



PRESPA
CROSS-BORDER REGION

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for
the Cross-Border Region of “Prespa”

March 25th, 2016

**Info Centre of National Park Pelister
Republic of Macedonia**



Participants in the meeting:

The structure of participants in the 12th SHG meeting included 26 participants from Prespa Region. The meeting was organized and facilitated by the staff of the Project Management Unit with the assistance of the Vice President of the Stakeholders Group for the Prespa cross – border region.

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

ANNEX 1: Participants list of 12th Prespa stakeholder group meeting 25.03.2016

ANNEX 2: PPP_Prespa achievement and results October 2015 - March 2016

ANNEX 3: Second ABDA Grant Scheme_Prespa_ENG

Program of the meeting:

12th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Prespa”

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

10:30 – 10:40 Welcome speech

Mr. Pece Cvetanovski - National Park Pelister

Mr. Naume Tashovski – Vice President of the Stakeholders Group

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

10:40 – 10:45 Introduction to the programme

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

10:45 – 11:05 General activities of ABDA implementation in “Prespa” Cross-Border Region (period November 2015 – March 2016)

Visibility and future support of "People to People" actions in "Prespa"

Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator of “Prespa”

11:05 – 11:30 Discussion on “Prespa” SHG Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure

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

Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator of “Prespa” Cross-Border Region

11:30 – 11:50 Coffee Break

11:50 – 12:10 Future activities related to implementation of ABDA in “Prespa” cross-Border region

Establishment of partnerships for upcoming calls for proposal in “Prespa” cross – border region

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

12:10 – 13:30 ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project

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



13:30 – 13:40 Conclusions and future activities

13:40 – 14:40 Lunch break

14:40 – 15:40 Field trip in National Park Pelister

15:40 Departure

Minutes of the meeting

The meeting started with the welcome speech of Mr. Damjan Surlevski, Regional Manager of Prespa cross-border region who thanked the host of the 12th meeting – National Park Pelister, for the warm hospitality and all the participants for their presence and wished a fruitful collaboration with all stakeholders.

On behalf of the National Park Pelister spoke Mr. Pece Cvetanovski who welcomed the participants and expressed his pleasure for the involvement in such important activities in the oldest National Park in the Republic of Macedonia.

Then Mr. Naume Tashovski, Vice President of Stakeholders Group for Prespa Region welcomed all the participants also in the name of the President of the stakeholder group – Ms. Viola Bogdani and stressed the importance of the establishment and future collaboration with all the stakeholders within the ABDA program's framework of activities.

In addition 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 of ABDA implementation in “Prespa” Cross-Border Region (Period October 2015 – March 2016)

The session started with the presentation of Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator for “Prespa” cross-border Region, who thanked the group for the participation, and gave an overview of the performed activities and general achievements of ABDA implementation for the period October 2015 – March 2016.

The presentation was also focused on the progress and details of actions taken, general achievements, organization of meetings with donors operating in “Prespa” cross-border region, information on consultancy support to the stakeholders for preparation of project proposals for different calls as well as details for future organization of People to People activities in Prespa region. The presentation was concluded with open discussion and ideas for future activities in Prespa region.

During the discussions was stressed that the finalization of the database for Prespa implemented projects is of a crucial importance. In addition the database document completed by DMO (Destination Management Organization) NGO will be disseminate with all the stakeholders for additional comments. It was concluded that



Prespa Project Management Unit will continue to cooperate with the stakeholder group for the creation and fulfilment of a database regarding the implemented projects in the region.

Also, Project Management Unit will review the portfolio format and will share it with the stakeholders in order to collect and update the information in the database for implemented projects (Comprehensive projects in various fields) in Prespa Region.

Also, during the discussion for the organization of People to people activities was suggested that for the specific events – “Prespa Business Forum” and “Regional workshop to promote Prespa cross border region as one Tourism Destination”, the potential stakeholder Prespa Marketing Organization should be suggested to participate and also to share the findings documents with all other stakeholders. In addition, stakeholders suggested that additional projects/ideas can be developed with as potential activities that could be supported under People to People program. Regarding the future activities, during the discussion was concluded that Project Management Unit and SWG will continue to serve as an information point where members of the group (SHG) will obtain the necessary information on new calls for proposals and programs. The official active web page and Facebook page for Prespa cross-border region will be updated with relevant information in order to increase the visibility of the work done by the stakeholders. Project Management Unit will continue to support the preparation of applications for different call for proposals and will provide possible partners for active IPA CBC programs in the region and also other active calls for proposals. Also, the PMU will continue the mapping and facilitate the networking between public and private parties interested to apply on different calls.

