

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 assistance 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.

Location & Beneficiaries

The project is being implemented in the following regions: 1. Thessaloniki, Serres, Drama and Kavala in Greece; 2. Blagoevgrad and Smolyan in Bulgaria. TEE/KM is operating and have jurisdiction at Thessaloniki and Serres, SBE at all project's Greek Regions, UCEB at Blagoevgrad, Smolyan and other eligible regions of the eligible CBC area and GDCCI at Godze Delchev. Engine Hubs will be established in Central Macedonia, one in the eastern (TEE/KM) and one in the western Thessaloniki (SBE) and in Bulgaria, one in Blagoevgrad (UCEB) and one in Godze Delchev (GDCCI). They will still be operative after the project's financial period providing assistance to the entrepreneurs not only at the sector of the Circular economy but also in other sectors like digital transformation, energy, smart cities, RES, etc.

The HUBs

The Hubs provide assistance to all the engineers/scientists of project's area to whom a motivation campaign was addressed. The Market and Gap analysis focus on the entire project area while the market actors, reached to participate at the project's network are from the entire territory of the participant countries. However, the project events, seminars, lectures, B2B meeting and final conference take place at the cities of Thessaloniki, Blagoevgrad and Godze Delchev.



Press Conference

On 7th of March 2023, the lead beneficiary, “Technical Chamber of Greece / Section of Central Macedonia” and the project partner “Federation of industries of Greece” organised together a press conference, in the premises of the Technical Chamber of Greece. The press conference was focused on the organisation of the trainings, in the framework of training young engineers and other entrepreneurs and scientists, to further support them on developing and implementing their business plans. The programme of the press conference was the following:

Firstly, Mr. Tsakoumis Georgios president of TEE/TKM executive committee, talked about the necessities regarding the promotion of innovative actions, focusing on TEE/TKM’s actions regarding the enhancement of entrepreneurship in the sector of circular economy.

Secondly, Mr. Georgiou Christos, General Director of the Research Institute of the Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE), took the floor, explaining the Greek background, regarding recycling methods, and the absence of business models for circular economy.

Lastly, Mrs. Christiana Polyzou, Environmental Engineer, Ph.D, Department of European Projects, from Lever Development Consultants SA, analysed the importance of circular economy in our everyday lives and gave some details relevant to the seminars for young engineers and other scientists, under the “ENGINE-HUBs” project’s workplan.



2-days Seminars

The implementation of the most important part of the “ENGINE-HUBs” project, has already been started!

The first part of the trainings concerned the organisation of two-days seminars. The seminars were organised by the Technical Chamber of Greece/ Section of Central Macedonia, on Thursday, 22nd of June and Tuesday, 27th of June.

The seminars were hosted in the premises of the Technical Chamber of Greece/ Section of Central Macedonia, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The main goal of the seminars, was to train young engineers and other scientists and entrepreneurs, working in the regional units of Thessaloniki, Serres, Kavala and Drama, in the fields of circular economy and business models. In addition to the seminars, private seminars will be organized between the beneficiary and the trainer, counseling and mentoring actions, networking with market participants and study visits, while full and open access to material and information will be provided for the preparation of their business plans and the support of their implementation. The 5 best business plans will be awarded Prizes accompanied by a cash prize of 1000 euros.

The agenda of the seminars included the following:

22nd of June:

The Project ENGINE-HUBs and the Entrepreneurship workshops in the field of Circular Economy

Circular Economy - an Introduction

Market and Gap Analysis

How to write a business plan?

27th of June:

Detailed presentation and discussions on how to prepare a business plan

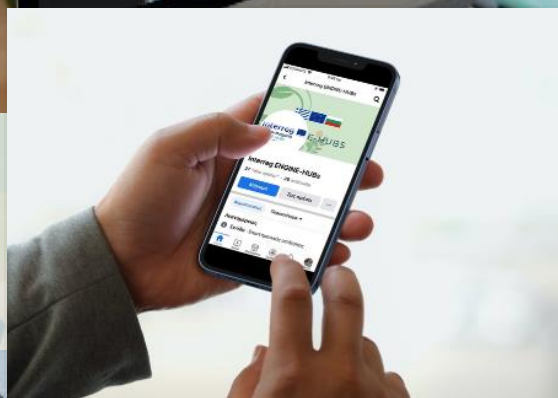
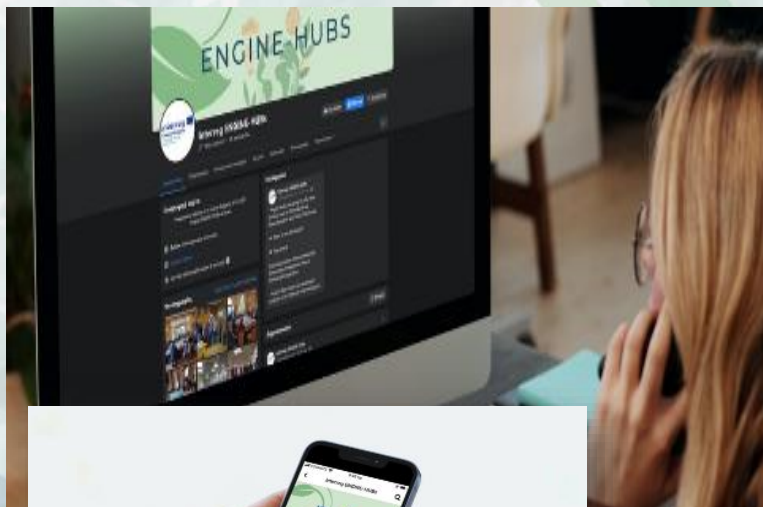


Don't forget to follow us!

ENGINE-HUBs Website & Facebook page

Project's official website is fully operating and can be found [here](#).

As long as it concerns the development of the Facebook page, you can find the page under the name: “Interreg ENGINE HUBs” or... you can 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



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



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

Equipment bought:
PCs, laptops, copier



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



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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