



ORGANISATION	<u>Cluster Trakia Economic Zone</u>
Profile	<p>ASSOCIATION "CLUSTER TRAKIA ECONOMIC ZONE" (CTEZ) - is a non-profit legal entity registered in the Plovdiv District Court with Decision N° 134 / 08.04.2013. First „Cluster Trakia Economic Zone“ was registered under the name "Cluster Design and Construction". "Cluster Design and Construction" on January 4, 2016 by decision of the Plovdiv District Court was renamed the association "Cluster Trakia Economic Zone" / CTEZ /.</p> <p>In the structure of the cluster are involved key representatives of the private sector, NGOs and universities actively working in the field of innovations, investments, planning and regional development, manufacturing.</p> <p>The team of "Cluster Trakia Economic Zone" is the operational manager of "Trakia Economic Zone" / TEZ / - the largest industrial zone in Bulgaria and Southeast Europe. The consolidated brand "Trakia Economic Zone" was established by "Sienit Holding" AD / developer of the first public-private industrial zones in Bulgaria / in cooperation with "KCM 2000" AD, Israeli and Italian partners, the partnership of 9 municipalities in Plovdiv region / Plovdiv, Asenovgrad, Kaloyanovo, Kuklen, Maritsa, Parvomay, Rakovski, Rodopi, Stamboliyski / and 2 clusters - "Cluster Trakia Economic Zone" and "Cluster Information and Communication Technologies".</p> <p>TEZ combines the good experience and development of the 6 industrial zones in the region of Plovdiv / the second largest city in Bulgaria /, for 25 years these zones have attracted over 200 global and Bulgarian companies, which have invested over 3 billion euros in plants in various sectors of the economy and logistics bases. Plovdiv is the only city in Bulgaria named one of the 10 best medium-sized cities of the future in the global ranking 2020 of the authoritative Financial Times. The city is in the top 10 of two of the rankings of the prestigious business publication - strategic investment attraction and cost efficiency. It proved to be the largest industrial center in the country, having Trakia Economic Zone ranking among the major zones in the East Europe. The team of Cluster Trakia Economic Zone is the basis of the "Zero Carbon Industrial Parks (ZCIP) Consortium – Strategic Intent" - a start-off project for the prospective development of four Bulgarian industrial zones in Plovdiv, Burgas, Gabrovo and Haskovo.</p>



Previous
experience in
European
projects

1. Implementation of a project N° BG 161 PO 003 - 2.4.02 – 0050 – **“Cluster Design and Construction - an effective model for sustainable business development ”** under the Operational Program "Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy" 2007-2013, through the European Regional Development Fund for "Support for the development of clusters in Bulgaria". The project started on March 7, 2014 for a period of 18 months. The cluster was a beneficiary of the project, with main activities - creating an organizational and management structure and forming a team to coordinate cluster activities, creating and maintaining a cluster website and building an information database, developing a marketing strategy for the cluster, participation in fairs and exhibitions, purchase of equipment for a training hall, organization and holding of an International Conference.
2. Implementation of a project N° BG05M90P001-1.002-0116 - **1."Employers and trade unions together for youth employment"** under the Operational Program **"Human Resources Development"** 2014-2020, with the financial support of the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund. Start: 17.05.2016, End: 12.04.2017. Cluster Trakia Economic was the Beneficiary in the implementation of the following activities identification and activation of inactive young people aged 15 to 29 in the municipalities of Plovdiv, Maritsa and Rakovski; providing employment to 50 motivated young people for 6 months.
3. Implementation of a project N° BG16RFOP002-2.009-0045-C01 – **“Targeted Refinement and Adaptation of Cluster Information Assets“** under the Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness" 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund“ and the national budget of the Republic of Bulgaria. Start date 29.11.2017 - end date 29.5.2019. The cluster was a beneficiary of the project, whose main goal was to increase competitiveness, business development and the export potential of the members of the association. The following activities were performed: promotion of cluster marketing, acquisition of tangible fixed assets - equipment for halls for theoretical training, equipment of a training center for training practice at the training center of the Cluster, acquisition of fixed intangible assets - general and specialized software products for web-based training in theory and practice at a training center.
4. Participation /Partner/ in the project N° 2020-1-BG01-KA202-079042 - **"Active Learning Community for Upskilling Technicians and Engineers"** under the Community Programme “Erasmus+” (Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013). The project

	<p>has a duration of 24 months. It starts on 01.09.2020 and ends on 31.08.2022. The beneficiary /Coordinator/ of the project is Technical University of Gabrovo. PARTNERS: Cluster Trakia Economic Zone, Bulgaria, Gabrovo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bulgaria, International Hellenic University, Greece, Kavala Chamber of Commerce, Greece, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland, Regional Chamber of Commerce, Gdansk, Poland, University of Nis, Serbia, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Serbia. The high demand of flexible continuous TVET on behalf of companies within the partner regions, a consortium of 4 universities, 4 Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a VET provider from BG, GR, PL and RS was established so as to develop an Active Learning Community for Upskilling Technicians and Engineers in the sector of Machine Building and Mechatronics.</p> <p>Under this project, the role of the Cluster is to conduct a survey on the skills deficit of technical and engineering staff in the sector of Machine Building and Mechatronics and writing a Partnership Report based on the findings of the skills deficit survey; coordinate and implement the project the in territory of the Plovdiv region. The Cluster team will write the following products for the required training courses: a) syllabus - (goals, teaching / learning methods, topics, expected results, list of training resources); Study material - PP presentation; tasks / small project for the practical part; Once the course syllabus has been prepared, the courses will be tested at the Vocational training center TRAKIA for a period previously specified in the project.</p>
<p>Interests for future projects proposals</p>	<p>Projects to support the Integrated Territorial Development of the Regions - Integrated Territorial Investments - a way for municipalities to work together and their European funding in this direction. Trakia Economic Zone has over 25 years of experience and know-how for the development of industrial zones, which will be applied in cooperation with Burgas, Gabrovo and Haskovo. Trakia Economic Zone is a good example of a successful public-private business partnership with nine municipalities and clusters. Cluster Trakia Economic zone interested from the projects in the realm of Mechatronics (inclusive of new transport vehicles and robotics), Energetics (inclusive of energy efficiency, energy consumption management, hydrogen production, biogas, solar energy, wind energy, energy cooperatives), Bioeconomy, Digitation, and social connectivity (inclusive of education and vocational training, day-care facilities & social housing, the attraction of all social communities, and supporting social entrepreneurship), smart water resource management, plus, Applied research.</p>
<p>Project ideas</p>	<p>We would like to get involved in projects related to the development of the industrial zones; infrastructure; innovation; applied science; developing the education-business relationship; the creation of renewable energy sources; systems for saving and</p>



	smart management of energy and water. We would participate in projects through which to transfer our experience to other regions, in projects for integration of regions. We would like to work together with companies and organizations in the EU that develop carbon-neutral industrial parks - to exchange experiences, ideas and upgrade them.
3 key words	"Green" industrial zones, Innovations, Integrated Territorial Investments
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