

Project RE-thinking MICROcredit as a tool to support SMEs and boost LOCAL economies /REMICRO LOCAL/ is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “GreeceBulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme.

WORK PACKAGE 5: SUPPORT TOOLS & ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRES

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Small and medium- sized enterprises (SMEs) present the backbone of the European economy. Particular micro enterprises accounts almost 93% of all enterprises in the non- financial business sector and generated for more than 70% of the growth in the total employment. Hence, their importance for the economy is greatly highlighted and should be encouraged. However, a recent survey in the cross border area of Greece Bulgaria demonstrated that the overall entrepreneurial climate is particularly negative, since 513% of the existing business owners think that there is a complete lack of entrepreneurial spirit and 30.7% think that there is a reluctance on the part of local entrepreneurs to undertake risks. Among the main factors that affect the decision to become a business owner, the same survey points out that management skills, know how as well as operational capital are the ones with the major importance. According to these findings, there is a profound need to improve entrepreneurial support systems for businesses or prospective entrepreneurs in the cross-border area with a view to:

- Promote entrepreneurial culture thereby affecting the rates of new businesses formation (i.e. stimulate business creation);
- Strengthen the factors affecting entrepreneurial success, thereby affecting long-term success of those businesses (i.e. strengthen business stability and development).

Thus, the newly opened Business Development Centers in Haskovo aim to provide services to both exiting businesses and startups in all business sectors. This business support service will be focused on removing barriers and bottlenecks for SMEs especially in the field of capacity building and business readiness.

The helpdesk of the business support center offer guidance and information about the available financial tools /instruments for the businesses of the CB area offered on a national/EU level. Entrepreneurs will also favor from joining a cross border business network.

The Business Support Center is located on address: 44 Dobrudzha Str., Haskovo 6300, Bulgaria and is open on workdays for all interested young people, restarters and entrepreneurs.



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