

PRESS RELEASE

Joint Initiatives for Smart and Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management "INTERNET OF BINS"

Kick off Meeting

On the 18th of September 2019, Municipality of Ziros (Gennimata Square, Filippiada)

The kick-off meeting of the Partnership of the "INTERNET OF BINS" Project was successfully organized at the head office of Municipality of Ziros (Filippiada, Preveza, Greece) at 18/9/2019 with the representatives' participation of the cross-border implementation partnership of the Project from Greece and Albania.

Mr. Nikos Kalantzis, Mayor of Ziros, greeted the works of the meeting, focusing on the significance and the added value of the Project for the cross-border area of intervention and the tangible actions especially for the area of Municipality of Ziros, as well Mr. Tzafeas Kostas., Mayor of the Municipality of Metsovo., who highlighted the waste management issue as one of the most crucial and topical subjects concerning the Local Authorities, focusing on the Project's expected benefits.

In the framework of the kick-off meeting, an on-the-spot demonstrating field visit was realized to the underground bins systems installed in Filippiada in the framework of implementation of the "INTERNET OF BINS" Project.

The Project titled: «Joint Initiatives for Smart and Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management» with the acronym "INTERNET OF BINS" is implemented through the European Cross-Border Cooperation Program INTERREG IPA CBC "Greece-Albania 2014-2020" and is co-funded by the EU, through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II) (85%) and by National Resources (15%).

The Project "INTERNET OF BINS" aims to tackle restrictions, which are located in the cross-border area of the programme and are inextricably linked to:

- **the inadequate environmental infrastructure** in terms of sort and their quality/functional characteristics (especially in Albania),
- **the low usage percent of innovative approaches and applications/practices to the operational and technical level of operational management** of public infrastructures and in particular those related to solid waste management at local (municipal) scale, thus affecting the life quality of residents and the characteristics of the touristic product and urban profile in general.

Given these conditions, there is a need to redesign the municipal waste management approach to the logic of the transition to the era of "eco-smart cities" and to this end, the Project's operation is structured in three thematic pillars:

- **on the development of integrated "smart" waste management practices and the upgrading of their carrying capacity and operation** through the installation of relevant equipment and software (telemetry) content management of municipal waste containers,
- **on limiting aesthetic nuisance** by equipping underground solid waste bins,
- **on implementing environmentally friendly practices** (composting, awareness raising campaigns, waste management plans and the development of web and mobile applications).

The Partnership of the Project consists of four members. Two partners from Greece, the Municipality of Ziros (Lead Partner of the Project) and the Municipality of Metsovo, and two partners from Albania, the Municipality of Sarande and the Regional Center for Development and Cooperation.





