



Minutes from the Seventh Meeting of the Stakeholders' Group for the Cross-border Region of "Prespa"

02 June 2014

Restorant "Aleksandar"
Zaroshke, Liqenas. Republika e Shqiperise

1. Participants in the meeting:

Structure of participants in the 7th SHG meeting included about 35 members and new appointed SHG as a new potential for the SHG Prespa region. The meeting was organized by the staff of the Project Management Unit.

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

ANNEX 1: Participants list of 7th Prespa SHG MEETING 02/06/2014

ANNEX 2: SCAN Participants list of 7th Prespa SHG MEETING 02/06/2014

2. The program of the meeting:

10:00 to 10:30 **Arrival of participants and the meeting of welcoming**

10:30 to 10:40 **Welcome Speech**

Mr. Boban Ilic, SWG Secretary General (TB)

Representatives from the host municipality Ligenas Pustec

10:40 to 11:30 **Access to integrated economic development within ABDA**

Involvement in the process of SHG

Updates and Results of calls for projects in the Drina Tara Sava and Drina

Irena Dzimrevska ABDA Project Manager

11:30 to 12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00 to 13:00 **Presentation and discussion on the action of ABDA "People to People"**

Questions and answers about the application process

Partnerships and communication between potential partners

Mrs.. Ljiljana Tanevska, Regional Coordinator for Transboundary Prespa Region

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Lunch**

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **The Stakeholders group**

Presentation of the SHG and nominations

Elections for President and Vice. President of the SHG

Mrs.. Ljiljana Tanevska, Regional Coordinator for Transboundary Prespa Region

15:30 to 16:00 **Conclusions of the meeting**

16:00 to 16:30 **Departure**

3. Minutes of the meeting

The meeting opened with the welcoming speech given by the Regional Coordinator for the transboundary region "Prespa" Ms. Ljiljana Tanevska, which warmly welcomed the participants (actors) in this new appointment and wished a fruitful collaboration with all stakeholders within the ABDA program 's framework of activities. Simultaneously, Mrs. Tanevska informed participants on the agenda items, and presented them with the new staff of the Project Management Unit, Mr. Eglon Kondura.

Then Mr, Ilo Malevski , representative of the hosting commune and one of the members of the group of actors within SHG , welcomed the participants and expressed his confidence that the project will be fruitful and have an extraordinary impact for the region. He also offered the maximum readiness of the municipality he represents for collaboration in the project ABDA.

Session 1

Access to integrated economic development approach within the ABDA

Involvement in the process of SHG

Updates and Results of calls for projects in the Drina Tara and Drina Sava

Ms. Ljilana Tanevska made a short presentation of the program ABDA although a detailed presentation of this program was made at the 6th meeting, Mrs. Tanevska stressed importance of the not representations of the fact that we were approaching the comp actors who took part for the first time in SHG meetings. Ms.Tanevska stressed the importance of networking and collaboration between stakeholders in rural communities of the state of Macedonia and Albania, specifically in the areas of Ohrid, Resen and Korca. The focus of this networking and collaboration activities are related to increasing the competitiveness of trans boundary region by strengthening horizontal ties between the two countries actors in the border region of Prespa. Joint activities in key sectors such as Rural Development: services, agricultural products and agri-tourism- highlighting the tradition. These elements form the basis of Prespa Competitiveness and rural development. Then a presentation of the situation in the regions Drina Tara and Drina Sava was shared with the SHG members, considering the calls for grants concerning improvements in production technologies, branding their products as well as agricultural Tourism. Results achieved in the regions Drina Tara and Drina Sava are the testing of the grant scheme. Currently for regions Drina Tara and Drina Sava there is a review of the strategy in ABDA, due to the state of emergency in these areas due to flooding. The applications received in the framework of the grant scheme were evaluated by the evaluation committee in Belgrade on 26.05.2014. The committee was structured from the representatives from SWG team and from official representatives of the ministries and a SWG delegates. After the commission the team of ABDA went on the field in the regions to check the situation with floods. The

situation in both of the regions was bad and there are reported damages in the agricultural arable areas, housing and agriculture in general. Mrs. Tanevska stressed that the discussions and the process of identification and evaluation of ideas for development projects in the Prespa region, needs to be intensified with the aim of finalizing the preparatory phase of ABDA.

