



## MARKET CONTROL: GREECE – BULGARIA

PROMOTING:  
"STANDARDISATION / CERTIFICATION / MARKET CONTROL"  
IN THE INTERREGIONAL AREAS OF THE INTERREG  
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

## INFORMATION DAY

### QUALITY ASSURANCE: ENHANCING CROSS BORDER PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

**Mr. Yanko Yanev, Chairman of Haskovo  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
4 March 2013, Thessaloniki**



European Territorial Cooperation Programme  
**Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013**  
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The Programme is co-funded by the European Union (ERDF)  
and National Funds of Greece and Bulgaria





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## **Project: Market Control**

Promoting Standardization –  
Certification – Market Control in  
the interregional areas of the  
INTERREG Community Initiative  
Operational Program



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**The project is funded under the**

**"European Territorial  
Cooperation Program  
Greece - Bulgaria 2007-2013"**

## Partners:



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- Greek International Business Association in Thessaloniki, Greece (SEVE)
- Haskovo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bulgaria
- Hellenic Organization for Standardization in Thessaloniki, Greece (ELOT)
- The Chamber of Professionals & Handicrafts of Rodopi, Greece.



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## **The overall objective is:**

to reduce the gap between the interregional areas in the field of effective Market Control, fostering the cooperating countries on their way to their European Integration, as well as to improve the level of Controlling Market and safeguarding of the merchandised commodities and enterprises in the cross border area.



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In the frame of the project was conducted a research of business needs in Haskovo region, in terms of certification, standardization and conformity marks and researches related to development of joint roadmaps.



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The main objective of the study was to identify the needs of businesses in cross-border area Rodopi - Haskovo, operating in targeted sectors, to establish common quality standards and implement EU directives in the field of market control. The study was carried out by the Centre for Testing and European Certification Ltd., Stara Zagora.



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On the territory of Haskovo operate 11,053 companies, of which the largest share of firms engaged in trade and repair of motor vehicles (5237).

This is followed by manufacturing (1,403), hotels and restaurants (753) and others.



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Target sectors of the study were:

- Food Industry
- Trade and repair
- Engineering
- Construction
- Agriculture and agricultural products
- Textile and Apparel Industries
- Chemical Industry
- Transport



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Of the surveyed companies only **25%** have product certifications and the remaining **75%** can not check certificates for goods manufactured by them.

Businesses that have implemented management systems are **80%**.



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Over **50%** of the surveyed companies expect that a Joint Bulgarian-Greek **Certification Body** will contribute to the development of entrepreneurship in the cross-border area.

This requires further exploration of the possibilities for defining of universally acceptable assessment criteria, that will mostly satisfy the needs of small and medium enterprises.



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Additional measures that would improve the development of entrepreneurship in the cross-border region Rodopi - Haskovo are:

- Additional incentives;
- Cutting red tape;
- Improving infrastructure;
- Support from local and state authorities;
- Create a quality mark of fair business;
- Systematic control of the goods;
- Organization of business missions, etc.



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- Haskovo Region does not have clearly expressed economic sectors where conformity marks and management systems could be accepted and applied.
- The majority of the companies operate in the retail sector
- Only minor part of the surveyed companies have product certificates in the voluntary field.



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Bulgaria has accredited:

- 312 Control bodies;
- 204 Testing laboratories;
- 17 Calibration laboratories;
- 15 Testing and calibration laboratories;
- 12 Bodies for certification of management systems;
- 6 Certification bodies for products;
- 3 Authority for verification;
- 3 Accreditation bodies for Authority staff.



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## Accredited and Notified Bodies in Haskovo:

- 4 Testing laboratories;
- 3 Control bodies;
- 2 Notified Bodies;
- 1 Body for certification of management systems.



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Only accredited and notified bodies for conformity assessment may be assigned to perform activities on conformity assessment in the areas, regulated by legislation.

In the case of creating a common body for conformity assessment, it must be accredited in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No. 765/2008.



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Harmonized legislation and the presence of uniform criteria for accreditation in Bulgaria and Greece is a prerequisite for using the service, general calibration laboratories, and common control bodies.



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The general conclusion of the project is that there is a need and has the ability to create common testing and verification laboratories of the territory of neighboring areas.

This fact provokes the need to continue the project with the construction of the general authority for testing and verification.



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**Thank you for  
your attention!**



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