Project number: **2007CB16IPO006-2011-2-208**
Project name: **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF MILK PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS**

Project partners:
- **Lead partner:** **Dr. Stamen Grigorov Foundation branch, Bulgaria**
- **Project partner 2:** **Municipality of Tran, Bulgaria**
- **Project partner 3:** **City of Nis, Serbia**
- **Project partner 4:** **Association "Cheese Cluster SOUTH", Serbia**

Budget: **184 352,63 €**
Project duration: **12 months**

Project description:

The project envisioned and achieved the following results:

- The capacity of the milk producers and milk processors in the cross-border area for profitable, modern and high quality dairy production was strengthened by means of modern education, practical training and exchange of good practices – 78 milk producers and processors were trained. For the purposes of training a special hall was repaired and furnished in the premises of Tran municipality;
- The dairy production of the cross-border area as a healthy organic food was promoted. A training manual was developed, promotional materials were produced and distributed and project website was developed: http://ecomilk-208.org/
- The promotion of the establishment of successful and long-lasting cooperation/partnership models among milk producers and milk processors in the cross-border area with the involvement of the scientific sector was supported. Two scientific conferences accompanied the main cross-border events;
- Joint traditional cross-border events for promotion dairy production were carried out and pronounced traditional - Milk Fest and Cheese Fair, which contributed to promoting of the region as tourist destination;
- First two steps for establishment of a cross-border dairy cluster were undertaken;
- Traditional cuisine and crafts were promoted and the revival of unique customs, celebrations &cultural exchange stimulated.

The project was successfully completed in January 2014.

The Programme is co-funded by the European Union.