



## OSS Newsletter No 4 (June 2020)



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competitiveness**



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## INTRODUCTION

As part of the implementation of OSS project, we want to support the creation of an attractive, tailor-made ecosystem for start-ups. The aim of the project is to improve the growth of SMEs, entrepreneurs' skills and overcome numerous barriers.

One of the most important goals of the project is to improve the SME competitiveness policy by strengthening advisory support services for novice entrepreneurs. As a result, a complete ecosystem will be built for entrepreneurs who want to enter the market with their activities.

The fourth semester of the project implementation has ended. Unfortunately, as a result of a pandemic caused by the spread of coronavirus, some of our actions had to be moved or their form needed to be changed.

Enjoy your reading! 😊

## PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Seven partners from seven countries participate in The OSS project that aims to improve policies for the competitiveness of the SME sector by improving advisory services for new entrepreneurs.

The partnership includes:

- LP - [Møre and Romsdal County Council \(NO\)](#)
- PP2- [WSX Enterprise, Fareham \(UK\)](#)
- PP3 - [Agency for Regional and Economic Development, Vratsa \(BG\)](#)
- PP4- [Provincial Council of Granada \(ES\)](#)
- PP5- [BSC - Business Support Center Ltd., Kranj \(SI\)](#)
- PP6- [Rzeszow Regional Development Agency \(PL\)](#)
- PP7- [ArtesisPlantijn University College, Antwerp \(BE\)](#) - [Advisory partner](#)

OSS aims at improving policies for SMEs competitiveness by enhancing advisory support services for first time entrepreneurs. One Stop Shop project wants to build a complete ecosystem for an entrepreneur starting a new business.



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## AGENCY FOR REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VRATSA FROM BULGARIA

The Agency for Regional and Economic Development, Vratsa is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by the municipality of Vratsa, the county board of Vratsa, CCI-Vratsa, the House of Science and Technology; DSKbank. The Agency's mission is to support members and other non-governmental organizations by participating in activities in the process of regional and economic development, promote social partnership, ensure exchange of information and contribute to the development of entrepreneurial culture in the region, support the competitiveness of SMEs and exchange of good European practices and innovations to reduce interregional differences.



People engaged to our project's implementation are:

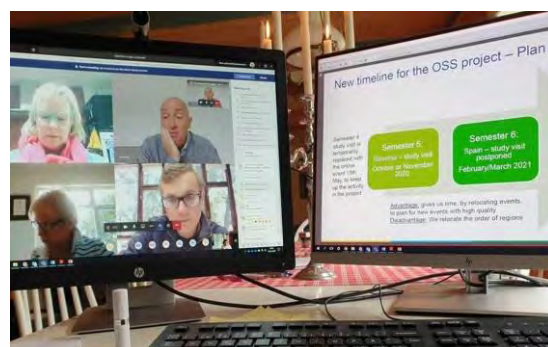
- Nesrin Doneva - ARED Executive Director (arir.vr@gmail.com);
- Nikolay Nikolov - SME expert, experienced consultant for SME development and project management (oss.nikolov@gmail.com);
- Petyo Angelov - Finance Manager. [More...](#)

## THE FOURTH PARTERSHIP MEETING

In the fourth semester, our Steering Committee meeting and International Stakeholder Meeting was scheduled for April 28-29, 2020 in Granada, Spain. Unfortunately, due to restrictions imposed by European countries, our meeting took place online, using the Microsoft Teams platform and was divided into 2 parts.

The first meeting took place on May 5, 2020. During this meeting, the progress in the implementation of our Project was discussed, as well as planned activities for the nearest period taking into account possible changes, because everything depends on the development of a pandemic in Europe and all restrictions related thereto.

[More...](#)

