



Minutes of the 14th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Prespa”

September 23rd, 2016

Restaurant Galaxy, Pretor

Republic of Macedonia



Participants in the meeting:

The structure of participants in the 14th SHG meeting included 20 participants from Prespa Region. The meeting was organized and facilitated by the staff of the Project Management Unit with the assistance of the President and 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 14th Prespa stakeholder group meeting 23.09.2016

ANNEX 2: PPP_Prespa achievement and results June 2016 – September 2016

Program of the meeting:

14th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Prespa”

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

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome speech

Mr. Gjoko Strezovski, Mayor of the Municipality of Resen

Mr. Naume Tashovski, Vice President of SHG “Prespa” Cross-border Region

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

10:45 – 10:50 Introduction to the programme

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

10:50 – 11:30 General activities of ABDA implementation in “Prespa” Cross-border Region (period June 2016 – September 2016)

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

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

11:30 – 11:40 Discussion on “Prespa” SHG Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure

Discussion and adoption of the Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure

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

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region



11:40 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 12:40 Informative session on the outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project and possibilities for Second call
Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Prespa” Cross-border Region
Mr. Darko Buzarovski, Field Officer of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

12:40 – 13:00 Conclusions and future activities

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 Departure

Minutes of the meeting

The meeting started with the welcome speech by Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator of Prespa cross-border region, who thanked the host of the 14th meeting – Municipality of Resen, for the warm hospitality and all the participants for their presence, and wished a fruitful collaboration with all stakeholders.

On behalf of the Municipality of Resen spoke the Mayor Mr. Gjoko Strezovski, who welcomed the participants and expressed his pleasure for the involvement of Resen Municipality in such important activities in the cross-border region. He expressed his gratitude for the fruitful cooperation on the activities organized so far in Resen municipality, under the People to People program. Also, he emphasized the great value of such activities and the importance of cross-border cooperation for the ABD Grant Scheme. He concluded, expressing his optimism and maximum support for the future cooperation.

Then Mr. Naume Tashovski, Vice President of stakeholders group for the Prespa region, welcomed all the participants and stressed the importance of these meetings, wishing for a fruitful collaboration with all stakeholders.

In addition, Ms. Bojana Jovanovska presented in details the program of the meeting, focusing on each session and the issues to be discussed.

Session 1

General activities of ABDA implementation in “Prespa” Cross-border Region (period June 2016 – September 2016) Visibility and support of "People to People" actions in "Prespa" region

The session started with the presentation of Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator for “Prespa” cross-border region, who gave an overview of the performed activities and general achievements of ABDA implementation for the period June 2016 – September 2016.



The presentation was also focused on the progress and details of actions taken in the last three months, general achievements and information on consultancy support to the stakeholders for preparation of project proposals for different calls, as well as details for the future organization of People to People activities in the Prespa region. The presentation was concluded with an open discussion and ideas for future activities in the Prespa region.

During the open discussion Mr. Naume Tashovski gave a general information for the organization of the preapproved People-to-People event of “Prespa Business Forum”. This activity is planned to be organized in partnership with Pustec, Korca and Resen municipality, as a finalization of the cooperation memorandum signed by the respective municipalities. The Forum will be a major business event in the cross-border region of Prespa, bringing together representatives from the local authorities, top business leaders from the region and other relevant stakeholders. The agenda of the event will contain plenary sessions, presentations based on situation analysis, open discussions suggestions and remarks which could lead to the future cooperation of the businesses and also a study tour to several successful businesses in the region.

Additional information was shared from Mr. Arian Merolli for the organization of the “Wine Fest” event in Pogradec, planned to be organized in the third week of December 2016. This event has been organized for many years by the municipality of Pogradec and has become a tradition promoting the cultural values, traditions and customs of Pogradec. The event was primarily discussed at the previous SHG meeting in Pogradec, and for the current meeting the event was presented in more details regarding the planned activities, for which the members of the SHG agreed upon. Therefore, it has been agreed that the Municipality of Pogradec will send the application for the “Wine Fest” in the respective deadline, so that it can be supported within the People-to People program.

Regarding the preapproved People to People activity “Korca Apple Fest”, it was announced that the event will be organized in partnership with Agrinet NGO, Resen and Korca Municipalities on 2nd of October, 2016 in Dvoran village, Korca, Albania. All the stakeholders were invited to actively participate in the event.

Regarding future activities, the president of the NGO Muzicka Mladina, Mr. Ljupco Krstevski, suggested the organization of a workshop about networking of interested subjects on waste management, field demonstration and exchange of experiences between interest parties in the cross-border region. In addition, the Directory of agriculture in the Korca region suggested, as a possible event, organization of a joint workshop and a study tour to exchange experience about the establishment and operation of agriculture cooperatives in the Prespa region. Also, the “Prespa Fish Day” was suggested as another potential activity to be supported under People-to-People by the Resen Municipality.

