

## PRESS RELEASE

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### AGRO-START International Conference “Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship in the animal breeding and horticultural sector”

Nearly 120 Business support organizations and service companies that provide assistance to SMEs of the SEE economic area, active in the horticulture and animal breeding sector, SMEs, farmers, Chambers of Commerce; Representatives persons from government institution, , NGOs and other public and private agencies, Consultants; Trade unions, workers’ and employers’ federations and all other relevant stakeholders will be a part of International Conference “Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship in the animal breeding and horticultural sector”, which will take place on 20 of November, 2014 at Hotel “Epinal”, Bitola. This conference is organized by Federation of farmers in FYROM and is International closing events of project AGROSTART.

In this event, the participants will have chance to communicate and share experience of the AGRO-STAT project, which was implemented to increase the SMEs competitiveness and promote and facilitate innovative entrepreneurship by giving answer to the need of a specific support Service for SMEs in the horticulture and animal breeding sector adapting an integrated transnational approach. Also on International conference will be present all tools develop in AGRO-START project.

The SEE Support Service Protocol is one of the core deliverables of AGRO-START project that will guide the business support entities on how to best provide support services to SMEs in the animal breeding and horticulture sectors, in order to improve their competitiveness. Furthermore, within the project, a database of services suppliers and providers was created, e-learning courses were organized, a Good Practise guide was prepared as well as an Auto-diagnostic tool, a Web constructor and the SEE virtual fair was launched.

The project “Transnational network for SME support in the animal breeding and horticultural sector-AGRO-START” is part of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme and has a duration of two years from 01/12/2012 to 31/12/2014. The project is being implemented by 12 organizations ((National Federation of Labour Union for Agriculture, Food, Tobacco and Related Areas and Services AGROSTAR, Romania; The Regional Development Agency of the South - East Development Region, Romania; Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)/Institute for Research and Technology-Thessaly (IRETETH), Greece; Business Support Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises – Ruse, Bulgaria; Bulgarian Economic Forum, Bulgaria; Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia; Regional Federation of Farmers Puglia; Italy, E.R.F.C. (European Regional Framework Co-operation), Greece; University of Molise, Italy; Molise Region , Italy; Federation of farmers in RM, FYROM; Center for Business & Parliamentary Dialog“, Albania) from 7 countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia.

With respect  
AGRO-START