



PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Priboj, 03 November 2016



Republic of Serbia



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



I. Agenda

1. Arrival of guests
2. Welcome and introductory speeches
 - Lazar Rvović, Mayor of Priboj
 - Michael Davenport, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
 - Branko Budimir, the Assistant to the Director of the European Integration Office of the Government of Serbia
 - Petar Vasilev, National Project Officer Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
3. Presentation of the Municipality of Priboj
4. Beneficiary Testimonial: Social Enterprise “Ruža” from Lebane
5. Approval of the minutes of the Steering Committee held in Vranje on 10 August 2016
6. Update on key European PROGRES developments and highlights from the Sixth Quarterly Report for 1 July 2015 – 30 September 2016
Graeme Tyndall, Programme Manager and Marko Vujačić, National Programme Manager
7. Presentation of requests for approval
 - Provision of Grants for Support to Agricultural Producer Groups
 - Provision of Grants for Local Gender Equality Mechanism Initiatives
8. Voting
 - Quarterly Report 01 July – 30 September 2016
 - Provision of Grants for Local Gender Equality Mechanism Initiatives
 - Provision of Grants for Support to Agricultural Producer Groups
 - Provision of Grants for Support to LSG to implement Vocational Training
9. Other business

II. Minutes

Agenda item 1

Welcome and introductory speeches

Branko Budimir, the Assistant to the Director of the European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SEIO) and the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Chairperson, thanked Priboj for hospitality, welcomed attendees, gave a short overview of the Agenda and invited the participants to identify potential risks and mitigation measures regarding the Programme and the projects to be approved and completed within the upcoming, final year of the Programme implementation. Special welcome was expressed to the attending Head of Delegation of European Union (DEU) in Serbia, Ambassador Michael Davenport for his participation.

Lazar Rvović, Mayor of Priboj welcomed all participants and thanked the European Union and the Government of Switzerland for supporting a range of projects in Priboj including the funding of infrastructure for the Free Zone project - described as the engine of future local economic development. Mayor announced that substantial economic improvement is expected within a year with the assistance from the national government.

Ambassador Michael Davenport, Head of the Delegation of the Europe Union (DEU) in Serbia greeted all attendees and emphasised that the PSC is a good opportunity to reflect on the previous two and a half years of European PROGRES. Initial results are satisfactory with 86 completed projects out of 208 projects approved so far. Examples of project with visible impact were mentioned – Support to Local Tax Offices project enhanced local incomes while Citizens Involvement Fund (CIF) - partnership projects of civil society and municipalities enabled employment and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable. All of the projects implemented were contributing to increase competitiveness of the municipalities and decrease the levels of unemployment. Ambassador invited all beneficiaries, especially cities and municipalities, to invest efforts in order to ensure timely and effective completion of the Programme activities. Ambassador confirmed that the European Union will continue to support equitable regional and local development – a process that requires municipalities to focus on transparency, sustainability and good governance especially in their pursuit of quality investors. Municipalities were again invited to utilise all of the development opportunities presented through the EU and other sources in order to achieve the common goal - improvement of quality of lives of citizens living in the Southeast and Southwest Serbia is met.

Agenda item 2

Presentation of the Municipality of Priboj

A short film on the Free Zone project was presented as the main economic potential of the municipality, – emphasising the benefits of investing in Priboj.

Agenda item 3

Presentation of Social Enterprise “Radanska Ruža” from Lebane

Slobodanka Pavlović, President of the Management Board of the Women Association “Radanska Ruža” from Lebane presented association and the support provided by the European PROGRES, during past three years, as well as the activities conducted by the Association. So far nine women were employed and 6,000 product units sold. Association also won four prestigious awards for quality of its

product. Predrag Stošić, Director of Ruža Lebane Social Enterprise also gave the overview of current and future work of the enterprise and advocated with national government for the Law on Social Enterprises that would benefit enterprises which focus on the employment of the most vulnerable. He underlined that competitiveness of such enterprises could only be achieved through legislated assistance.

Agenda item 4

Update on Key European PROGRES Developments and Highlights from the Quarterly Report for July 01 – September 30.

