

South Eastern Europe



Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



# **“Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”**

**European Union funded project implemented by Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG)**



This project is funded by the European Union

# Achievements and results October 2015 – March 2016



## ***Facilitation of the process of economic development of rural cross - border areas***

- 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of stakeholder group was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, at Restaurant “Vasil”, Gorice Republic of Albania



## ***Implementation of capacity building measures for preparation of relevant projects with adequate quality***

- Regular meetings with SHG members and organizations at PMU-office and also field visit to the SHG premises (Meetings with SHG members)
- Meeting with newly appointed representatives in the Albanian municipalities after the new territorial administration division, in Maliq municipality.
- “Prespa” SHG Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure was reviewed and updated with comments sent by stakeholders.
- Prespa web page is updated with relevant information from the region (<http://prespa.seerural.org/> )
- Prespa facebook page was opened and updated with information (<https://www.facebook.com/Cross-Border-Region-of-Prespa/> ).



- Active web page for Prespa region with all relevant information regarding open calls within IPA II, information related to the region and members of the organizations active in the SHG group in order to find and contact partners easily.
- Direct contact with all stakeholders regarding other open calls (national, local, calls from other donors, etc.) depending on the topic and territorial range.



# ***Share information with SHG about different call for proposals***

- Levizalbania (four stakeholders supported)
- Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Macedonia 2014-2020 (Deadline 22 April 2016)
- Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 (Deadline for applications is 15 April 2016. Two stakeholders supported to find partnership)
- Interreg IPA Programme Greece-Albania 2014-2020 for Strategic Projects (The first Call for Strategic Projects Proposals is open from 12 February 2016 to 16 May 2016)
- INTERREG V B Adriatic - Ionian Programme – ADRION 2014 -2020 (The deadline for the submission of project proposals is 25th March 2016)
- National scheme for Albanian farmers ( Deadline 15 March - 13 April 2016)

# ***Organization of Meetings with the Donors Operating in Prespa cross-border region***

- Meeting with C-B-C Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union in Tirana, Albania;
- Ninth Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE held in Tirana, Albania, 11 – 13 November 2015;
- Continuous mapping and facilitation of networking between public and private parties interested to apply on different calls;



## ***People-to-People actions***

- Second open call opened for Expression of Interest under People to People program on December 2015.
- 7 expression of interest for People to People submitted.
- 5 preapproved People to People activities for Prespa Region:
  - *Prespa Business Forum*
  - *Prespa region as attractive cross-border regional destination*
  - *Tour de Galicica 2016*
  - *Traditional food fair*
  - *Apple Fest*





# ***Discussion for Future actions in Prespa Region***

- Creation of database regarding the implemented projects in Prespa Region.
- Target, collect and develop actions and ideas which can be supported by grant scheme or People to People program.
- Continuous mapping and facilitation of networking between public and private parties interested to apply on different calls.





*Wonderful Prespa Region!*