

**Transnational cooperation project
„Air traffic and logistics development between the EU rural areas and China“**

Summary of the Zoom meeting on Friday, 4th October at 1:00-2:30PM CET time.

Participants: Kristiina (Tartu, Estonia), Nicola (Pisticci, Italy), Goran (Maribor, Slovenia), Jukka (EU-China, Finland), Elisabet (Seinäjäki, Finland), Tasos (Lesvos, Greece).

Meeting agenda is following:

1. State of play of the project in partner countries;
2. Situation with extending our network, state of play in Greece and Austria, proposals from partners about extension;
3. Planning the kick off meeting;
4. Involvement of Chinese partners for different work packages;
5. AOB

Summary of meeting by agenda points:

1. State of play of the project in partner countries

Partners shared the state of play in their countries as follows:

Italy – both partner LAGs got approval of the TNC project this week from Managing Authority. They need to reduce the budget of local activities in amount 11 000 EUR, the budget for transnational activities remains same.

Finland – they submitted their project proposal already in May and they are waiting for the approval from their LAG, which is coming most probably at the end of October. LAG had some questions and Elisabet gave responses, so there should be no problem for follow up.

Slovenia – they are going through the process of changing their local development strategy, it takes about 3-4 months time to get final approval from their Managing Authority. After that the project costs are eligible. Until then they are using animation costs.

Greece – they expect to get approval at the end of October. Tasos described local network, which is involved into the project: the airport authority Fraport, Municipality of Mytilene, Chamber of Commerce, University of the Aegean. At the end of October they have meeting with local and national level partners to get their approval.

Estonia – Managing Authority approved the project and we are ready starting with actions. We have had some changes in our partner organisations; there will be new persons from Tartu Airport and Estonian Aviation Academy side to contribute to the project.

Austria – Kristiina had talk with Isolde couple of weeks ago and they are negotiating with their local partners. Linz airport is interested in participation but they need to get response also from the municipality. We hope to get their response about participating as soon as possible.

2. Situation with extending our network, state of play in Greece and Austria, proposals from partners about extension

Partners discussed about the extension of our network. Tasos mentioned that Cyprus, Paphos airport and LAG could be interested in joining the project. Tasos will invite them. Kristiina will talk with Irish partners from Cork area about their interest to join. The discussion is still open also with Germany. Goran pointed out that European Rural Parliament event at the beginning of November in Spain is the good possibility to activate talks with our Spanish partners.

We have estimated in our project indicators to have at least 8 European countries involved in our network by the end of project with good European coverage.

It was agreed that partners jointly work on the extension of our partner network and invite new partners if they see that this is relevant.

3. Planning the kick off meeting

It was decided to postpone the kick off meeting until January or very beginning of February. Kristiina will send Doodle to partners to find the most appropriate time. The location will be Greece or Finland. We will wait for the response from Greece by the end of November about the possibility to arrange the kick off meeting in Lesvos.

It was also agreed that the next Zoom meeting would be on **21st of November 1-2.30PM Brussels time.**

Meanwhile we continue working with work packages. Lead partner of each WP will put together the 1-2 page plan for the next steps to start working with particular WP. For that Lead Partner of WP involve other partners if necessary and send the draft document to all partners few days before the next Zoom meeting.

4. Involvement of Chinese partners for different work packages

Partners had possibility to read the draft of the involvement plan with some indications about timeframe. Jukka explained briefly the plan. It was discussed that first we start building partnerships related to businesses, tourism, aviation training and at the later stage of the project we move on with air traffic issues. Lead Partners of different WPs can already take this plan into account while designing the next steps of their WP work.

Jukka also proposed that the project partners' first visit to China could take place in May 2020.

5. AOB

Goran did proposal to include into our team an aviation expert who could bring the views of flight companies. Elisabet has good expert who can be involved.

The next Zoom meeting will be on 21st November at 1.00-2.30PM Brussels time.

Summary compiled by Kristiina Tammets