

# ENGINE-HUBs

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Creating “Circular” Business by young ENGINEers at the cross-border area of Greece-Bulgaria

## About ENGINE-HUBs

ENGINE-HUBs is a project co-funded by the Interreg Greece-Bulgaria programme. The main aim of the project is to identify business opportunities in the area of circular economy in the Cross – Border area of Greece-Bulgaria and to create a **structure** through which business ideas of potential entrepreneurs will be transformed into businesses.

*The structure will deliver a new business approach to enhance entrepreneurship of young scientists building on three pillars: knowledge, mentoring/coaching and networking.*

The project focuses on the provision of assistant through 4 HUBs to the new entrepreneurs for the implementation of their business plans and not only the development of these plans so that the new enterprises can be operative before project's ending or 2 years after at the latest.

## Common challenges

It is worth to describe how the common challenges (i.e. the barriers and bottlenecks to SMEs) at the CBC area targeted by the project will be tackled by the project's activities:

**Reduce difficulties in obtaining business finance:** In the frame of the ENGINE Academy, young entrepreneurs will be informed about funding opportunities and how they can benefit from them. Such opportunities could be the available financial instruments, e.g. European Investment and national banks, co-financed NSRF programmes of both countries as well as private investors through the available platforms or the person to person and business to baseness approach. The same information will be available on the project's e-platform. In order for the latter to be achieved networking and special events will take place in order to get in touch the emerging entrepreneurs with interesting for their ideas investors.

## Main target group

The project's main target group is the qualified scientific workforce (engineers and other scientists) of the Cross Border area that will be assisted for the creation of their "circular business" through the ENGINE-HUBs. At least, ninety young entrepreneurs and their enterprises will receive support.

In addition, the area that will be benefited by the project, is the entire CBC area by the exploitation of its workforce and the identification of the local circular economy value chains and cross-border synergies at the sector.



## Kick-off Meeting

The Kick-off meeting was held in premises of the International Centre for Digital Transformation and Digital Skills in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 7th of April 2022.

Representatives of all Beneficiaries as well as from and Joint Secretariat Interreg V-A "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" were present.

The agenda was divided in two Sessions:

1. Presentations of Partners Profile and Project's Work Packages
2. Procurement Plan, Project Management and Programme's Implementation Rule



## 2nd SC Meeting

The 2nd meeting was held in the Hotel “КОМПЛЕКС БОЖЕ ИМЕ” in Baldevo, Gotse Delchev, Bulgaria, on 17th of November 2022. Chamber of Commerce and Industry Gotse Delchev undertook to organize the meeting. Representatives of all Beneficiary Partners were present.

The agenda was divided in two Sessions:

1. Presentations of Partners Progress until now and Project Status overview
2. WP4: ENGINE-HUBs GARDEN & ACADEMY Activities & Time plan, financial issues

The partners also shared their thoughts on the motivation campaign.



## Online SC Meeting

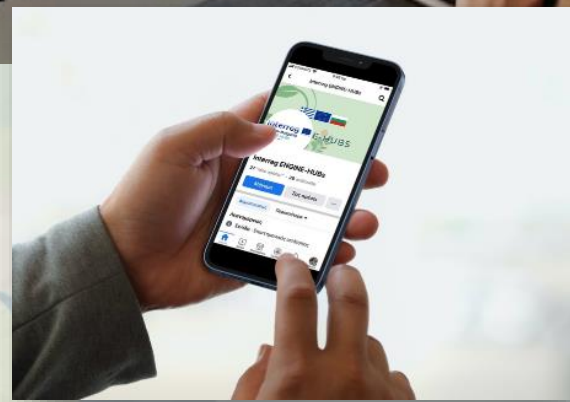
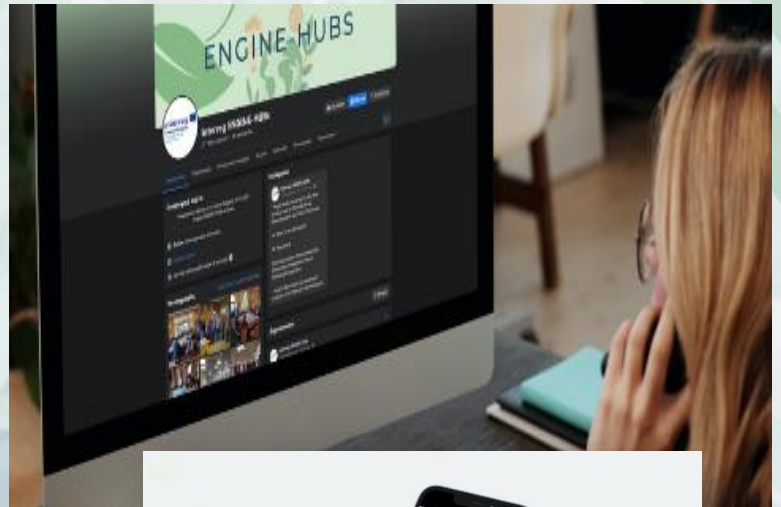
The online meeting was held online (through Webex platform) on 9th of July 2022. Lever Development Consultants SA undertook to organize the meeting. Representatives of all partners were present.



## ENGINE-HUBs Website & Facebook page

The development of the website is under progress and is going to be available soon. You can find the link to the website [here](#).

As long as it concerns the development of the Facebook page, you can find the page under the name: “Interreg ENGINE HUBs” or just click [here](#).



## ENGINE-HUBs Leaflet

A leaflet was developed with a view to inform the general public, and all interested parties, about the project’s activities, the background, the main target group and the objectives of the project, as well as information for the partnerships that the project consists of.



## ENGINE-HUBs Poster

ENGINE-HUBs poster has been developed in order to promote the project to all potential interested parties and to provide the appropriate information to intrigue the public to look up the project, its activities and its goals.



## Establishment of ENGINE-HUBs



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1. The ENGINE-HUB of Lead Beneficiary TEE-TKM  
The equipment regarding the establishment of ENGINE-HUBs has been purchased and installed.

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2. The ENGINE-HUB of Project Beneficiary 2 - SBE was established in August 2022, within the premises of SBE.

Equipment bought:  
PCs, laptops, copier

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3. Project Beneficiary 3 – UCEB & 4 – CCI-GD are proceeding with the development of ENGINES-HUBs. The ENGINE-HUBs from the Bulgarian side are still under construction and they are going to be ready soon!

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# Interreg Greece-Bulgaria ENGINE-HUBs



European Regional Development Fund

*The contents of this newsletter are sole responsibility of the ENGINE-HUBs partnership and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries the Managing Authority, and the Joint Secretariat*

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