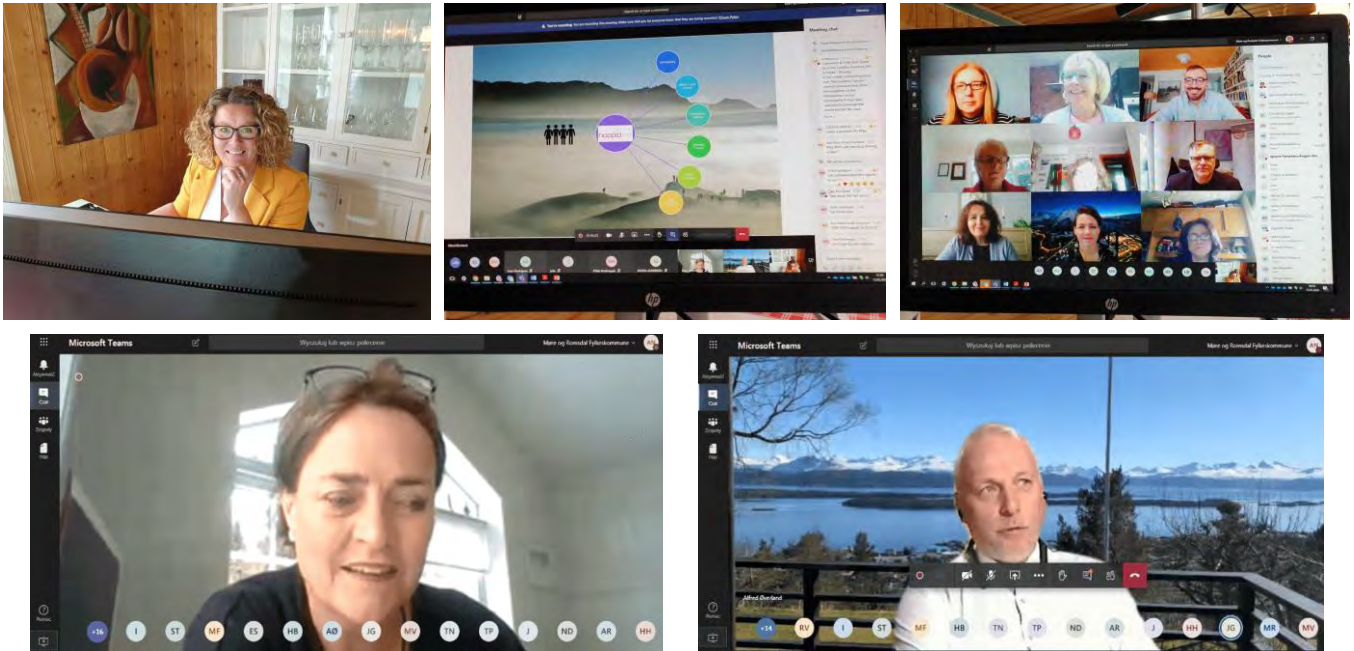


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## STAKEHOLDERS ONLINE WORKSHOP SESSION

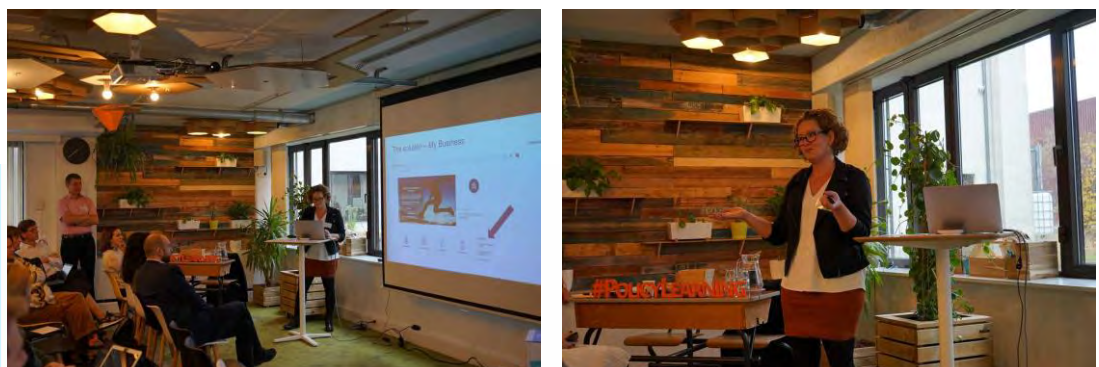
On May 15, 2020; the OSS International Stakeholders Online Workshop took place. We can be proud of intensive activity during these workshops, as 36 participants took part in it, what is an impressive number. During the meeting, information on Good Practices from Norway and Spain were presented. [More...](#)



## PRESENTATION OF THE OSS PROJECT AT THE WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS

The theme of the workshop was “Mastering the digital transformation of business support”. The Policy Learning Platform initiated the workshop and Interreg Europe projects participated.

