



PRESPA
CROSS-BORDER REGION

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for
the Cross-border Region of “Prespa”

June 23rd, 2015
Hotel Millennium Palace, Ohrid
Republic of Macedonia



Participants in the meeting:

The structure of participants in the 10th SHG meeting included 24 members and new appointed SHG in Prespa Region. The meeting was organized and facilitated by the staff of the Project Management Unit with the assistance of the President and Vice President of the SHG for the Prespa Cross – border Region.

The full list of participants' contacts and details can be found at:

ANNEX 1: Participants list of 10th Prespa SHG MEETING 23.06.2015

ANNEX 2: SCAN Participants list of 10th Prespa SHG MEETING 23.06.2015

ANNEX 3: PPP -EC SWG ABDA 4 Project Presentation

Program of the meeting:

10th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-border Region of “Prespa”

10:30 – 11:00 Arrival of the participants and welcome gathering

11:00 – 11:10 Welcome speech

Mr. Goran Mickoski, Deputy Head of TLED Department
 Ms. Viola Bogdani, President of “Prespa” Stakeholder Group
 Mr. Naume Tashovski, Vice-president of Prespa Stakeholder Group

11:10 – 11:15 Introduction to the programme

Mr. Damjan Surlevski, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

11:15 – 11:35 General achievements related to the preparations for implementation of ABDA in the WB countries

Ms. Irena Dzimrevska, SWG Head of Operations

11:35 – 12:00 Presentation of the project on ABDA implementation – 3rd phase. Main outputs, project activities, milestones and general timeframe

Ms. Irena Dzimrevska, SWG Head of Operations

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 – 13:00 Future activities related to implementation of ABDA in Prespa cross-border region - Discussion on possible support on "People to People" actions in the "Prespa" region

Mr. Damjan Surlevski, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

12:40 – 13:00 Discussion about project proposals for Integrated Economic Development and role of “Prespa” Project Management Unit

Mr. Damjan Surlevski, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region



13:00 – 13:30 Discussion about nomination on SHG members (affirmation of current members and involvement of new members)
 Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

13:30 – 14:00 Conclusions and future activities

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 Departure

Minutes of the meeting

The Regional Manager of the “Prespa” Cross border Region Mr. Damjan Surlevski held a welcome speech and thanked all the participants for their presence and wished a fruitful collaboration among the stakeholders.

Mrs. Viola Bogdani, President of the stakeholders group for "Prespa" Region and Mr. Naume Tashovski, Vice President of stakeholders group for “Prespa” Region, welcomed all the participants and stressed the importance of the establishment and consolidation of a stable stakeholders group for "Prespa" Region, and the extension of such cooperation for “Prespa” Region during the 3rd phase

Then on behalf of the Municipality of Ohrid, Mr. Goran Mickoski, emphasized the great value that these meetings have had during the 2nd phase, especially in the framework of cooperation with different partners for the implementation of "People to People" activities. He expressed his pleasure of being involved in such important activities for the region and also his optimism and maximum support by the Municipality of Ohrid for the future.

Mr. Damjan Surlevski presented in details the program of the meeting focusing on each session and the issues to be discussed.

Session 1

General achievements related to the preparations for implementation of ABDA in the WB countries

The session began with the presentation of Ms. Irena Dzimrevska, SWG Head of Operations, who thanked the group for the active participation, and gave an overview of the implementation of the second phase of ABDA project focusing on the performed activities. Thus, the participants were informed on the progress and actions taken, their importance for the region, the involvement of stakeholders group



as well as financial opportunities and support through P2P program. She also presented the conducted activities on capacity building and the implementation of grand schemes mainly focused on Drina-Tara and Drina – Sava Regions.

Part of the presentation was also focused on promotion activities for the Region such as "People to People" activities and the promotion of the region on the Euregia Fair in Germany.

During this session it was also conducted a short presentation on the functioning of the Project Management Unit, its structure and its supportive role for the Prespa stakeholders group.

Session 2

Presentation of the project on ABDA implementation – 3rd phase. Main outputs, project activities, milestones and general timeframe

During this session Ms. Irena Dzimrevska elaborated the activities and made a presentation of the main objectives and activities of the project "Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of the Western Balkan countries in the EU integration process".

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

The main 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 countries and potential candidate countries in the field of agriculture and rural development. During the presentation it was also described the general approach of the project that is capacity building of stakeholders and support for the preparation of applications for calls for proposals. Other mentioned milestones were the establishment of short value chains, lack of grants during the third phase, analysis of the situation in 3 additional Cross – border Regions as well as the SWG support on political dialog among the relevant institutions. Thus, in addition to her presentation Ms. Dzimrevska made a detailed description of the planned activities of the project.

At the end of the presentation, once again it was emphasized the role of the Project Management Unit on facilitation of the project ideas and initiatives from the SHG based on the ABD approach, targeting potential donors, management of activities in the Cross –border Region and the development of info database and knowledge sharing on the existing supporting instruments available for the SHG members.



In various discussions conducted during this session it was stressed the importance of cooperation among the members of the group to exchange information and ideas in order to attract more funds.

It was also emphasized that the group internally should set criteria to measure the success of the joint work among the SHG members and the Project Management Unit should have a facilitator role in this activity.

During this session it was discussed about the new territorial administrative changes in Albania by emphasizing the involvement of the new appointed representatives of the institutions within the stakeholders group.