Questions and discussion about the first session

- Vangjush Dishnica (Korce County)

Q1. At the beginning of the project was an agreement between the 37 municipalities , while today he see on the meeting only two of them. Shall we have a permanent commission?

Q2. Are the transportation costs going to be reimbursed for the participants in these meetings? He also suggested that more practical trainings and exchanges of experiences between stakeholders and regions are needed.

Ljiljana Tanevska

A1. At each meeting, which is organized municipalities have been invited. In future plan it is priority to re-contacting all local units who signed the memorandum of understanding related to the ABDA in "Prespa". Also today is supposed to be elected President and Vice / President of SHG, then we will have a more solid structure in the future.

Today we have the pleasure of the participation of the Korca Regional Council Vice/Mayor

A2. Regarding payment of transportation costs, it is not forecasted, taking into consideration that the target of this project will be in favor of SHG and in this sense the SHG members should be contributing too. However there is a DSA (daily payment) for the SHG and participants.

Training needs should come only from SHG, also in the future we will circulate a form where you can fill with your proposals regarding to the training needs.

- Naum Tashovski (Resen Municipality) Discussion

Draws attention to the insufficient media coverage of the activities of SWG. Also requires reports regarding SWG achievements in order to have the opportunity to submit to the Municipal Council. Suggests having more representation of scientific institutions. Mr. Tashovski believes that after the election of President and Vice/President of SHG will facilitate the work. In Resen municipality LAG (local action group) is created which is now formalized. He thinks that actors should be networked with a clearer focus. Existing structures should also be trained related to applications for grants. Target focus should be agriculture and tourism.

- Viola Bogdani (Dorcas AID) Discussion

Draws attention to a better flow of information in order to awaken the interest of the municipalities which are not very active in this process. Welcomes the initiative taken from the Project Management Unit of re-contacting all municipalities involved. Suggests that each of the new members participating in the meeting to present themselves in order that

those actors within the group (SHG) to know better each other profiles.

- Roland Mecaj (ATTC Korce) Discussion

Welcomes the participants and mission of SWG. Provides all the institution's readiness to support implementation represents the goals of the project. Stresses the importance and role that ATTC can play as a scientific institution in connection with the mission and objectives of ABDA. Emphasize the importance of formalization and institutionalization of SHG.

- Orieta Glozheni (DMO) Discussion

Seeing tourism sector as a value chain, thinks that within this project should be a better focus toward the business, certainly that the role of other stakeholders is important and facilitator. We should have the view to see concrete possibilities for joint initiatives. For example: Creating a joint tourist product. Airport of Ohrid and Ohrid-Pogradec ferry that is going to be introduced soon are very good opportunities of organizing joint Tourist packages. Joint training between tow tour operators groups Macedonian and Albanian. A combined regional calendar of activities, eg: in Korca is a feast of beer and the next day is another fest in Ohrid.

- Aleksandar Jovanovski (EDEN Tourism Cluster) Discussion

Our Association in partnership with the Municipality of Pogradec won a project whose activities will be extended in both regions. In this final phase project was not funded by the donor because of the Pogradec Municipality in the last moment couldn't find financial opportunities to give its part to contribute to this project. Stress the fact that municipalities do not have to see their development through their urbanizing process, but through activities which promote the values and traditions of the region.

- Kristaq Shore (TWO) Discussion

Stress the fact that care should be taken when talking about tourism. Focus should always keep in environmental preservation because without a sustainable environmental development we can't pretend a sustainable rural development. Needs to be a deepened further thought and concrete activities that have real direct impact on economic development, particularly in the Liqenas commune, which is also one of the poorest communities in the region.

