

**From:** Project Management Unit for the Cross-border region of “Prespa”

**To:** Stakeholder Group of Cross-border region of “Prespa”

**Subject:** Invitation for the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Stakeholder Group of “Prespa” region

Respected,

It is our pleasure to invite representative of your institution/organization to participate on the next 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Stakeholder Group of the Cross-border region of “Prespa” that will be organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, at the [Hotel Millennium Palace](#) in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia.

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in the South-East Europe is continuing with the activities related to the implementation of the (ABDA) in the Western Balkans countries and has now started, the implementation of EU funded project: “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”.

The project aims at fostering regional cooperation among institutions and stakeholders in the Agriculture and Food sector, as well as to facilitation of the process of balanced territorial development of the Western Balkan countries in the progression towards EU integration.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the networking and cooperation among the public institutions and stakeholders, as well as with other relevant regional bodies in order to accelerate the EU accession process of the WB candidate and potential candidate countries in the field of agriculture and rural development.

The project will involve participation of policymakers in the dialogue process, together with major stakeholders including representatives of local self-governments, civil society, and representatives from business community, NGOs and other civil society groups as well as, academics, experts, and will stimulate a culture of dialogue and discussion on various important agriculture and rural development policy issues and issues on economic development of rural cross-border areas.

Implementation of the action through SWG will emphasize the importance of functional, accountable, transparent and inclusive cooperation between WB countries, where the regional ownership will be guaranteed.

During the project implementation the SWG will promote regional cooperation as a platform, with coordination of the regional structures in the four target cross-border areas (“Drina-Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra”), through facilitation of capacity building process, as well as dissemination of knowledge and information on key economic developmental issues and available funding.



The project activities will also focus on facilitation of the achievement process of the strategic development goals defined in the strategic frameworks and Programmes for economic development of the regions.

This will be done through dissemination of information about the available funding opportunities, as well as support to the stakeholders from the regions in networking, match-making and interactive and participatory facilitation of the process for preparation of project proposals for different Calls for projects especially those within the IPA instruments.

The project will continue to work on building and consolidating capacities and structures within the SWG and selected regions and continuation of fund-raising activities to provide funding for the implementation of the Strategic Development Framework and Economic Development Programmes developed in the selected region within previous projects.

In addition the SWG will initiate performance of baseline analysis and strategic planning and programming of economic development in at least two additional cross-border regions, by facilitation the networking process in the region through various dialogue and networking events.

The main topics at the meeting will be:

- Familiarization with the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase on ABDA project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration” - implementation and future activities related to the project :
- Discussion on possible support on "People to People" actions in the "Prespa" region
- Discussion about project proposals for Integrated Economic Development and role of “Prespa” Project Management Unit
- Discussion about nomination on SHG members (affirmation of current members and involvement of new members)

Please be informed that the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Stakeholder Group of Cross-border region of “Prespa” will take place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, at the [Hotel Millennium Palace](#) in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to participate on this event.

In addition, please find enclosed the proposed programme and additional information related to the project.

Looking forward meeting you in Ohrid,

Sincerely,

Mr. Damjan Surlevski, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region  
Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

