

CULTURAL DIPOLE Creation of a cultural dipole in the cross border area

The “**CULTURAL DIPOLE**” project started its activities in September 2017. The project aims at the creation of:

- a) A **Thematic Museum in Serres** which will host the modern art collection of the famous artist “Constantin Xenakis” and
- b) A new **Historical Museum in Petrich** which will host the collection of valuable archaeological, historical and other objects from the current Historical Museum.

The long term vision of the project is the implementation of two cultural parks in Serres and Petrich which will act as a Cultural Dipole of European significance. The cultural parks will house significant collections and will actively promote art and cultural heritage in the cross border area.

Serres – Petrich: A Cultural Dipole

Serres in Greece and Petrich in Bulgaria are sister cities (since 2005), having cooperated in common E.U. projects, facing various common challenges such as: preservation of cultural heritage, protection of environment, promotion of resource efficiency, cross-border entrepreneurship, development of tourism. Initiatives in both cities are currently in progress aiming to utilise former military camps.

Serres and Petrich have a time distance of approximately 40 minutes by private car, including border controls. Thus a visitor of the area staying in one of the cities may easily visit the other one.

Project partners and supporters

The “**CULTURAL DIPOLE**” consortium consists of four partners: 1) Municipality of Serres (Lead Beneficiary), 2) Municipality of Petrich, 3) Aristotle University of Thessaloniki/Transport Systems Research Group and 4) Democritus University of Thrace/Department of Environmental Engineering. The “Serreon Politeia” Society and the “Society for the Study of the History of Serres Region” (EMEIS) act as supporters of the project, without receiving any funding.



Project funding

The project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme.

Project tasks

The “**CULTURAL DIPOLE**” project follows a well-structured approach which includes the following main activities: preparation and realization of procurements, implementation of the construction works for the two buildings and installation of the necessary equipment, preparation of the exhibition spaces and installation of the exhibits. After the completion of the above, the official opening of the two Museums will follow in Serres and Petrich. The renovation of the two buildings will be consistent with low energy consumption principles and particularly the Thematic Museum “Constantin Xenakis” in Serres will be a Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB). In addition, exemplary provisions concerning physical and sensory accessibility will be applied to both Museums.

