Total Eligible Budget : 114 545.00**
- **PB5 Total Eligible Budget : 104 517.00**
- **Project Total Eligible Budget : 571 889.00**



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Project overall objectives

Sellers and buyers training

- **230** enterprises training in international trade, Development of an ICT training tool

Organisation of BRIDGES events

- **5** BRIDGES events (1 per PB) with participation of 300 sellers and at least 30 buyers . Creation of trade links by bringing together buyers and sellers with same interests (matching)

Creation of the TRADING BRIDGES network

- **1** ICT Network to maintain & expand trading links established (sustainability - transferability - multiplier effect)



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Management Procedure - Financial regulations

- <https://blacksea-cbc.net/news/archive-news/version-3-of-the-project-implementation-manual-pim-is-now-available/>
- <https://blacksea-cbc.net/black-sea-basin-2014-2020/reference-documents/>



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WP

Jan - June 2021

- **WP M:** Jan 2021 (all PBs involved)
- **Activity A.M.1:** Kick-off meeting - Dec 2020 (LB)
- **Activity A.M.2:** SC meeting - Jan 2021 (PB2-PB5)
- **Activity A.M.3:** Coordination - Jan 2021 (LB: upon contracting of ext exp)
- **Activity A.M.4:** Financial management, internal audit and reporting: Jan 2021 (LB: upon contracting of ext exp)
- **Activity A.M.5:** Expenditure verification
- **WP T1:** Preliminary Actions (all PBs involved)
- **Activity A.T1.1:** Studies of international trade of agricultural and connected products in the participating countries



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WP Jan - June 2021

- **Activity A.T1.2:** Identification of potential beneficiaries (buyers - sellers)
- **Activity A.T1.3:** Recrutement of beneficiaries (participants)
- **Activity A.T1.4:** Participants training
- **WP T2:** Events for buyers - sellers meetings ("BRIDGES" events) - Networking (WP responsible partner PB5)
- **Activity A.T2.1:** Organisation of the events ("BRIDGES") 2-days event called BRIDGES
- **Activity A.T2.2:** Ex post assessment (consolidated assessment report from LB)
- **Activity A.T2.3:** BRIDGES Network creation



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WP

Jan - June 2021

- **WPC:** Communication (WP responsible partner PB4)
- **Activity A.C.1:** Communication start-up activities
- **Activity A.C.2:** Public Event(s)
- **Activity A.C.3:** Promotional material
- **Activity A.C.4:** Digital activities



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Project budget - overview per WP

- **WP M: 186 527.00**
- **WP T1: 68 000.00**
- **WP T2: 220 312.00**
- **WP C: 97 050.00**



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Communication regulations

Communication and Visibility Manual

<https://blacksea-cbc.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CVM-second-edition.pdf>

2nd 4th month PR – Feb 2021

<https://blacksea-cbc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Instruction-26-Progress-Reports Call-2 Annex.pdf>



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LB three (3) staff members in Steering Committee

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MUNICIPALITY OF NESTOS (GREECE)

<https://dimosnestou.gov.gr/>