

1. NARRATIVE REPORT

2.1 Description of results achieved during the reporting period and the work and activities (both planned and unforeseen) that contributed to them.

On March 27th, 2018 the Managing Authority of Attica Region (MA) issued the decision to integrate the project "Construction of a flood protection pipeline network in areas within the Municipalities of Nikaia-Aghios Ioannis Rentis and Moschato-Tavros" in priority axis "Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Prevention and Management of risks" of the operational programme "Attica" (the project will be co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund {ERDF}).

Following the funding decision the Contracting Authority (CA) shared the draft tender documents with the Independent Observer (IO) for review and possible comments (April 3rd, 2018). The majority of the recommendations were accepted by the CA, among which one concerning the eligibility criteria for participation in the procurement procedure. The IO highlighted (May 3rd, 2018) that the original wording used by the CA was contradicting the law by setting additional criteria apart from the participants' previous engagement in similar works (in particular hydraulics works). The Managing Authority of Attica Region also supported the recommendation.

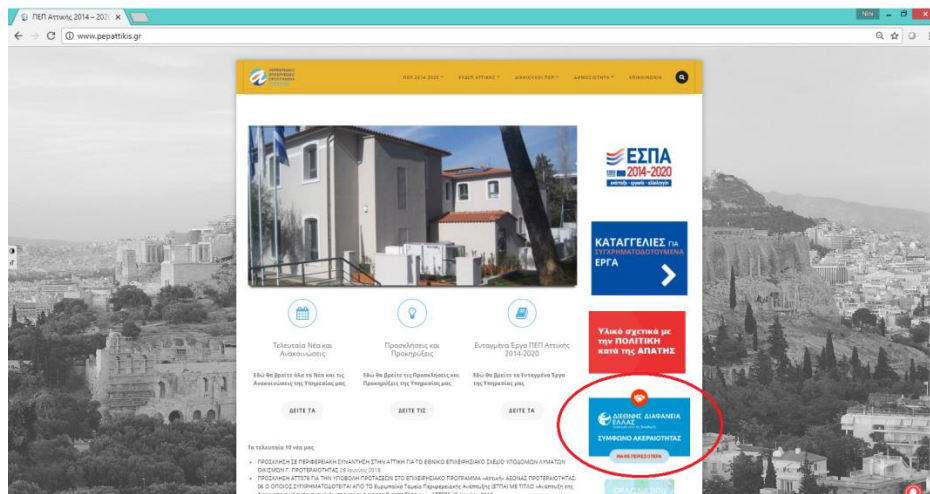
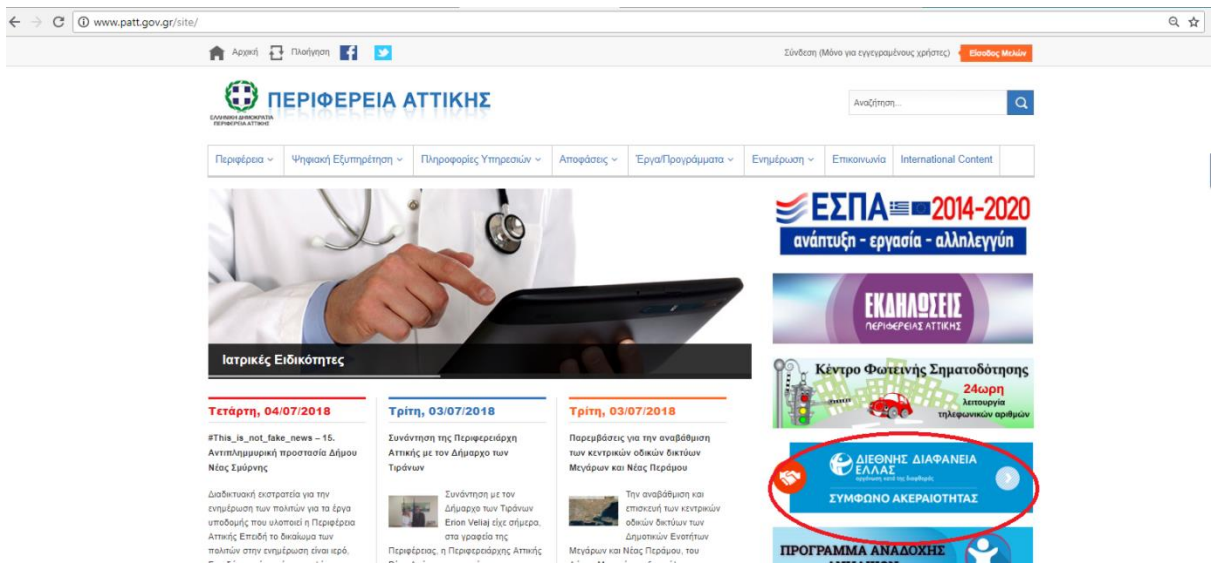
IO also highlighted as a potential risk the incompatibility between suitability criteria and means of proof requested that could lead to restriction of competition, by excluding bidders who would otherwise be suitable – similar call for offers (tender dates May 4th to June 12th, 2018) raised reactions by the Association of Greek Contracting Companies for the same issue, among others, which resulted in the cancellation of that tender. All comments by the IO will be made publically available after the completion of the tendering phase, as foreseen by the IP. Additionally, the Integrity Pact and the Accession Form have both been included in the contract documentation and will be uploaded in the e-procurement platform, along with all tender documents.

