



PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Kuršumlija, 16 May 2017



I. Agenda

1. Introductory remarks
 - Branko Budimir, the Assistant to the Director of the European Integration Office of the Government of Serbia
 - Mayor of Kuršumlija, Radoljub Vidić
 - Ursula Laubli, Head of the Swiss Cooperation Office to Serbia
 - Ana Stanković, Project Manager in the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
2. Approval of the minutes of the Steering Committee held in Belgrade on 28 February 2017
3. Presentation of the Quarterly Report for 1 January – 31 March 2017
4. Presentation of projects
5. Voting: Quarterly Report 1 January – 31 March 2017
6. 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 Serbia and the Chairperson of the European PROGRES Programme Steering Committee (PSC) welcomed the participants and reminded municipality officials that the Programme is entering its final stages which will require strengthened focus on realisation of the remaining projects. In this process the line of communication remains open and all of the issues in project realisation should be pointed out in order to ensure timely and efficient redistribution of funds if/when needed.

The Mayor of Kuršumlija, Radoljub Vidić welcomed all the attendees, thanked the donors and the European PROGRES for support and expressed readiness for further cooperation.

Ursula Laubli, the Head of the Swiss Cooperation Office to Serbia (SCO) underlined that rural areas play the crucial role in the ultimate development of the whole country and that the SCO remains focussed on good governance and social inclusion aspects of these efforts. The SCO approach ensures responsiveness to the citizens' needs and transparency in operation which ultimately leads to efficient and effective implementation.

Ana Stanković, Project Officer in the European Union (EU) to the Republic of Serbia thanked the hosts and attendees and noted that after three years of implementation, the Programme requested the extension to ensure complete and successful projects' closure. All municipalities were requested to timely complete ongoing projects and to start the new development Programme with a clean slate. The local self governments (LSGs) were reminded to keep the politics and the development issues separate in this process. The LSGs were invited to create a list of issues that they face during the public calls organised by the Programme to ensure that the new Programme has mechanisms to resolve these issues in the future.

Sunčica Nestorović, the Head of Kuršumlija Municipality Local Development Office, gave an overview of the local history and potentials. The Municipality encompasses a large areas of ecologically preserved agricultural land and renewable natural resources suitable for electricity generation, the wealth of forest products, medicinal herbs and wild fruits resulting in considerable potential in the development of fruit growing and livestock breeding, as well as the wood processing industry. Three spas - Prolom, Lukovska and Kuršumlijska, and the Devil's Town, a rare geo-morphological phenomenon and a high priority national natural monument are situated in the Municipality providing considerable opportunities for the development of tourism. Under the European PROGRES, Kuršumlija is working on upgrading the municipal geographic information system (GIS) and the development of the application that will enable the presentation of the tourist sites.

Agenda item 2

Approval of the minutes of the Steering Committee held in Belgrade on 28 February 2017

Branko Budimir called for adoption of the meeting minutes from the eleventh PSC meeting that took place in Belgrade on 28 February 2017. The document was unanimously adopted.

Agenda item 3

Presentation of the Quarterly Report for 1 January – 31 March 2017

Graeme Tyndall, European PROGRES Manager welcomed all the attendees and invited them to ask questions and clarifications throughout upcoming presentation of the quarterly achievements.

Marko Vujačić, European PROGRES National Programme Manager gave a short overview of the Programme implementation during the previous quarter. The period was successful and included significant achievements in the tax revenue due to support to the local tax administration; in e-permitting issuance and utilisation of technical designs generated through Programme to attract infrastructure funding. The number of completed projects surpassed ongoing ones (55% of 248 projects are now completed); The project “Health Caravan” implemented by the Association of Health Workers of Roma Nationality from Vranje that provides access to health for most vulnerable groups was presented as a success story.

Branko Budimir invited the participants to comment, ask questions and actively participate in the discussion.

Ana Saćipović, the President of Roma Women Association “Osvit” from Aleksinac, briefly presented results of the project “Prevention of Early - Child Marriage in Aleksinac Municipality” that was awarded through the Call for Piloting Measures for Roma Social Inclusion at the Local Level and was implemented by this civil society organisation (CSO) in partnership with the Municipality of Aleksinac. On the basis of 165 completed questionnaires the filed research was conducted showing that 80% of Roma community in Aleksinac entered the early marriage voluntarily while 11% were forced into early marriage. Almost 50 school children raised awareness and improved their knowledge of children's rights and mechanisms for protection of children's rights at the local level through organised workshops. As the most important result, LSG Aleksinac established the Local Team for Prevention of Early Marriages consisted of representatives of relevant institutions, which should provide systematic approach to this issue while the database created for monitoring of early marriages has been transferred to Centre for Social Welfare for future reference.

Branko Budimir reminded again the participants that the PSC is also the forum to discuss risks and issues. This is especially important as the end of the Programme is imminent and adjustments have to be swift. Attendees were also reminded that European PROGRES Programme personnel remains available at all times to discuss any issues.

Agenda item 4

Presentation of projects

Jasmina Ilić, UNOPS Advisor for Infrastructure presented two project proposals for consideration by the PSC members. The first project worth 50,000 Euros relates to the Development of the Technical documentation for the reconstruction of the existing wards in Vranje Hospital in order to create the technical conditions for the reconstruction of the facility. The project will positively affect over

250,000 beneficiaries in Pčinja District. The second project worth 61,600 Euros relates to Improvement of Infrastructure and Local Capacity for Children's Care in Blace for close to 700 pupils.

The Major of Vranje, Slobodan Milenković, pointed out importance of the Programme support in the construction of the Health Centre (Hospital) in Vranje and that the project outcomes will significantly improve the health services provision, not only in Vranje but in the whole Pčinja. Participants were reminded of the current dire working conditions at the Health Centre.

