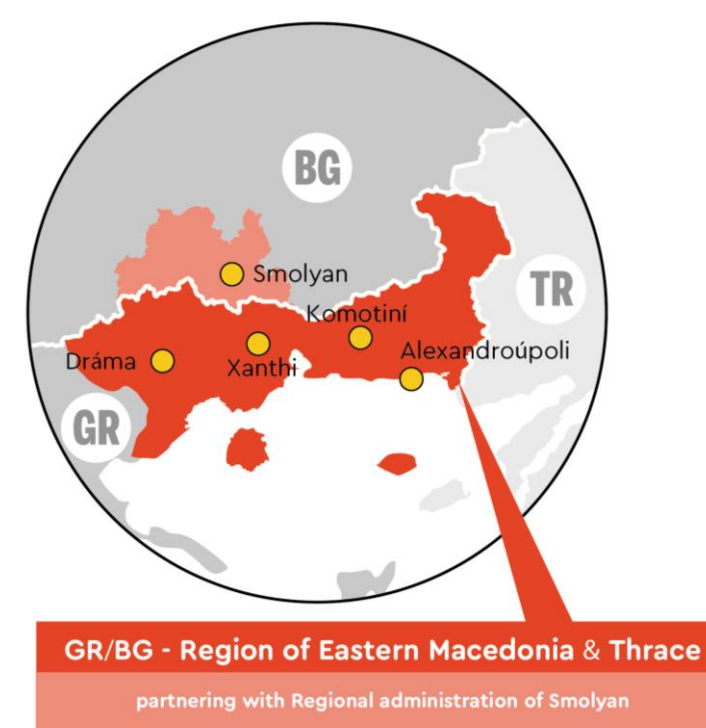


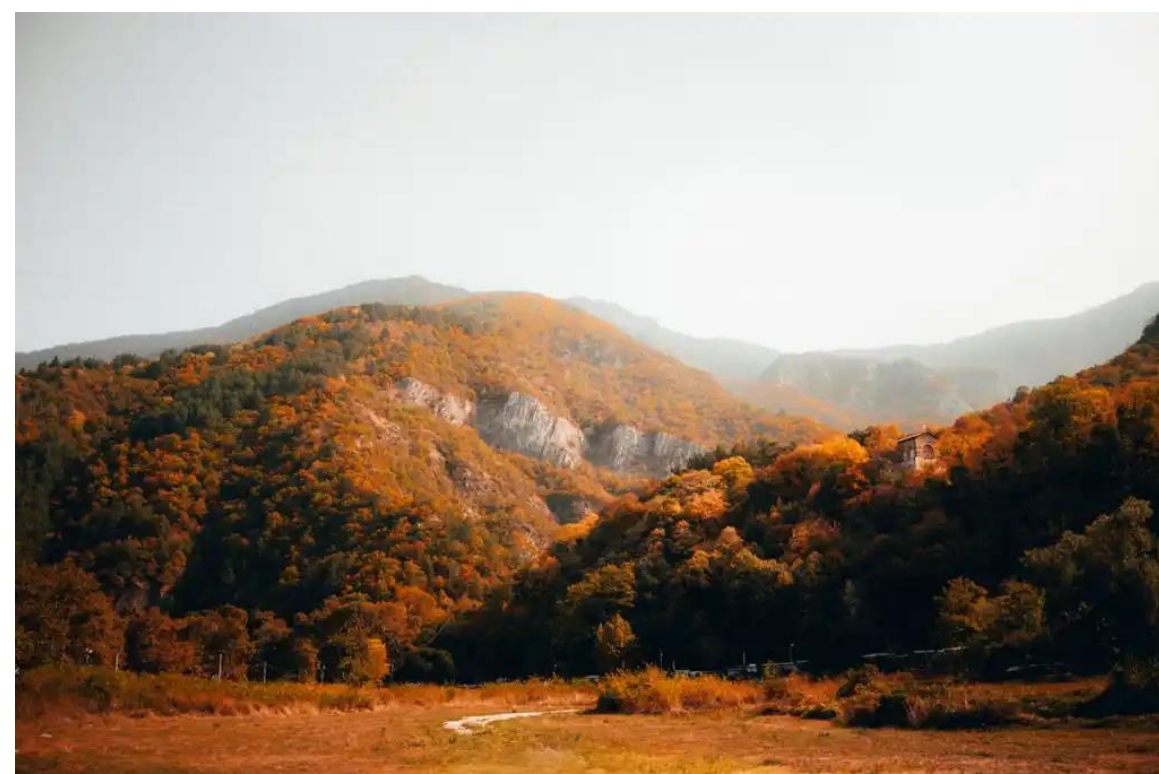
Building Cross-Border Resilience to Animal Diseases Through Joint Crisis Management



BULGARIA / GREECE

PARTNERS

Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
Regional Administration of Smolyan



OBJECTIVES

- Actively engage with all relevant stakeholders in both regions to understand the current state of play and gaps and improve their capacity to jointly address crises across the border.
- To develop the resilience of the two border regions, by equipping them with tools, processes and a joint crisis management plan that will guarantee a swift reaction to potential animal disease crisis situations.
- To improve the coordination of the two regions with National and European/International authorities active in this field.

RESULTS

- Joint Crisis Management Plan for Greece-Bulgaria border regions (currently under signature).
- Five Standard Operating Procedures.
- Framework for the set-up of a Cross-Border Coordination Unit (CBCU).

KEY LESSONS

- Regional cooperation accelerates early detection and response.
- Harmonised protocols are key.
- Building cross-border contacts and trust is as important as setting up procedures and workflows.

Before the pilot, cross-border communication between the two regions had to pass through official channels at the EU-level. The project built direct links between the two regions, fostering mutual understanding that is expected to lead to faster response against the shared animal health threats.