Participants in the meeting highlighted the importance of cooperation in applying for various project proposals on CBC programs, promoting partnership, capacity building, organization of round tables as well as the organization of meetings with potential partners for the development of ideas for applications. They requested from the Project Management Unit to collaborate with group members by suggesting the elaboration of a database regarding the implemented projects in the region in order not to repeat the same projects and to inform different actors on new project proposals.

At the end of the session it was concluded that the Project Management Unit should support ideas and facilitate initiatives in the region in the implementation of new joint projects.

New territorial and administrative changes in Albania and the expansion of new structures will engage the Project Management Unit to contact the mayors in order to elaborate the work of the SHG and to establish baseline for new partnerships.

SWG will also provide the necessary linkages on political level which is realized annually at ministerial level and continue with lobbying activities for obtaining additional funds for implementation of the ABDA approach in "Prespa" region.

Session 3

Future activities related to implementation of ABDA in Prespa cross-border region - Discussion on possible support on "People to People" actions in the "Prespa" region

At the beginning of this session Mr.Damjan Surlevski made a presentation of established contacts with partners and potential donors operating in the region focusing on the opportunities and concrete ideas for future possible activities.

He introduced the idea of the organization of Wine and cheese festival in Ohrid jointly with other active donors in the region. Also it was mentioned the Galicica cycling tour which was organized on the Macedonian side of "Prespa" region and the idea next year to be organized as multi-country regional event. Then, Mr.Damjan



Surlevski invited participants in an open discussion about possible support of the "People to People" program.

In discussions performed on the third session members of the stakeholders group stressed that People to People program I very useful tool are that the idea of Galicica cycling tour is a good opportunity to promote cross-border area, and should be extended with involvement of Albanian partners too. Besides the cycling tour it was suggested that hiking tours are extremely popular and could be promoted on regional level.

It was also stressed the importance of developing joint tour packages with Macedonian and Albanian tour operators by facilitating the linkages between them. Thus, it was suggested after the touristic session in the region ends, working group to be established among the SHG members operating in the tourism sector and private tour operators from both sides of the region interested to sell and promote the touristic offer of the region. Main result of this working group should be preparation of multiday touristic packages that will cover all attractive elements from the both sides of the "Prespa" region. After the creation of such joint tour packages it was also suggested to organize meetings with mayors in the region and possible donor's active in the cross-border region in order to introduce the results and needs and some of the activities to be supported by them.

At the end of the discussion it was suggested that such ideas should not be considered for support only through the "People to People" program, but also this ideas could be even developed into larger projects that can be applied on other programs such as IPA CBC programme.

Session 4

Discussion about nomination on SHG members (affirmation of current members and involvement of new members)

During these session Ms. Etleva Thimo emphasized the importance of SHG of Prespa region and the concrete ideas for the development of joint initiatives for partnership, and afterwards invited the participants in an open discussion about the affirmation of current members and involvement of new members.

During the discussion it was suggested to include more members from the business sector. It was also suggested that through an electronic survey to check the interest of tour operators to be actively involved in the region. It was proposed that members of the stakeholder group can communicate with the PMU by suggesting other potential actors that can become part of the group. Also after the new administrative territorial division other municipality representatives can be significant potential members.



Session 5

Conclusions and future activities

In the last session there were drawn the following conclusions:

- PMU office and SWG will serve as an information point where members of the group (SHG) will obtain the necessary information on new calls for proposals and programs. PMU will support the preparation of project applications and will provide the information on possible partners for CBC program;
- “Prespa” PMU will cooperate with the stakeholders group for the creation of a database regarding the implemented projects in the region in order not to repeat the same projects and to inform various stakeholders interested in project proposals.
- “Prespa” PMU will cooperate with the stakeholders group for the creation of a database regarding all events and manifestations that are organized in the region. The main goal is each member to be familiarized with the events and possibility of extending them from local to regional level and higher involvement of the SHG members on this events;
- “Prespa” PMU will also facilitate contacts and meetings with business entities and tour operators in order to find common goals and to create integrated tour packages for the region.
- If possible, additional capacity building activities for drafting projects and project cycle management, should be planned and organized for the SHG members;
- PMU will continue to support the coordination of potential activities (Galicica - Prespa cycling and hiking tours, Integrated tour packages, Wine and cheese festival, Prespa Apple Harvest Festival) and other events that can be supported by the "People to people " program;
- PMU office will contact the new structures in the Albanian municipalities that will be established after the new territorial administrative division and their representatives will be invited to attend SHG meetings in order to be introduced with the work done in Prespa region;
- Detailed Portfolio of the work and realized activities of the “Prespa” SHG to be prepared, and in the future this document should be communicated with the newly appointed members, donors and other relevant bodies interested to support the work of the SHG;



- PMU will send portfolio form to each member individually and should be filled with information related to implemented projects, planned activities and active field of interest of each SHG member. This will speed up the process of idea matching and establishing partnerships for the future project calls;
- In collaboration with members of the stakeholders group, new potential stakeholders will be identified (preferably NGO's working in the tourism or sustainable business development sectors), while the members that have been inactive for a longer period, or have changed their positions will not be contacted in the future or will be asked for appropriate replacement from the relevant organization/institution.

Prepared by:

Etleva Thimo

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Prespa Cross Border Region

