



## Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Prespa”

**June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Enkelana Hotel, Municipality of Pogradec**

**Republic of Albania**



## Participants in the meeting:

The structure of participants in the 13<sup>th</sup> SHG meeting included 34 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 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 13<sup>th</sup> Prespa stakeholder group meeting 24.06.2016

**ANNEX 2:** PPP\_Prespa achievement and results March 2016 – June 2016

## Program of the meeting:

### 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Avdulla Cano, Vice Mayor, Municipality of Pogradec

Mr. Arian Merolli, Head of Project's Sector Municipality of Pogradec

Ms. Viola Bogdani, President of SHG “Prespa” Cross-border Region

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 – 11:15 General activities of ABDA implementation in “Prespa” Cross-border Region (period March 2016 – June 2016)

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

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

11:15 – 11:30 Discussion on “Prespa” SHG 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

11:30 – 11:50 Coffee Break



11:50 – 12:15 Discussion about 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

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

12:15 – 13:30 ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project

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

Mr. Darko Buzarovski, Field Officer of “Prespa” Cross-border Region

13:30 – 13:40 Conclusions and future activities

13:40 – 15:00 Lunch at the Hotel Enkelana

15:00 Departure

## **Minutes of the meeting**

The meeting started with the welcome speech of Ms. Etleva Thimo, Regional Coordinator of Prespa cross-border region who thanked the host of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting – Municipality of Pogradec, 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 Pogradec spoke the Vice-Mayor Mr. Avdulla Cano, who welcomed the participants and expressed his pleasure for the involvement of Pogradec Municipality in such important activities in the cross-border region. Also he expressed his optimism and maximum support by the Municipality of Pogradec for the future cooperation. In addition, Mr. Arian Merolli, the Head of project’s sector in the Municipality of Pogradec, emphasized the great value of such activities and also the importance of cross-border cooperation in the transboundary biosphere reserve for Ohrid - Prespa Watershed for Prespa region.

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

### **Overview of general activities related to implementation of ABDA in “Prespa” Cross-Border region (March 2016 – June 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 thanked the group for the participation, and gave an overview of the performed activities and general achievements of ABDA implementation for the period March 2016 – June 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 for the organization of People to people activities, it was suggested that for the specific event of “Prespa Business Forum” different partnerships should be developed, for the better organization of the activity. Korca Municipality suggested to postpone the activity for the next year in 2017 and co-organize the event with the Labour Fair. Additional ideas were shared for the proper organization and cooperation with already established groups in Korca and finalization of the event until the end of the year. It was concluded that Resen Municipality will prepare and send the application as the organizer of the event for “Prespa Business Forum”, while Korca Municipality will support the idea as a potential partner of the activity.

Regarding the postponed People to People activity “Regional workshop to promote Prespa cross border region as one Tourism Destination”, the potential stakeholder DMO (Destination Management Organization), suggested to continue with the organization of the event within 2016, more specifically in September 2016, and to connect the organization of the activity in the framework of another project that the organization is implementing.

Regarding the preapproved People to People activity “Apple fest”, it was suggested that potential partnerships can be developed between Agrinet NGO, Ress Group, cooperatives in Resen and Korca Municipality. It was concluded that the Project Management Unit will facilitate the partnerships and cooperation for the organization of the activity.

Also, the Project Management Unit will share again the portfolio format 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 that was prepared by DMO NGO.

Regarding the future activities, the “Festival of Desserts” was suggested as a potential activity to be supported under the People to People program from Maliq Municipality. In addition, further information regarding the organization of the event will be send to the Project Management Unit. Also, the “Wine Festival” was suggested as another potential activity to be supported under People to People,



which is organized each year by the Pogradec Municipality. In addition, the stakeholders suggested that additional projects/ideas can be developed as potential activities that could be supported under the People to People program.

During the discussion 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 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 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 to different calls.

## **Session 2**

### **Discussion and adaption of “Prespa” Stakeholders Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure**

During this session, Mr. Etleva Thimo briefly presented all the changes made in the document, as suggested by the stakeholders at their last meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> stakeholder group meeting, at the Information Centre of Pelister National Park.

So, looking at the importance of the document, the stakeholders suggested to make some more changes in the document for some clarification regarding the article 3 and 12. Therefore, it was suggested from the stakeholders that the roles of Chairman, President and Vice President of the stakeholder group should be specified regarding the roles and responsibilities in a separate annex of the document. Also, it was agreed that comments will be sent by the stakeholders and the Project Management Unit will prepare the annex with the relevant information.

Also, regarding the article 12, regarding the decision making and voting within the SHG in point 1, it was suggested to clarify the right of the voting within the SHG. Hence, it was suggested that the decisions within the SHG can be taken if at least 2/3 of all SHG officially nominated members (excluding Chairperson and alternates) are present.

The final suggestions will be incorporated in the Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure and the document will be shared again with the 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. Darko Buzarovski, Field Officer of “Prespa” cross-border region. The presentation gave an overview of the second ABDA Grant Scheme call for proposals for Integrated economic development. In





addition, general information was given regarding the main objectives of the Grant Scheme call and the guidelines for the applicants. Explanations were given to each topic, emphasizing the importance of integrated economic development through facilitation of networking and cooperation in cross-border regions. The session continued with an open discussion for suggestions and comments.

During the active discussion it was suggested that under the eligibility of the applicants regarding the regional dimension, the stakeholders from the territory of the municipality of Bitola should be considered and added as possible and potential eligible applicants for the Grant Scheme or other future support. Further explanation was given to different questions regarding clarification of application procedures, partnerships and criteria of the Grant Scheme. The stakeholders were instructed to direct further questions in the official mail published for the Prespa region.

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 Grant Scheme or the People to People program.

## **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 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;
- Project Management Unit will share the portfolio format with the stakeholders in order to collect and update the information in the database for projects implemented (Comprehensive projects in various fields) in Prespa Region.
- Project Management Unit will develop additional actions with Resen and Korca Municipality in order to support the organization of 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;

- Project Management Unit will facilitate the partnerships and develop actions for the organization of People to People activities, “Regional workshop to promote Prespa cross-border region as one Tourism Destination” and “Apple Fest”;
- The “Festival of Desserts” in Maliq and the “Wine Festival” in Pogradec were suggested as potential activities for further support under the People to People program. Additional information for the organization of the activities will be send from both municipalities to the Project Management Unit;
- “Prespa” Stakeholder Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure will be reviewed with comments added by the stakeholder regarding articles 3 (three) and 12 (twelve). The final document will be shared with stakeholders and approved on the next meeting;
- 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 stakeholders from the territory of the municipality of Bitola should be added as possible and potential eligible applicants for the next Grant Scheme or other future support;

**Prepared by:**

Etleva Thimo

Regional Coordinator for “Prespa” Cross-Border Region