It was concluded that the Project Management Unit will closely cooperate with the stakeholders for further development of the projects/ideas and organization of the



suggested potential activities that could be supported under the People to People program.

In addition, the Head of project's sector in the Municipality of Pogradec and the Led Advisor of Resen Municipality emphasized the importance of cross-border cooperation on the transboundary biosphere reserve for Ohrid - Prespa Watershed for the Prespa region. During the discussion, it was suggested that the stakeholder group can undertake actions to initiate meetings in order to reactivate the structures in the region so that it will contribute to the sustainable development of the cross-border region.

The presentation also included information regarding the opening of the IPA II Cross Border Cooperation Programme Macedonia-Albania 2014-2020 - First Call for Proposals, as well as dates and locations for the planned info sessions for the call in the Prespa region.

It was concluded that the 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, Facebook page for Prespa cross-border region and the new web page for ABDA 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.

The 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, emphasizing the new open IPA II Cross Border Cooperation Programme Macedonia-Albania 2014-2020 - First Call for Proposals. Also, the PMU will continue the mapping and facilitate the networking between public and private parties interested to apply on this call and to other different calls.

Session 2

Discussion and adoption of "Prespa" Stakeholders Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure

During this session, Ms. Bojana Jovanovska briefly presented the changes made in the document, as suggested by the stakeholders at their last meeting - 13th Stakeholder Group meeting. As previously agreed the Project Management Unit incorporated the final suggestions in the Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure and shared the document with the stakeholders for any further suggestions. During the open discussion it was announced that no comments or suggestions were sent to the Project Management Unit. Following the procedures for the approval of "Prespa" Stakeholders Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure



all the stakeholder agreed on the changes made and officially adopted the document.

Session 3

Informative session on the outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project and possibilities for Second call

The session started with the presentation of Mr. Darko Buzarovski, Field Officer of the “Prespa” cross-border region. The presentation gave an overview of the general achievements of the first call related to ABD Grant Scheme in all four regions and in particular in Prespa cross-border region.

Regarding the information from the process evaluation so far, it was stated that a possible second call for the Grant Scheme will be opened for Prespa and Shara region. In terms of that, preparation for field activities, such as meetings and visibility actions, partnership meetings and info days will be organized for the new ABD Grant Scheme second call. In addition, the Project Management Unit will actively organize these field activities in close cooperation with the stakeholders, in order to support and encourage applications from possible potential applicants in the cross-border region.

During the open discussion it was emphasized the great importance and possibilities with the opening of a new call of the ABD Grant Scheme. Also, it was stressed that, in comparison with the regions of Drina-Tara and Drina-Sava, the low number of applications in the Prespa region is also related to the contrastive economical and historical situation in the regions. Also, concrete suggestions were given regarding the lack of partnerships due to the accommodation capacity problems, lack of transport in the region and needs of networking in order to increase capacity building accommodation. The stakeholders were encouraged to develop project/ideas and to be in close contact with the Project Management Unit in case they need any further support. In the end of the discussion it was concluded that the Project management Unit will continue to target, collect and develop actions and ideas which can be supported by the ABD 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 calls for proposals and will provide possible partners for the active IPA CBC programs in the region and other



open calls, especially regarding the open call for IPA II Cross Border Cooperation Programme Macedonia-Albania 2014-2020 - First Call for Proposals;

- The official active web page, Facebook page for the Prespa cross-border region and the new official web page for ABDA will continuously 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;
- Prespa PMU will continue to support the coordination of potential activities (Prespa Business Forum, Wine Festival and Regional workshop to promote Prespa cross-border region as one Tourism Destination) and other events that can be supported by the "People to people " program;
- It was officially announced that “Apple Fest 2016” event will be organized in partnership with Agrinet NGO, Resen and Korca Municipalities on the 2nd of October 2016 in Dvoran village in Korca, Albania. All the stakeholders were invited to actively participate in the event.
- The Project Management Unit will develop additional actions with Resen and Korca Municipality in order to support the organization of the People-to-People activity “Prespa Business Forum”. Also, 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 the Grant scheme or under the People to People program in the Prespa cross-border region;
- The Project Management Unit in close cooperation with stakeholders will facilitate actions to initiate meetings in order to reactivate the structures for the transboundary biosphere reserve for Ohrid - Prespa Watershed in order to contribute in the sustainable development of cross-border the region;
- “Prespa” Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure for the Prespa Cross-border region was officially adopted;
- The new possible second call for the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW program will create a very good opportunity for the Prespa region to demonstrate the capacities that the region has and also to contribute to the improvement of the integrated economic development of the Prespa region;
- The Project Management Unit will actively organize visibility actions and field activities in close cooperation with the stakeholders, in order to support and



encourage applications from possible potential applicants in the cross-border region;

- The Project Management Unit will continue to target, collect and develop actions and ideas which can be supported by the ABD Grant Scheme;
- Stakeholders will be informed and invited to participate on the Info Days and field visibility activities for the ABD Grant Scheme.

Prepared by:

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