Voting

Branko Budimir opened the voting procedure and after no objections from the PSC members concluded that the PSC unanimously approved the following:

- The two Project proposals for the development of the technical documentation for the reconstruction of the existing wards in Vranje Hospital with Programme contribution of 50,000 Euros and improvement of infrastructure and local capacity for children's care in Blace with Programme contribution of 56,000 Euros
- Quarterly Report 1 January – 31 March 2017
- PSC Meeting minutes February 2017

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS			
European PROGRES Twelfth Steering Committee			
Meeting Prolom Banja 16 May 2017			
Organisation		Name	Position
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
1.	European Integration Office - SEIO	Branko Budimir	Acting Assistant to the Director of the European Integration Office
2.	Ministry of Economy	Miona Popović	Head of Group for Planning of IPA Projects
3.	Government of Serbia Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Jelena Čolić	Deputy Director of the Coordination Body's Office
4.	Government of Serbia Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Jelena Marjanović	Assistant Director of the Coordination Body's Office
5.	European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia	Ana Stanković	Project Manager
6.	Swiss Cooperation Office	Ursula Laubli	Director
7.	Swiss Cooperation Office	Petar Vasilev	National Programme Officer
8.	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities	Ljiljana Jovanović	Programme Officer for Monitoring EU Exchange 4 Programme
International organisations			

9.	OSCE Bujanovac	Giacommo Bosisi	Head of Office in Bujanovac
10.	OSCE Bujanovac	Ivica Stamenović	Associate in Bujanovac
Institutions			
11.	National Council of the Roma National Minority	Vitomir Mihajlović	President
Host			
12.	Kuršumlija Municipality	Rodoljub Vidić	Mayor
13.		Sunčica Nestorović	Head of the Local Economic Development Office
14.		Vladan Jovanović	Head of Municipal Administration
15.		Jasmina Savić	Municipal Associate
MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES			
Municipality		Name	Position
16.	Bela Palanka	Biljana Milenković	Project Team
17.	Blace	Miroljub Marković	Assistant to the Mayor
18.	Brus	Miloš Azdejković	Municipal Associate
19.	Bojnik	Saša Dodić	Municipal Associate
20.		Milan Zdravković	Municipal Associate
21.		Miloš Arandžević	Municipal Associate
22.		Violeta Dimitrijević	Municipal Associate
23.	Bujanovac	Fazila Azemović	LED Office
24.		Enis Salihi	Head of LED Office
25.	Doljevac	Goran Ljubić	Mayor
26.	Gadžin Han	Marija Cvetković	President of the Municipal Assembly
27.	Ivanjica	Milka Kaplanović	LED Office
28.	Leskovac	Bojan Tojaga	Agency for LED
29.		Saša Mladenović	Agency for LED
30.		Jovan Jović	Agency for LED
31.		Đorđe Stanković	Agency for LED
32.	Medveđa	Nebojša Arsić	Mayor
33.	Novi Pazar	Fevzija Murović	Member of the City Council
34.	Preševo	Fatmir Azizi	Municipal Associate
35.	Preševo	Blerim Mehmeti	Municipal Associate
36.	Priboj	Lazar Rvović	Mayor
37.	Prijepolje	Edib Kajević	Member of the Municipal Council
38.	Prokuplje	Aleksandar Simonović	Member of City Council
39.	Raška	Tijana Pajević Đorđević	Assistant to the Mayor for Local Economic Development
40.		Marina Lazović	Jurist
41.	Sjenica	Hazbo Mujović	Mayor
42.	Trgovište	Jelena Stanisavljević	Deputy Mayor
43.	Tutin	Šemsudin Kučević	Mayor
44.		Holić Esar	Municipal Associate
45.	Vlasotince	Boško Stančić	Deputy Mayor
46.		Marinko Đorđević	Local Economic Development

			Office
47.	Vranje	Slobodan Milenković	Mayor
CSOs			
Organisation		Name	Position
48.	Association of Roma women "Osvit"	Ana Saćipović	President
49.		Boban Saćipović	Associate
50.	YUROM Centre	Osman Balić	President
51.		Bratislava Balić	CSO Associate
52.		Ljubiša Stanković	CSO Associate
53.	Centre for Regional Development and Cooperation	Aleksandar Maksimović	Associate
54.	Roma Association "Prokuplje"	Dejan Živković	President
55.	Music Art Project	Marijana Milošević Simić	Programme Director
56.		Đurđa Papazoglu	President
Organisation		Name	Position
57.	European PROGRES	Graeme Tyndall	Programme Manager
58.	European PROGRES	Marko Vujačić	National Programme Manager
59.	European PROGRES	Jasmina Ilić	Infrastructure Advisor
60.	European PROGRES	Milan Kolašinac	Infrastructure Sector Manager
61.	European PROGRES	Nataša Ivanović	Programme Associate for Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups
62.	European PROGRES	Ivana Popović	Communications Sector Manager
63.	European PROGRES	Nermin Hasanović	Regional Coordinator for South West Serbia
64.	European PROGRES	Aleksandra Saša Solujić	Programme Associate for Good Governance and Gender Equality
65.	European PROGRES	Slobodan Derikonjić	Regional Associate
66.	European PROGRES	Biljana Kerić	Programme Associate for Social Inclusion
67.	European PROGRES	Enis Ujkanović	Programme Associate
68.	European PROGRES	Bojan Marčić	Programme Assistant for Competitiveness
69.	European PROGRES	Mladen Cvetanović	Business Development Programme Associate
70.	European PROGRES	Marija Radulović	Communications Associate
71.	European PROGRES	Milica Radović	Junior Communications Assistant