

Cooperation Programme Interreg “Greece-Bulgaria 2021-2027” 1st Programming Committee meeting, 28th September 2020

The **Programming Committee (PC)** of the **Cooperation Programme (CP) Interreg “Greece-Bulgaria 2021-2027”** convened for its 1st meeting on Monday, the 28th of September 2020, via teleconference, following an invitation by the Hellenic Managing Authority (MA) of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.

The meeting was attended by the majority of the designated member of the PC, with and without voting right, as they were appointed upon a political decision of the two countries.

Opening speeches were delivered by:

- i. The Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Georgios Zervos - Special Secretary for the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund Programmes (ERDF & CF Programmes);
- ii. The Co-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Denitsa Nikolova – Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria and
- iii. Mr Ivan Fecenko, the Desk Officer from the European Commission (EC) - DG Regional and Urban Policy.

According to the agenda of the meeting, the following topics were presented by the MA and were discussed by the PC:

1. The ***Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Programming Committee***, which defines the rules, the rights and the obligations of the PC. The aim of the PC is the effective planning and drafting of the new CP INTERREG “Greece-Bulgaria 2021-2027”.
2. The ***Concept Paper*** of the new Programme document, which summarizes the key points of the new Programme:
 - a. **A more strategic development orientation.** A greater number of strategic and/or restricted Calls is foreseen for the new programming period, with nominated beneficiaries, so that the launch of the calls is performed earlier in the Programme. The strategic projects will focus on specific sectors, such as: *cross-border connectivity, Health, Civil protection, Environment.*