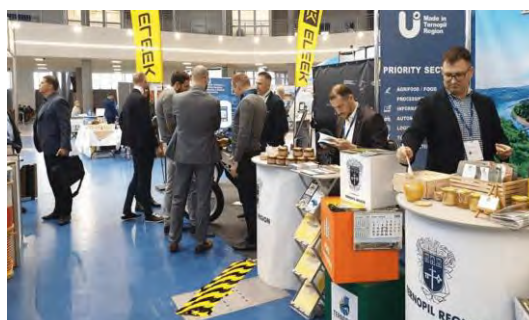
The presentation included a quick insight to our project overall goals and consortium, and then a more detailed explanation on the development of the digital tool “My Business”. After giving the story of the development, which also included the policy development to create such a digital tool, the attendees got a direct online demonstration of the tool and its features. [More...](#)



## POLAND-UKRAINE FORUM 2020

The Europe-Ukraine Forum is one of the key events organized by the Institute for Eastern Studies and has been organized since 2007 in Poland. This year's edition took place on February 4-5, 2020 in Jasionka near Rzeszów.

Of course, the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (Polish partner of the OSS Project) had the opportunity to present its activities and disseminate information on the implementation of the OSS Project. It was a great opportunity for us to share information about our Project also among representatives of countries that are not part of our Project. We are sure that it will bring us positive effects. [More...](#)



## WEDNESDAY INNOVATION NIGHT #2

On February 12, 2020, second meetings took place as part of the series called Wednesday Innovation Night, organized by the Podkarpackie Innovation Center at their headquarters in Rzeszów.

During this event, quite important aspects regarding startups and innovations were discussed. The Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (Polish partner of the OSS project) was also a co-organizer. At the beginning a representative of RRDA and *Start in Podkarpackie* Project (an action considered as an example of Good Practice from Poland) presented all the assumptions and best ideas of the *Start in Podkarpackie* platform. He also mentioned the importance of our project for improving regional policy and improving it for startups. [More...](#)





## THE MEETING OF REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS IN NORWAY

On February 27-28, 2020, a 2-day meeting took place in Ålesund. 45 advisers from the hoppid.no partnership in Möre and Romsdal. Workshop theme: *How can we support entrepreneurs so that they are able and ready to develop?* The mission of the event is insight, inspiration, knowledge and learning from already completed activities. The workshop part concerned raising capital for a company's development. [More...](#)



## ADAPTING WITH DIGITAL WEBINAR SERIES

During the pandemic, the Project Partner from the United Kingdom (WSX Enterprise) organizes a series of webinars on adaptation to digital activities. The trainings take place every Wednesday at 11:00 am English time. Topics discussed so far concerned tools for remote work, online payments, online security, etc. [More...](#)



## TRANSFERENCIAS DESIGN 2020

On 13th February, the OSS Project manager of the at Granada Provincial Council, Josefa Guerrero, participated in the IV Forum "Transfers Design Malaga 2020: Strategies, Innovation and Public Administration Design", held at the Malaga Congress Palace between the days 13th and 15th of February, taking part in the workshop called "Audit in Management Design in the Enterprises" in which also participated the companies Estación Diseño and Andalucía Emprende (the Andalusian Institution for Entrepreneurship). [More...](#)



## EVALUATION OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP STATE IN GRANADA, SPAIN

As part of the OSS Project, the Granada Provincial Council promoted the SWOT analysis to provide an in-depth vision of the current situation of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the entire province. In order to conduct the study, it was necessary for all first-line entities to support entrepreneurs, both representatives of public and private administration, and with the cooperation of the entrepreneurs themselves. [More...](#)



## POLISH STARTUPS SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Companies, incubated in the "Aeropolis" Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park management by RRDA have joined the fight against the coronavirus. Helmets are produced, among others near Rzeszów. They are printed on 3D printers by Cervi Robotics. They have antibacterial and potentially virucidal cover. Helmets are printed and assembled regularly and then sent by courier to hospitals. They are also soozonized before it's shipment. [More...](#)



## HELP FOR BULGARIAN SMEs

The OPIC managing authority is starting the project selection procedure BG16RFOP002-2.073 "Support for micro and small enterprises in order to overcome the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Submission of project applications under this procedure is carried out entirely electronically by completing the online application form and sending the form and necessary documents via the information system for managing and monitoring EU structural instruments in Bulgaria.

[More...](#)



## WE'RE IN PRESS

One of the participants of the online workshop was a representative of the Norwegian media. Thanks to this, our project was recognized in the media as a good example of activities aimed at improving the economic situation in Europe. Thank you! [More...](#)



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## OUR STAKEHOLDER HELPS FIGHTING WITH CRISIS IN BULGARIA



As is known everywhere, at least in Europe many initiatives are being taken to combat the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. One of our Bulgarian stakeholders, the Bulgarian Agency for the Promotion of SMEs, also carries out such activities.

