**Transnational cooperation project**

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

Summary of the Zoom meeting on Monday, 24th August 2020

at 13:00-14:30PM CET time

**Participants:** Kristiina and Heliise (Tartu, Estonia), Nicola and Michela (Pisticci, Italy), Tasos (Greece, Lesvos), Goran (Maribor, Slovenia), Jukka and Heikki (EU-China, Finland), Elisabet (Seinäjoki, Finland).

**Meeting agenda:**

1. Short overview about the state of play;

2. Progress of the work packages - information and discussion initiated by WP leaders, agreements on next steps;

3. Deciding and planning of the face-to-face meeting in Lesvos (06.-09.10);

4. AOB

Summary of meeting by agenda points:

1. **Short overview about the state of play**

Meanwhile during summer time we have been working with taking offers related to the consultancy services to involve Chinese partners. Elisabet informed project partners that Into Seinäjoki has already signed the contract with NBCCD for WP4 and WP5 consultancy services. Kristiina gave information that LAG Tartu County Development Association is in process in preparing the contract that will be signed with NBCCD. All documents will be uploaded to the project Google Drive.

Nicola and PTSClas have been working with Feasibility Study manual that is now amended version and partners are invited to deliver their information about chapter 1 and 2 by 30th of November.

Nicola also informed project partners that in Italy they are starting with local feasibility study in September, University of Basilicata is involved, LAG Lucus signed the contract, the budget is approximately 25 000€ for the local feasibility study and the focus is on training and air routes at the moment.

Kristiina commented that Elisabet has the draft development plan for Seinäjoki airport that she shared with Kristiina in July for the meeting that Kristiina had with Estonian Aviation Cluster.

Nicola and Elisabet will share their local development plans with project partners. Seinäjoki airport development plan is attached to the summary.

1. **Progress of the work packages - information and discussion initiated by WP leaders, agreements on next steps**

**WP 4** – Elisabet proposed to use Padlet environment for building company’s map/directory, she presented how the platform works. Basically we can visualise and present all our project material in Padlet.

Elisabet promised to send instructions how to get access to the Padlet and what information and in which format can be presented. She will prepare the ppt template to be fulfilled with company’s information by project partners. At the beginning it is estimated that there will be about 5-10 companies per country.

Kristiina mentioned that in the indicators we estimated that by the end of the project 10 companies have established business contacts with Chinese businesses. It was also expected that there would be multilateral business relations, e.g. Finland, Italy, China. This is also important to create synergies between European partners.

There was question to Elisabet – which companies we should include at this first round? Elisabet responded that they in Finland are going to involve strong industries that have interest to cooperate with Chinese.

Jukka explained that the first e-meeting already happened between Finnish and Chinese company via Ding Talk. He is going to prepare guidelines describing these meetings and possibilities to project partners, so that project partners can better understand how this communication works and how to involve companies.

Jukka also promised to include into guidelines: fields and sectors, which could be interesting; demand on Chinese market; criteria and requirements to companies to be involved.

Jukka highlighted that we are experiencing unique opportunity to facilitate dialogue with Chinese via digital platforms which is the good side of the current situation.

**WP 5** – Goran and Tasos will find the time to meet virtually and discuss the plans and expectations from the tourism aspect. The situation has changed a lot and it is necessary to understand the demand and trend of the tourism sector. We need to take COVID influence into account. They also said that Padlet could work for WP 5 as well to collect and visualise the necessary information. Goran and Tasos will discuss plans in September and if necessary we can organise brainstorming together at our next Zoom meeting in October.

Kristiina commented that in Estonia COVID influenced the tourism sector in a way that urban areas lost customers and in rural area numbers of customers doubled compared with last year. In rural area we are on our limit of taking more tourists.

Maybe this is the situation where we really need to invent some kind of new approach. In September Goran promised to prepare the baseline questionnaire to collect information from partners about their tourism situation and expectations. Goran mentioned that he first would like to get some feedback from partners about questions and then he starts collecting specific information.

**WP 3** – in June we decided that the focus of the training consortium would be innovation and technology. As this WP also includes the incubation activity and the plan is that each partner airport will test some kind of innovative solution (robotics, drones, package handling etc) then we could build the training programme on these testing activities. Heliise also brought forward that it is important to better understand the need from Chinese market to plan further activities. Jukka promised to explore the demand and then brief us on that.

Heliise and Kristiina also informed project partners about Estonian meeting later this week where they also discuss these matters and will come back to project partners with proposal about next steps during autumn time.

**WP 2** – PTSClas has amended the manual of the feasibility study and they will make final corrections if needed in September. Then project partners need to fill in their data by the end of November about chapters 1 and 2 and by the end of December about chapters 3 and 4. Please see also timetable of WP 2 on attached ppt slides.

Nicola also asked Goran and Tasos to send their LAG presentations by the end of September.

1. **Deciding and planning of the face-to-face meeting in Lesvos (06.-09.10)**

We decided to postpone face-to-face meeting in Lesvos until the COVID situation is improved. We decided to hold 2-days 2-hours meeting in Zoom in October.

The meeting will be on 7th of October at 13.00-15.00 and on 8th of October at 13.00-15.00 CET time.

1. **AOB**

Nicola informed project partners that they are planning to organise an event to introduce the results of feasibility study in February in Italy and he invited all project partners to the event. More information about it will come during autumn time.

There wasnt any other matter to discuss. Please keep safe and we continue communication via e-tools.

Summary compiled by Kristiina

**Annexes of the summary:**

1. PTSClas last version of the feasibility study manual (Word, Pdf);
2. WP 2 timetable;
3. Seinäjoki airport development plan.