



Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture,
rural and economic development of cross-border areas

Minutes from the 6th Stakeholders' Group Meeting for cross-
border region "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna"

13 March 2018

Minutes from the 6th Stakeholders' Group Meeting for the cross-border region "Prokletije- Bjeshket e Nemuna"

09 March, 2018
Peja, Kosovo*¹

1. List of participants

The sixth stakeholders' group meeting for the cross-border region "Prokletije -Bjeshket e Namuna" was attended by 48 participants, representatives of the stakeholder group for the cross-border region "Prokletije- Bjeshket e Nemuna" and the SWG project team.

Annex 1: List of participants

2. Agenda

10:00 - 10:15 **Welcome note**

Mayor of municipality of Peja (TBC)
Agenda (Mr. Predrag Markovic - SWG).
*Recapitulation of activities already implemented in the region "Prokletije-
Bjeshket e Namuna" (Mr.Aleksandar Damnjanovic - SWG).*

10:15- 10:45 **Open call for the proposals for support people to event in cross border region Cross-border Region of "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Namuna",**

Mr. Predrag Markovic (SWG)
Ms.Flaka Bytyqi (SWG)

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10:45- 11:00 **The examples of P2P events , scoring list and support of the event from the project**

Mr. Predrag Markovic (SWG)
Ms.Flaka Bytyqi (SWG)

11:00 – 11:30 **Support in the preparation cross border project proposals in the region"Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna", -panel discussion**

11:30 – 12:00 **Organization of the possible trainings in the region, operational protocol, other planned events and next steps**

12:00- 13:00 **Lunch**

¹ *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence."

Minutes of the meeting

The VI Meeting of the Stakeholders' group for the cross-border region of "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Namuna" was held on the 9th of March, 2018, in hotel "Dukagjini", Municipality of Peja, Kosovo*.

3. Topics during the meeting:

The focus of the discussions was on the following topics:

- Open call for proposals for support to People to People events in the cross-border region of "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Namuna"
- Examples of P2P events
- Support in the preparation of cross-border project proposals in the region "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna"
- Organization of possible trainings in the region, operational protocol, other planned events and next steps.

Appendix 2: Presentation used during the meeting

4. Official opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Mehdi Mulaj, head of department for agriculture in the Municipality of Peja. Mr. Mulaj stressed the special focus given by the municipality of Peja on cross-border co-operation. He also stressed that the municipality of Peja as well as the entire cross-border region possesses significant natural and human resources. The funds invested by the municipality of Peja and international organizations have positive influence on the local economy in the aspect of creating constant economic growth and development with perspective for younger generations. This region needs more investments in the field of economy and tourism.

5. Presentations

The work in the previous phase of the project was briefly explained and the overall objectives of new phase of ABD project were stated, with focus on the mission and the results of the first call for People to People activities in the other cross-border regions.

5.1 Field officer, Mr. Predrag Markovic presented on the region "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna"

-Presentation on the region "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Namuna", stakeholders, beneficiaries and activities of the SWG in the region.

5.2 Presentation on People to People activities, scoring and criteria with special accent on partnerships and environmental impact:

WHAT IS PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EVENT?

tool for strengthening networking, cooperation, promotion of the cross-border regions and their cultural, traditional, natural heritage and enabling economic potential, both in terms of products and services, as well as creation of cross-border value chains/links. Special focus should be given to and which contribute to:

- Regional promotion (tradition, cultural and historical heritage, traditional products);
- Regional cooperation and networking;
- Agriculture and tourism;
- Environmental impact of the event;
- Gender equality;
- Impact of the event to the income generating to the local and regional economy;
- Sustainability; - Cross-border partnership/cooperation.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM AND BUDGET

- The application form, along with the defined budget
- Scoring
- Approval for financing. Additional clarifications or documents will be requested in order to support the submitted application and budget
- Approved activities/costs should start after signing the contract by both parties.

ELIGIBLE COSTS - BENCH MARKS FOR BUDGET LINES / TYPES OF COSTS

- Promotional costs – design and printing of promo materials
- Accommodation costs for participants and exhibitors;
- Transport costs;
- Food and beverages / refreshments;
- Rent of facility;
- Rent of equipment – sound, light, stage, tents, stands, translation equipment;
- Engagement of trainers, experts, speakers, photographers, guides, skippers, translators, designer;
- Workshop materials;
- Other costs which are in line and contribute to the organization of the event and approved by SWG.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ACTIONS

The evaluation of the People to People actions will be made according to the following criteria:

- Economic aspect and sustainability
- Partnership
- Environmental aspect of the event/manifestation/action
- Expected results
- Budget and cost-efficiency

Several questions were asked about People to People events with focus on partnership and cross-border cooperation. The maximum amount of the planned support is 2000 EUR. The attendings on the meeting and all interested parties for organizing People to People events were invited to ask for clarifications before submitting their application to SWG.

5.3 Explanation and presentation on 2016-2017 grants by Aleksandar Damnjanovic Regional Manager for the Cross-Border Regions "Drina-Tara", "Drina-Sava", "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna" and "Krsh"

- Background information about the call for grants and application procedures financed by GIZ in the regions "Drina-Tara", "Drina-Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra"
- Overview of the beneficiaries from the second call for proposals in the cross-border regions.

5.4 Support in the preparation of cross-border project proposals in the region "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Namuna"

Despite the fact that the call for proposals for CBC grant schemes is still not open, participants were informed, that SWG will and can help in the preparation of project proposals. All participants were encouraged to contact SWG representatives regarding technical support in preparation of CBC project proposals.

6. Discussions

- Discussions about the open call for People to People events in the region of "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Namuna" were continued

- Mr. Nexhdet Shala, dean of the faculty for Agribusiness in Peja said that the faculty support creation of the strategy of the region and that expectation about the results of future implementation of ABD is high. The chestnut day is the event which can be example of cooperation between stakeholders in the region

Mr. Agron Isufaj representative from Shkodra elaborated need for development and wish for implementation of more sustainable projects on western Balkans. The region is lagging behind because the current situation, He also stress importance of the human capital for the development tourism and for rural development in overall

-Mr. Burim Lleshi from NGO-DMO, stated that the touristic offer of the region need to be better presented on the local and foreign market. Mr. Burim said that for the organization fair 2,000 euros is not sufficient. He mentioned that is important to meet each other better in the cross-border region. All present should be open for cooperation.

-Mr. Shelmon Shala, a raspberry producer, mentioned that the support for the organization of the fair is not needed, instead production of raspberries need to be supported directly.

- On the meeting was present Ms. Daniela Topirceanu from the European Union Office in Kosovo*. She explained that other funds such as IPA or IPARD are available in the countries in the region. She also stressed the potential in the field tourism, but that there is a low number of applicants on IPARD funding scheme. The total budget for IPARD like on Kosovo is 8.8 million of euros. The visibility of the EU is very important and, on every activity, supported the EU flag must be presented.

7. Conclusions and future activities

Mr. Predrag Markovic explained to the participants that the SWG is open to collaboration and is ready to support interested organizations who want to participate in people to people actions or want to apply for grants. The invitation for the call for proposals will be submitted to members of stakeholder groups in the week starting on 12th of March.

All attendings were asked to share information about the call and to make the whole process as transparent as possible.

Prepared by:

Predrag Markovic Filed Officer