Marko Vujačić, European PROGRES National Programme Manager, presented the key results the Programme achieved in the period 01 July – 30 September including: approval of projects worth over three million Euros; completion of five Calls for Proposals meeting all set goals for the quarter. Outcomes of the Programme's support to development of technical designs were highlighted as there were already three municipalities that utilised produced documentation to access donors' funds for construction. The Programme is in the final year of implementation, with large number of ongoing projects – it is instrumental for LSGs to respect project dynamics and fulfil their obligations. Changes in municipal contact persons and in particular the good governance focal points in the LSGs, could negatively affect the dynamics and effectiveness of some Programme activities.

Petar Vasilev, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC Project Officer, emphasised Good Governance aspect of all implemented projects and appealed to the Mayors to ensure that the knowledge gained throughout the Programme is kept within the municipal administration, by clearly distinguishing parts of administration that respectively manage political and development issues.

Marko Vujačić informed the participants that the PSC members used electronic voting to approve the results of the Call for Proposal for support to Vocational training. Ten projects, in total amount of 130,548 Euros of which the EU and the Government of Switzerland will contribute 98,428 Euros, were selected. The Programme also identified funding that will be used to support four infrastructure projects from the reserve list and in line with the decision of the PSC held in Vranje on 10 August.

Agenda item 5

Presentation of requests for approval

5.1 Provision of grants for Agricultural Producers' Groups

Olivera Kostić, Sector Manager for Competitiveness presented the restricted Call for Applications for Agricultural Producers' Groups that attracted 30 proposals seven of which were recommended for funding in total value of 207,961 Euros. Co-funding of 39,756 Euros is expected. Reserve list includes three projects in total value of 119,552 Euros.

5.2 Support to Local Self-Governments to implement Vocational Training

Olivera Kostić also presented Call for Applications for Support to Local Self-Governments (LSG) to implement vocational training. In response to the Call 18 applications were received of which ten were recommended for funding in total value of 130,548 Euros of which the EU and the Government of Switzerland will contribute 98,428 Euros. The initiative will generate 151 jobs in the ten beneficiary municipalities.

5.3 Provision of grants for Local Gender Equality Mechanism Initiatives

Edin Bašić, Associate for Social Inclusion and Good Governance presented Call for Proposals – Support to Local Gender Equality Mechanisms attracted 20 applications of which 18 were recommended for funding in total value of 55,757 Euros of which 52,587 Euros will be contributed by the EU and the Swiss Government. The projects will support economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, women reproductive health, prevention of gender based and domestic violence, institutional strengthening and capacity building of local GEMs and promotion of European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.

5.4 Support to Local Infrastructure – Approval of Projects from the Reserve List

A list of reserve projects was created during the August PSC in Vranje for those projects that were not initially financed through Support to Local Infrastructure was developed. After identification of additional funding another four projects were suggested for financing in total value of 378,173 Euros.

Agenda item 6

Voting

The PSC unanimously approved the following:

- Quarterly Report July 01 – September 30 2016
- Provision of Grants for Local Gender Equality Mechanism Initiatives up to 52,587 Euros
- Provision of Grants for Support to Agricultural Producer Groups up to 207,961 Euros
- Provision of Grants for Support to LSG to implement Vocational Training up to 98,428 Euros

Agenda item 7

Other business

Nenad Krstić, Trgovište Mayor asked about the status of applications that were submitted in response to the Call for local Infrastructure Project Proposals a process managed by the Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes of the Ministry of Finance (CFCU). He warned that there was a risk that part of the construction permits that are issued in support of applications will expire if decisions on funding of the projects are not made in the nearest future. **Biljana Jezdić, the Head of Division for Tender Preparation and Project and Contract Management in the CFCU** said she was not able, for procedural reasons, to comment on the process as the final evaluation is ongoing but said that the signing of the contracts is planned for the first quarter of 2017.

