

## **Cooperation Programme Interreg “Greece-Bulgaria 2021-2027” 2nd Programming Committee meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

The **Programming Committee (PC)** of the **Cooperation Programme (CP) Interreg “Greece-Bulgaria 2021-2027”** had its 2nd meeting on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, via teleconference. The meeting was attended by the majority of the designated member of the PC.

According to the agenda of the meeting, the following topics were presented and discussed.

### **Update on 2021-2027 Legal Framework and Budget**

The Desk Officer from the European Commission - DG Regional and Urban Policy, presented the three main components of the Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027: 1) Stronger strategic focus, 2) Concentration and 3) Simplification & flexibility, as well as the five (5) Policy Objectives (PO) and two additional Specific Objectives for Interreg Programmes (ISO): 1) better cooperation governance and 2) a safer and more secure Europe. He informed the PC members briefly on the latest updated concerning Interreg regulation, which was approved on working level on the 2nd of December and its finalization is expected in February/March 2021.

### **Public Consultation Framework**

The Managing Authority (MA) of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes summarised the decisions of the 1st Programming meeting and presented the time-table for drafting the Programme document and the framework of the public consultation, including: the platform selection, the building, the content and the circulation of the questionnaire. The public consultation consists of three rounds; its 1st round was launched on 23/11/2020 and is expected to close in mid-December.

### **Findings & Conclusions of the 1st round of Public Consultation**

The external expert of the MA, presented the preliminary results of the 1st round of the public consultation, the conclusions that are drawn and the next steps to be taken. The detailed territorial analysis is about to finish and its first draft will be delivered to the MA at the beginning of 2021. The 2nd round of the consultation, which will be more “technical” in terms of its content, focused on potential partners, with the aim to foster ideas, will start shortly right after the closure of the 1st round of public consultation.

Following the discussions, the Programming Committee (PC) decided to meet again in March 2021.