- Ivan Cekic (ECO DROME) Discussion

Gives the example of a common activity such as the celebration of the Apple Day. Proves that there was some collaboration with partners from the region of Pogradec and the Institute of Organic Agriculture in Durres. The organization is focused on the promotion of indigenous products and organic food promotion. Expressed readiness and noted that are opened to collaborate with partners form the region.

- Tom Pikuli (Agrinet) Discussion

Proves that it has entered into the phase of some concrete actions for cooperation with several partners from Macedonia concerning P2P call. Has taken a call from Resen Municipality in connection with an activity that has to do with the organization of the feast of Apple in Resen and responded positively to this invitation. Also is looking for the realization of another activity that has to do with the implementing of an exchange of experience between apple producers in the region of Korca and Resen.

Ljiljana Tanevska (Discussion). Better media coverage in the future will be taken into consideration. In terms of scientific institutions we honored of having today for the first time the ATTC representative in Korca. In the future meetings will be invited representatives of Universities.

We are always open for the inclusion of new stakeholders.

We are in a phase of the collection of promotional material from the respective regions in both countries. Stressed that the Macedonian side is faster in the process and are working with the Albanian side to finish the collection of materials.

In terms of concrete project proposals they should come only and only from SHG. The program "People to People" is a good opportunity to materialize SHG ideas for events, seminars, workshops, manifestations.

Regarding to the trainings topics and needs assessments for capacity building, proposals must come from SHG and Project Management Unit will consider all carefully. PMU will also establish a contact with commission that leads the initiative for registration of the lake basins in UNESCO.

Session 2

Discussion and presentation of the criteria on the frame of the activities of "people to people" in the region "Prespa"

Answer questions about the application process

Partnerships and communication among stakeholders

In this session from Ms. Tanevska made a presentation of the program "People to People" and also a presentation of the call for proposal format for "People to People". Mrs. Tanevska invited delegates to be creative and benefit from this meeting in order to identify potential partners that they can cooperate to have events better organized.

Also gave a presentation of the "People to People Annexes of application as:

Annex 1: Budget format

Anex2: Evaluation criteria and selection of project proposals.

Summary of the questions and answers session regarding to the program "People to People"

Q1. What is the minimum and maximum limit of the budget applied to a project proposal?

A1. Do not have an answer for the budget limit, but examples from project proposals in Drina Tara and Drina Sava, are that funds were with amounts of 2000 - 3000 Euro.

Q2. When is the deadline of delivering the applications?

A2. There are not deadline for submission of applications but applications have to be send as soon as possible.

Q3. Given that the budget is small, is it possible that this budget to serve as a complementary part of another activity?

A3. YES

Q4. Is it possible that an applicant can apply in more than one project?

A4. Yes it is legible to apply for more than one project but you should always refer to the criteria and make sure not to have overlap.

Q5. Can be applied to technical trainings for farmers from the both border sides and for various technical publications?

A5. If these publications are part of the activity, then Yes.

Session 3

Presentation of the SHG and nomination so far Elections for President and Vice/ President of the SHG

During the session, was presented an information about the presence of each of the actors in each of the 7 SHG meetings organized.

Then it was passed at the session of the leadership selection of SHG (president and vice / president). After discussions regarding the voting process and the criteria that individuals must meet to be selected for these functions, final decisions with consensus was brought up. For President was proposed Mrs. Viola Bogdani (Dorcas AID) and for Vice / President Mr. Naum Tashovski (Resen Municipality)

Proposals were in open ballot and voted by a majority of participants!

The new President of the SHG Prespa is Viola Bogdani

The Vice President of the SHG Prespa is Naume Tashovski.

Session 4

Conclusions and closure of the meeting

Conclusions from the meeting are summarized by RC of CBR Prespa Ms. Ljiljana Tanevska:

- Project Office will continue its support the SHG related to the process of application within the program “People to People”
- Project Office will serve as a point of support for SHG
- SHG will include more members from the private sector in the region
- SHG will be informed on time about the progress of ABDA approvals in EC
- More media coverage will be for future activities within the ABDA SWG program.
- All actors of SHG will be announced with the next 8th meeting of the SHG

Prepared by:

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