



# Interreg Greece-Bulgaria

European Regional Development Fund



## EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2021

### Rooting for a greener future!

Bright and early on **Saturday, the 25th of September**, citizens gathered at the heart of **Oreokastro**, a suburb northwest of Thessaloniki, to celebrate **European Cooperation Day**.

**European Cooperation Day**, also known as “**EC-Day**”, is an initiative of the Interreg Programmes (Interact) that has been celebrated since 2011. Every year, on the 21st of September or around this date, various local events are held all over Europe to remind citizens that many good things come out when we join forces.

This year, for the **10th anniversary of the EC Day campaign**, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme **Interreg V-A "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020"** worked together with the **Municipality of Oreokastro** to organize a **tree-planting event** to not only mark the day, but also to pave the way for a greener future in the cross-border area.

On the day, the organizing team was pleased to be joined by the **“Union of Pontians and Friends of Oreokastro”**, the **“Environmental and Cultural Association of Oreokastro”**, and residents. Several passersby also stopped in their tracks to join in on the action. Thanks to the active participation of **over 60 citizens**, including children, **116 trees** were planted in the area of “Alonia”. Trees planted included apple, pomegranate, fig, walnut, oak, plum and hibiscus.



Home to only the Municipal Citizen's Service Centre, locals currently use this relatively empty space to walk their dogs and/or as a running track of sorts. The addition of trees will not only provide shade and color but is also the first step towards transforming this once blank terrain into a vibrant public space for the enjoyment of Oreokastro's population.

The Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020" would like to express their gratitude to all citizens who contributed to making EC-Day 2021 a success and to greening up our environment.

**For more information** visit the:

- Programme's website: [www.greece-bulgaria.eu](http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu)
- Programme's Facebook page: [interreggreecebulgaria](#)
- EC-Day website: [www.ecday.eu](http://www.ecday.eu)

## GREEN IT UP! THINK GREEN → ACT GREEN → GO GREEN!

### What is European Cooperation Day and what do we celebrate?

We commemorate the European Cooperation Day (also known as "EC Day") on 21 September every year and this year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the ECDay campaign!

**Why do we celebrate cooperation?** Europe is a mix of cultures and economies that need to understand each other in order to reach their maximum potential. For this reason, the European Union (EU) encourages cooperation in different ways. One of them is through the cooperation programmes, which allocate more than 10 billion euros for the regions to work together on common challenges: climate adaptation, social inclusion, migration...

**How is this done in practice?** Through projects involving regions all over Europe and neighboring countries. They have helped increase cultural understanding and overcome economic disparities throughout territories. Don't you think this is a good reason to celebrate?

With the "**European Cooperation Day**" campaign, we would like to remind citizens that many good things come out when we join forces. In the past events, people cycled together, sang together, ate together, and in general had a wonderful time in each other's company in hundreds of events organised by EU cooperation programmes in over 30 countries.

**Everybody can join this celebration.** In September, many events are organised in different regions of Europe in order to commemorate the benefits of cooperation: film festivals, concerts, running races, local markets, gastronomic fairs... and more! Find an event in your city or nearby and come celebrate with us.



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