The tender is estimated to take place in the upcoming months (JUL-AUG-SEP2018) and is expected to result in the signature of the contract in January 2019. The completion time of the project has been estimated by the CA at 30 months from the contract signature (mid 2021) which falls out of the current project duration as set by the Grant Agreement. Several reasons have contributed to this delay such as change in public procurement law in order to incorporate Directives 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU (August 2016), issues relating to the protection of archaeological sites in the region (appropriate permission and adaptation of budget to cover related expenses), the launch of the National e-procurement platform (October 2017) and subsequent training of employees and bidders, the update of technical designs in order to secure funding by ERDF and the establishment of synergies with other actors in order to minimize discomfort of local population during the implementation (such as the Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company).

The CA under pressure from the signature of the IP on April 20th 2018 is quickly advancing the process for the launch of the tender (approval from the CA's Financial Committee discussed during the July 3rd 2018 session after completion of legality audit on June 22nd 2018). In addition,

current flood incidents in other areas of the region combined with the scheduled for October 2019 local and regional elections are other factors that have increased visibility in all anti flood regional projects as the current regional administration has stated that it sets flood protection as a priority. It is therefore a unique opportunity to highlight the significance of clean contracting and civic engagement for promoting transparent public procurement procedures through the successful completion of the monitoring process.

In order to promote the signature of the IP the IO launched the dedicated to the project website (www.integritypact.gr) on the same day (20 April 2018). In addition and with the aim to increase visibility of the project both the CA's and the MA's websites host a banner that redirects visitors to the IP website.



The IO is also coordinating a public event on December 7th 2018. The idea is to dedicate the 11th Annual Anti-Corruption Conference of TI-Greece to the vulnerable sector of public procurement setting as a highlight the presentation of the IP project. The public event is expected to be organized under the auspices of the Region of Attica in the context of the joint efforts to raise awareness and promote tools which contribute to the fight against corruption. The target of the event, addressed to the general public, is to bring together all interested parties, such as actors from the public procurement sector (i.e. governmental reps, independent bodies), local authorities, businesses, CSOs and citizens to discuss about the importance of “clean” public procurement and social accountability.

During the reporting period, TI Greece also produced a flyer (500 copies) containing general information on the project (what is an Integrity Pact, the Integrity Pact in Greece, how can you participate etc.) which is being distributed during meetings and presentations with interested stakeholders.



On the social accountability factor TI Greece contacted CSOs in order to establish the baseline for the MEL component of the project and also held a presentation session for the contractwatch.eu initiative and also identified relevant stakeholders that participated in the MEL questionnaire (ex. CSOs) and contributed to setting the relevant baseline.

2.2 Were any planned activities not implemented? Please explain what these were and the reasons why – please explain whether (and if yes, when) you are still intending to implement these activities in the future. If not, explain why.

Information on IP shared with participating in the tender bidders in order to comprehend its benefits and sign the accession form: Bidders will only be made known after the tender process starts. However TI Greece has uploaded the IP and the Accession Form on the dedicated to the project website.

2.3 Was there any staff change in your team over the last 6 months? If yes, please explain.

There were no staff changes in the mentioned period