Session 2

Discussion on “Prespa” Stakeholders Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure

During this session, Mr. Damjan Surlevski asked the participants for a more detailed review of Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure with comments and concrete suggestions. So, looking at the importance of this document he went through the concrete suggestions of the stakeholders and opened the discussion for the review of several articles in the document. Regarding the article 3 for the appointment and structure of the stakeholder group the discussion was focused on the responsibility of the chairperson. So, it was suggested from stakeholders that in this phase no one of them can take this responsibility and the Project Management Unit should continue to organize the stakeholder group meetings. In addition the discussion was focused mainly on the article number ten and twelve. So, regarding the point 2 in the article 10: “The members of the SHG shall treat the work of the body as confidential” was suggested that this sentence should be removed or modified in order to give the mandate to specific members to share related information after the approval of the Stakeholder Group. Regarding the article 12 was agreed that the part of declaration of impartiality and code of conduct should be removed from the document and added to the official nomination form. So, the nomination form will also be reviewed and updated with information for the



declaration of impartiality and code of conduct. The final suggestions will be incorporated in the Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure and the document will be shared again with stakeholders and discussed for approval at the next meeting.

Session 3

ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project

The session started with the presentation of Mr. Damjan Surlevski Regional Manager of “Prespa” cross-border Region. The presentation gave an overview of the second ABDA Grant Scheme for Integrated economic development. In addition detailed information were given regarding the main objectives of the Grant Call, eligibility of applicants, timeframe, submission of applications and implementation process, eligible area, draft criteria, eligible economic sectors for support, eligible investments, eligible/non eligible costs, payment schedule and financial scope of the Call. Explanation were given to each topic emphasizing the importance of integrated economic development through facilitation of networking and cooperation among local population, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, small farming sector, tourism service providers and other rural community actors in cross-border regions organizing joint work processes and sharing resources. The session continued with open discussion for suggestions and comments.

The stakeholders highlight that ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project will create a very good opportunity for Prespa region to show the capacities that the region has and also to contribute in the improvement of the integrated economic development of the region. During the active discussion it was suggested that under the eligibility of the applicants regarding public sector, the public enterprises within municipalities should be added as possible and potential eligible applicants for the grant scheme.

In the end of the discussion was concluded that Project management Unit will continue to target, collect and develop actions and ideas which can be supported by grant scheme or People to People program and also the stakeholders will be informed and invited in the open Info Day for the Grant Scheme.

Session 4

Conclusions and future activities

In the last session the following conclusions were drawn:

- Prespa PMU and SWG will continue to serve as an information point where members of the group (SHG) will obtain the necessary information on new calls for proposals and programs. They will continue to support the preparation of applications for different call for proposals and will provide possible partners for active IPA CBC programs in the region and other open calls;



- The official active web page and Facebook page for Prespa cross-border region will be updated with relevant information in order to increase the visibility of the work done by the stakeholders. The Stakeholders should also send relevant information to the PMU in order to disseminate and increase awareness for the implemented actions and activities within the region;
- Project management unit will continue to cooperate with the stakeholders group for the creation of a database regarding the implemented projects in the region. It will also disseminate the database finalized by DMO (Destination Management Organization) NGO to all stakeholders for additional comments and improvements;
- Project Management Unit will review the portfolio format and will share it with the stakeholders in order to collect and update the information in the database for project implemented (Comprehensive projects in various fields) in Prespa Region.
- “Prespa” Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure will be reviewed with comments added by the stakeholder regarding articles 3 (three), 10 (ten) and 12 (twelve). The final document will be shared with stakeholders and approved on the next meeting;
- Prespa PMU in collaboration with the members of the stakeholders group will target, collect and develop additional actions and ideas which can be supported by grant scheme or under People to People program in Prespa cross-border region;
- ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project will create a very good opportunity for Prespa region to show the capacities that the region has and also to contribute in the improvement of the integrated economic development of Prespa region;
- It was suggested that the Public enterprises within the municipalities should be added as possible and potential eligible applicants for the Grant Scheme;
- Stakeholders will be informed and invited to participate on the Info Days for the Grant Scheme.

Prepared by:

Etleva Thimo

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