

***Project "SME Innovation Capacity Boost" №: BMP1/1.2/2481/2017  
Transnational Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B  
"Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020"***

# **SMEInnoBoost Project Progress**

## **PP2 - National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria**

## SMEInnoBoost Project Progress

- ❖ Activities performed
- ❖ Procurement plan progress
- ❖ Achieved results/deliverables
- ❖ Problems faced/solutions found

## Activities performed

- Establishing the project working team - (August 2017)
- Preparation of Procurement Plan, Work Plan and Financial Forecast of the BNSI - (August-September 2017)
- Preparation and provision of comments on the draft Terms of reference for the implementation of the Information needs analysis - (October 2017)

## Activities performed

- Organizing and holding two-days Workshop in Slivek for development of Questionnaire and Methodology for the statistical survey on innovation activity of SMEs - (January/February 2018)
- Preparation and consultation on the second version of the Questionnaire for the statistical survey - (March 2018)
- Approval by PP2, PP3 and PP4 of the final version of the model Questionnaire for the statistical survey in AL, BG and MK - (March 2018)

## Activities performed

- Elaboration of National Questionnaire in Bulgarian language with the methodological support of two external experts - (April 2018)
- Preparation of request for first Project Modification - (June 2018)
- Development, testing and deployment to the production environment of special software for the Innovation Questionnaire and for data matching with records from Innovation Capacity Self-Assessment - Information System SMEINNOBOOST - (December 2018)

## Activities performed

- Purchasing of equipment (50 tablets) to be used by the interviewers for data collection from SMEs - (December 2018)
- Contracting 50 interviewers to carry out statistical survey on innovation activity of SMEs - (January 2019)
- Preparatory actions done for launching the statistical survey (defining survey population, sampling design, selection of sampling units, etc.) - (January 2019)

## Activities performed

- Conducting the survey in the field - data collection by interviewers through computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) - (February - April 2019)
- Data checking, validation, weighting, processing, aggregating and tabulating the results from the survey - (currently ongoing activity)

## Activities performed

- Preparation of draft tabulation template for the output data resulted from the statistical survey on innovation activity of SMEs, conducted by PP2, PP3 and PP4 - (March 2019)
- Carrying out written consultation on the draft tabulation template with PP3, PP4, PP7, PP8 and LP - (April 2019)
- Dissemination of the final tabulation template to PP3 and PP4 (11 tables with around 4000 cells) - (May 2019)



## Activities performed

- Participation, giving presentations and exchanging experience with other PPs at the following events:
  - Kick-off meeting on the project in Sofia - (October 2017)
  - Info day on the Programme (Interreg V-B) "Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020" in Sofia - (October 2017)
  - Opening conference on the project in Sofia - (December 2017)
  - Two Interim meetings - in Thessaloniki (July 2018) and in Tirana (November 2018)
  - Innovation Summit in Sofia - (May 2019)

## Activities performed

- Project Communication & Dissemination
  - Preparation and publication on the website and on the Facebook page of the BNSI of two newsletters - (October 2017; February 2018)
  - Designing, printing and dissemination of posters with information on the project - (January 2018)

## Activities performed

- Preparation of 3 progress reports on the activities performed on the project :
  - 1/ First progress report: period 01/08/2017 - 31/12/2017  
(February 2018)
  - 2/ Second progress report: period 01/01/2018 - 30/06/2018  
(July 2018)
  - 3/ Third progress report: period 01/07/2018 - 31/12/2018  
(January 2019)

## Activities performed

- Carrying out 4 First Level Control procedures for:
  - 1/ Reference period 01/08/2017 - 31/10/2017  
(January 2018)
  - 2/ Reference period 01/11/2017 - 30/04/2018  
(June 2018)
  - 3/ Reference period 01/05/2018 - 30/11/2018  
(December 2018)
  - 4/ Reference period 01/12/2018 - 31/01/2019  
(April 2019)

## Procurement plan progress

- Carrying out 4 procurement procedures and contracting external service providers for:
  - 1/ Organization of the workshop in Slivek - (January 2018)
  - 2/ Provision of methodological support for development of the national survey Questionnaire - (February 2018)
  - 3/ Development of special software for the Questionnaire and for data matching with records from Innovation Capacity Self-Assessment - (September 2018)
  - 4/ Delivery of 50 tablets for data collection by the interviewers - (December 2018)

## Achieved results/deliverables

- Deliverables in line with the Application Form:
  - Model survey Questionnaire and Methodology developed in English
  - National survey Questionnaire elaborated in Bulgarian
  - Special software developed for the Questionnaire and for data matching - Information System SMEINNOBOOST
  - Data on innovation activity of SMEs collected by 50 interviewers

## Problems faced/solutions found

**Problem:** Some difficulties encountered with uploading documents in MIS system



**Solution:** Successfully overcome with help from LP and JS

**Problem:** Some delay in publishing/release of procurements for 3 activities from WP3



**Solution:** Prolongation with 3 months of the deadline of WP3 approved by the Managing Authority with First Project Modification

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!***

***QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS  
ARE WELCOME!***

