**PRESS RELEASE**

**Kick off Meeting of INNO.TRITION Project of Interreg Greece-Italy V-A 2014-2020**

The Kick off meeting of INNO.TRITION, was successfully organized by the Chamber of Arta **on Monday and Tuesday 13th & 14th of May 2019**, at the premises of the Chamber.

The project is co-funded by the European Territorial Co-operation Program Greece-Italy 2014-2020 and aims at the innovative use of olive, winery and cheese waste by products in animal nutrition for the production of functional foods from animals - "Innovative use of olive oil, winery and cheese waste by products in animal nutrition for the production of functional foods from animals”.

The event was attended by representatives of all the partners of the project, in particular the President of the Arta Chamber of Commerce, **Mr. Ioannis Golomazos,** the Financial Supervisor **Mr.** **Dimitris Tromboukis**, the Director of the Advisory Support of Businesses **Mr. Vasileios Magoutis,** the Special Advisor **Mrs** **Christina Manifafa** and other partners, the Info Point Officer, Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Joint Secretariat **Mrs Chrysoula Nikou**, the Professors of the University of Ioannina - Department of Agriculture **Ioannis Skoufos**, **Athena Tzora** and **Eleftherios Bonos**, and **Georgios Maglaras** member of EDIP, Professor **Angela Gabriella D 'Allesandro** from Aldo Moro University of Bari and the researcher **Angela Cardinalli** from the National Research Council-Institute of Sciences of Food Production (ISPA) (ISPA) who are partners of the project.

The participants discussed in detail the actions and the deliverables of the project, as well as the methodology to be followed by all, so that the project can be implemented smoothly and within the specific timeframes and targets.

The Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection **Olga Gerovasili**, who was attending in a parallel event at the Chamber's Conference Center welcomed the participants and wished to have a successful implementation of the project.

The second day of the meeting was also attended by the Interreg Greece-Italy Coordinator of Joint Secretariat**, Prof. Gianfranco Gadaleta**, and **Prof. Giuseppe Gargano**, the Administrator of the project INNO.TRITION, , who promised to support all the partners and especially the LB (Chamber of Arta) in order to resolve any issues that will come up during the implementation of the project.

In his greeting, the President of the Chamber of Arta, **Mr. Ioannis Gkolomazos**, welcomed the Italian collaborators and invited them to visit the ancient and Byzantine monuments of the area and try the local products of Arta. In addition, the Chamber offered them a basket of products of the prefecture of Arta.

Mr. Gkolomazos emphasized that the region has the need of projects such as INNO.TRITION, pointing out that adopting innovative practices in both the primary sector and the manufacturing sector would enable businesses to become more competitive and extroverted.

"As the Chamber's Management, we believe in the exploitation of the knowledge gained by the research community and the integration of research results into the agricultural production, as well as the application of innovative practices on how the products are processed, distributed and displayed, and we will support every effort in this direction," Mr. Gkolomazos said, and expressed his satisfaction that Universities with such great experience in similar projects, participate in the project.

The INNO.TRITION project faces the common challenge of using agro-industry wastes of massively produced products such as Olive, Winery and Cheese by products, in both Greece and Italy, in animal nutrition for the production of bioactive feed ingredients and functional

foods with a sustainable and eco-friendly way. The main objective of the project is to produce higher quality feeds using low-cost (waste) components in an innovative way, making the local agro-industry more competitive and preserving the environment by reducing agro-industry wastes of the industries involved.

The partners had the opportunity to taste local dishes at the dinner that was organised by the Chamber of Arta. On the second day they visited sights such as the small theater of Ancient Amvrakia and the Byzantine churches of Panagia Paregoritissa and Aghia Theodora.

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*Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme is an European Territorial Cooperation Programme that aims to help public institutions and local stakeholders to develop cross-border projects and pilot actions and to create new policy, products and services, with the final goal to improve the citizens’ quality of life. Strategically, the programme will enhance innovation in a number of fields such as blue growth, tourism and culture, agro food and cultural and creative industries. Interreg V-A Greece-Italy Programme aims to get maximum return from EUR 123 million financed per 85% by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and per 15% by the 2 member states through a national co-financing.*