The Bulgarian Agency for Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (BSMEPA) is an administrative structure supported by the Minister of Economy. The agency implements state policy in promoting entrepreneurship, development and internationalization of SMEs. [More...](#)

## SLOVENIAN PARTNER DURING THE PANDEMIC TIME

BSC Kranj, Regional Development Agency of the Gorenjska region, was very active in supporting entrepreneurs for development and also supported them in difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. All staff worked remotely, but was available at all times to entrepreneurs and other stakeholders via telephone, e - emails and social media. All support services for entrepreneurs were available at all that time. [More...](#)



## THE ACTION FROM PODKARPACIE VOIVODESHIP - #DrukujemyDlaMedykow

This is a charity activity with the participation of companies and individual volunteers, aimed at the production of visors for medical service employees. Such activity is a large logistics undertaking requiring huge logistic support. [More...](#)



## NETWORK GRANADA IN THE VIEW OF COVID-19 CRISIS

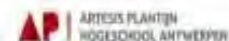
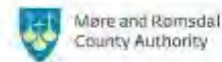
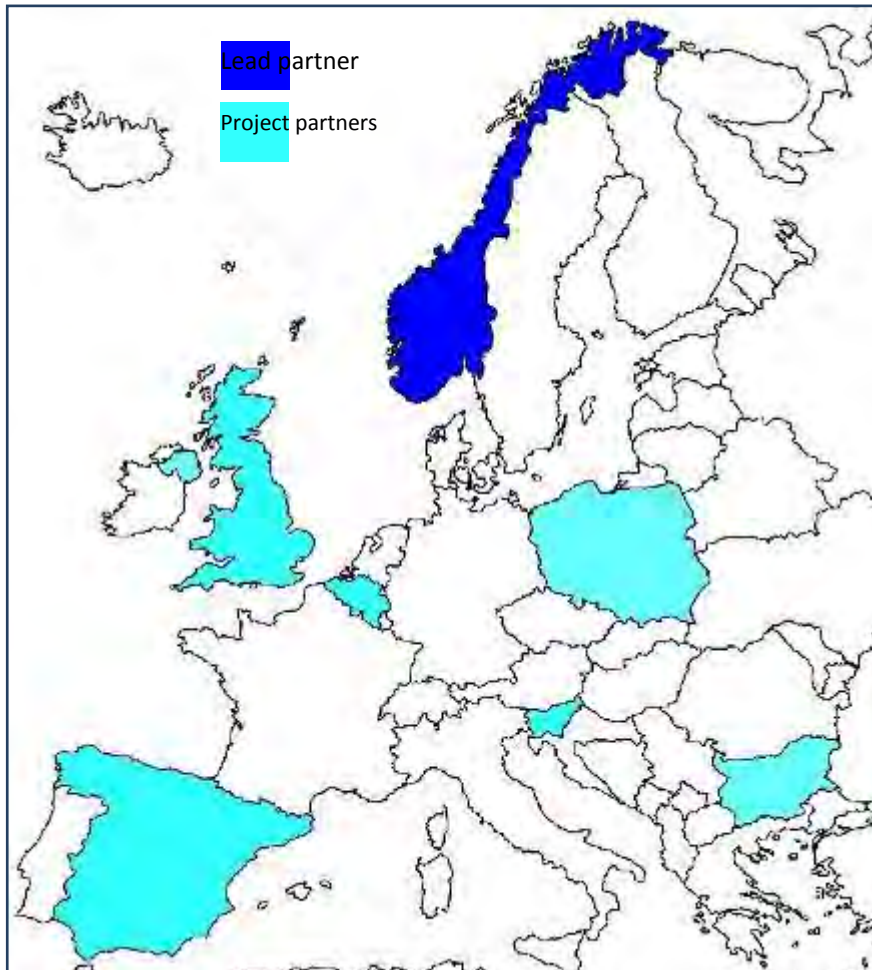


In response to the sanitary and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Provincial Council of Granada decided to strengthen the role of municipalities in the process of overcoming the crisis by asking them to develop local recovery plans in line with real needs. [More...](#)

## GRANADA EMPRESAS IS SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The support platform for entrepreneurs and freelancers, promoted by the Provincial Council of Granada, via the website [www.granadaempresas.es](http://www.granadaempresas.es), strengthened its consultancy and assistance activities due to the sanitary and economic crisis caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic in the region. [More...](#)





### Project Partners:

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MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT: [www.interregeurope.eu/oss](http://www.interregeurope.eu/oss)

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