Annex I: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS			
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
#	Organisation	Name	Position
1.	European Union Delegation to the	H.E. Ambassador Michael Davenport	Head of Delegation
2.	European Integration Office SEIO	Branko Budimir	Assistant to the Director of the European Integration Office
3.	Ministry of Finance	Biljana Jezdić	Head of Division for Tender Preparation and Project and Contract Management
4.	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental	Branislav Veljković	Advisor for the Promotion of IPARD Programme
5.	Government of Serbia Coordination Body for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Jelena Čolić	Deputy Director of the Coordination Body
6.	Government of Serbia Coordination Body for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Jelena Marjanović	Assistant Director of the Coordination Body's Office
7.	European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia	Ana Stanković	Project Manager
8.	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Petar Vasilev	National Programme Officer
International organisations			
9.	UN Women	Jelena Sekulić	Expert for Gender Equality at the local level
Institutions			
10.	Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit	Irena Latinović	Coordinator
Host			
11.	Priboj Municipality	Lazar Rvović	Mayor
12.		Jasmin Hodžić	Assistant to the Mayor for Local Economic Development
13.		Saša Vasilić	Deputy Mayor
14.		Magdalena Prijović	Head of the Local Economic Development Office
15.		Krsto Janjušević	Municipal Assembly Member
16.		Boris Mrdović	President of the Municipal Assembly
MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES			
Municipality		Name	Position

17.	Bela Palanka	Dejan Vidanović	Assistant to the Mayor
		Biljana Milenković	Project Team
18.	Blace	Gordana Kitanović	Architect, Senior Associate for Urban planning and Construction, Department for Urban Planning, Construction, Utility Services and Property Affairs
19.	Bojnik	Boban Petrović	Assistant to the Mayor
20.		Saša Dodić	Municipal Associate
21.	Bujanovac	Shaip Kamberi	Mayor
22.		Rahim Salihi	Chief of Cabinet
		Enis Salihi	Head of LED Office
23.	Doljevac	Bratislav Jovanović	Assistant to the Mayor
24.	Gadžin Han	Saša Đorđević	Mayor
25.	Ivanjica	Nenad Glavinić	Assistant to the Mayor
26.		Milka Kaplanović	LED Office
27.	Kuršumlija	Radoljub Vidić	Mayor
28.	Medveđa	Goran Petrović	Deputy Mayor
29.		Marko Pejić	LED Office
30.	Merošina	Ana Jovanović	LED Office Associate
31.		Nataša Andrejević	LED Office Associate
32.	Nova Varoš	Slaviša Purić	Deputy Mayor
33.		Milinko Šaponjić	Head of the Local Economic Development Office
34.	Novi Pazar	Faruk Suljević	Assistant to the Mayor
35.		Selma Ikić	Office for local economic development
36.	Prijepolje	Dragoljub Zindović	Mayor
37.	Sjenica	Mustafa Baltić	Assistant to the Mayor
38.		Maida Kasumović	Head of Economy and Development Department
39.	Surdulica	Ankica Žegarac Milenković	LED Office Associate
40.		Kristina Savić	LED Office Associate
41.	Trgovište	Nenad Krstić	Mayor
		Jelena Stanisavljević	Deputy Mayor
42.	Tutin	Esad Holić	Assistant to the Mayor for Agriculture
43.		Emina Gusinac	LED Office
NGO			
Organisation		Name	Position
44.	CSO Women's Association "Ruža"/Social Enterprise "Radanska Ruža"	Predrag Stošić	Director of the Social Enterprise
45.		Slobodanka Pavlović	President of the CSO
46.	Women's Initiative	Svetlana Papić	President of the CSO
47.	Priboj	Zora Čelović	CSO Associate
Organisation		Name	Position
48.	European PROGRES	Graeme Tyndall	Programme Manager
49.	European PROGRES	Marko Vujačić	National Programme Manager

50.	European PROGRES	Ana Nedeljković	Good Governance and Social Inclusion Sector Manager
51.	European PROGRES	Olivera Kostić	Competitiveness Sector Manager
52.	European PROGRES	Milan Kolašinac	Infrastructure Sector Manager
53.	European PROGRES	Ivana Popović	Communications Sector Manager
54.	European PROGRES	Nermin Hasanović	Regional Coordinator for South West Serbia
55.	European PROGRES	Aleksandra Saša Solujić	Programme Associate for Good Governance and Gender Equality
56.	European PROGRES	Slobodan Derikonjić	Regional Associate
57.	European PROGRES	Edin Bašić	Programme Assisstant
58.	European PROGRES	Enis Ujkanović	Programme Associate
59.	European PROGRES	Marija Radulović	Communications Associate
60.	European PROGRES	Milica Radović	Junior Communications Assistant