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## Study Visit in Varna, December 2018

The first of a series of educational visits took place on December 11, 2018 in Varna, Bulgaria, as part of the TEAWAY (Tea Roads) project. This visit was organized by the Varna Development Company, a project partner and was attended by representatives of the entire company. The theme of the visit was good practices in the field of tea cultivation and standardization in the region. Participants had the opportunity to visit the US-based company ESSETERE, which produces lavender essential oil and other aromatic plants. Lectures were also given by tea collection and standardization companies in the region with a successful presence in the European and International market.

Last but not least, was the visit to Social Tea House, an innovative social enterprise that operates as a Tea Party and whose income is given to organize educational activities for the children of local orphanages. Specifically, creative workshops, cooking lessons and crafts are part of the actions sponsored by Social Tea House in an effort to integrate these children into the local community. The workshops are aimed at both orphaned children and Varna school students, achieving a smooth social integration of the former. The initiative is also supported by the Municipality of Varna, which provides the listed building where the business is housed at a low fee, while the company employs only young people under 30 years of age.

The visit ended on 12 December with a management meeting of the partners to plan the future actions of the project.

## Study Visit in Yerevan, March 2019

The project partners' study visits continued on 29 and 30 March 2019 in Yerevan, Armenia.

During the training visit to Yerevan, organized by the Armenian Young Women's Association, good practices were presented in the field of social entrepreneurship and the exploitation of tea as a lever for the development of the region. Specifically, two examples of social enterprises were presented, one of which was purely female, members of which came from socially vulnerable groups of the population. The business was concerned



Varna



Varna



Yerevan



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with the production, standardization and marketing of aromatic tea grown in the region. The presentations were led by a World Bank spokesperson as a promoter of women's entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector and in particular the use of aromatic plants. The presentations were accompanied by a visit to traditional tea houses to get acquainted with the local varieties of tea and their special way of preparation and standardization. During the visit to Yerevan, the second management meeting of the project partners took place in order to resolve issues during the implementation of the project but also to update the timetable of the subsequent project actions.



Yerevan

Study Visit in Tbilisi, April 2019

The training meeting in Yerevan was followed by the one in Tbilisi on April 1, 2019. As part of this meeting, the project partners had the opportunity to visit: a newly established black, green and white tea production and standardization plant in the inland region of Georgia and specifically in the region Gori. These educational activities are part of the research that each Partner in the project is required to complete. The purpose of these study visits is to present the best practices in cultivating and processing tea in their host country as well as providing important information to project researchers to complete the corresponding tea market research in their area.



Tbilisi



Tbilisi

PARTNERSHIP

LEAD PARTNER



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