



This project is financed by the European Union

“Preparation for Implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans”

Fourth Meeting of the Stakeholder’s Group of cross-border region “Prespa”

Report

May 28th, Carev Dvor, near Resen, Macedonia

May 2013

The aim of the meeting was to review the activities of the Baseline study and Strategic Framework for the cross-border region of “Prespa”. Furthermore, the Stakeholder group had an opportunity to discuss and propose three priority projects for which project proposals will be prepared.

The overall aim of the 4th Stakeholder group meeting was to bring to a conclusion the working meetings of the participants in the Stakeholder’s group for the cross-border region of “Prespa” by finalizing the Baseline Study and Strategic Framework and endorsing the priority projects within the project: “Preparation for Implementation of Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkan”.

On the meeting, the participants endorsed the following changes to the Baseline Study and Strategic Framework:

Priority area: Agriculture

Adding Objective 3, strategic goal 1

- Adding new agro-technological measures in the cross-border region of “Prespa”
- Opening Center for modern technologies for agriculture
- Monitoring and research
- Introduction and improvement of systems for signalization and prognosis (damaging viruses, pests...)
- Education
- Support for cooperation / incorporation of farmers
- Creating and improving the implementing studies for climate change
- Networking among institutions and farmers-producers.

Objective 2, strategic goal 3

- Active support for small business for collection and cultivation of herbs.

Priority Area: Environment

Strategic objective 1, Strategic goal 2

- Educational programme for increasing of the public awareness for protection and care of the environment

Strategic goal 2

- Implementing biodegradable systems for treatment of waste water

It was suggested that the title of strategic goal 1 is changed from Agriculture to Agriculture and livestock.

Priority Area: Economic Development and Tourism

Strategic Goal 1

- ... from the interested stakeholders
- ... with regard to writing, applying and implementing projects
- The idea of this objective is not very clear, how these business networks will function and which will be the main reason of their creation/their main activity.

Activities

Objective 2, strategic goal 2

Activity 1: Identification and branding of regional authentic and common values and services for the development of regional touristic production and creation of common database.

Objective 3, strategic goal 3

- Activity 1: Creation of 2 info-centers (in Albania and Macedonia each)
- Activity 2: Training of people involved in tourism and catering industry
- Activity 3: Who to support the citizens and tourist? How? (idea: micro crediting)

Objective 4: Improvement of tourist infrastructure

Activity 1: Categorization of private accommodation capacities in the region

Activity 2: Improvement of touristic offer

Priority Area: Social Cohesion

Strategic goal 1

Improvement of, and creation of social care services through development of specific programmes, appropriate mechanisms and capacity building of respective staff.

Objective 1, strategic goal 1

Activity 10: Creation of 2 lobby groups (Albania and Macedonia each) with the aim of opening/creating new social care centers (offering missing services) and opening new branches in Universities in order to have educated staff to offer their services

Priority Area: Regional Infrastructure

- Reconstruction and improvement of access roads to the workable/agricultural land

Priority Area: Energy Efficiency

- Activities to increase the sensibility of the business sector for using the solar panels in the early-vegetable production capacities and in livestock production
- Feasibility study for treatment of atmospheric waters to be treated to the level of technical water
- Use of organic waste for production of electricity

The above mentioned changes were endorsed by the Stakeholder group and they will enter in the final version of the Baseline Study and Strategic Framework.

In the second part of the meeting the group continued the work on the priority projects. The projects ideas were first proposed during the Stakeholder's group meeting in Mavrovo, Macedonia.

All the project ideas were sent to the Mayors of the municipalities within the cross-border region of "Prespa".

The project outputs, expected results and activities are listed under each project idea as proposed by the participants. The following three project ideas were endorsed by the Stakeholder's group and project proposals will be prepared in the forthcoming period.

Priority Project Ideas

The members of the SHG prioritized the project ideas and they are listed bellow by priority number.

1. Promotion of cultural and traditional tourism in the Prespa cross-border area

- Establishing regional touristic agency for promotion of already made and production of new regional products for tourism
- Development of touristic material
- Establishing network for regional rural tourism – for all legal entities
- Organizing regional cultural manifestations
- Improvement of rural small business (family based) tourism (exchange of experiences, micro-crediting, capacity building for the families who will offer the services)
- Standardization of the touristic capacities
- Study for the potential of the touristic potential of the cross-border region of "Prepsa"
- Geographic Information System (GIS)
- E-store
- Capacity building for maintaining and improving of traditional craftwork
- Training of tourist guides for the cross-border region

Contact persons: Arberesha Vlashi, Valon Kaba, Naume Tashovski, Viola Bogdani, Vladimir Velickovski, Gabriela Milososka, Slavica Georgiev

2. Protection of the natural potential of the "Prespa" cross-border region

- Map for the flora and fauna of the cross-border region “Prespa” for protection, preventive intervention and valorization
- Center for propagation of indigenous plants and herbs
- Protection and forestation of the mountains
- Monitoring system for early detection of fires
- Developing publication and educational material for the biodiversity of the region.
- Creation of eco-corners (info-centers)
- Resting places, zones for observation of eco-activities and specificities in the cross-border Prespa

Contact persons: Paskal Vogli, Ljupco Krstevski, Ilo Malevski

3. Strengthening and social cohesion of women and facilitation of the capacities of women in the “Prespa” cross-border area for the development of agricultural activities and strengthening of rural business

- Building of centers for social infrastructure (centers for self-employment, traditional handcrafts, and social activities like entrepreneurships, various courses, cooking lessons, agro-business..)
- Social centers for children in the rural areas
- Capacity building for developing business plans with accent to the implementation /practice
- Internships
- Language courses for the regional languages (English, Albanian, Macedonian)
- Training center for business development for women
- Museum of women
- Kindergartens in rural areas (institutional and family run)

Contact persons: Arberesha Vlashi, Viola Bogdani, Gabriela Milososka

Agreement on logo of “Prespa” cross-border region

The Stakeholder’s group endorsed one of the logos and proposed amendments.

- The water and mountains are missing in the logo
- We need the story/vision of the designer regarding the logos
- One of the leafs to be brown



Follow up activities

1. The 5th Stakeholder's Group meeting will be held on the 17th September, 2013. The place will be announced in the forthcoming period.
2. Certificates will be prepared for the participants of the capacity building trainings
3. Information on the development of the project proposals will be provided to the Stakeholder's group
4. Logos with changes will be sent for final endorsements
5. Contact persons will be contacted for more details related to the development of project proposals.



This project is financed by the European Union

Realized Programme

Fourth SHG meeting for cross-border region of “Prespa” on

28th May, 2013, in Carev Dvor, near Resen, Macedonia

09:30 – 09:40 Welcome note and introduction of the agenda

09:40 - 10:40 Strategic framework finalization (Part 1)

- Reviewing of the actions for each specific objective, outlined in the Baseline Study

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 Strategic framework finalization (Part 2)

11:30 - 12:30 Presentation of the work and endorsement of the results

12:30– 14:45 Lunch

13:30 – 14:45 Final endorsement of the prioritisation of the projects

14:45 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 16:00 Discussion on preparation for cross-border cooperation within the cross-border region of “Prespa”

1. Decision on contact persons for distribution of information specific to the priority project ideas
2. Information on institutional profiles and developing database for the cross-border region of Prespa
3. Future steps to be taken by the SHG members until September meeting
4. Information for the 5th SHG meeting in September, 2013