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


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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<td><strong>STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. European Integration Office - SEIO</td>
<td>Branko Budimir</td>
<td>Acting Assistant to the Director of the European Integration Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Ministry of Economy</td>
<td>Miona Popović</td>
<td>Head of Group for Planning of IPA Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Government of Serbia Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveda</td>
<td>Jelena Čolić</td>
<td>Deputy Director of the Coordination Body’s Office</td>
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<td>4. Government of Serbia Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveda</td>
<td>Jelena Marjanović</td>
<td>Assistant Director of the Coordination Body’s Office</td>
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<td>5. European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia</td>
<td>Ana Stanković</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
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<td>6. Swiss Cooperation Office</td>
<td>Ursula Laubli</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>7. Swiss Cooperation Office</td>
<td>Petar Vasilev</td>
<td>National Programme Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities</td>
<td>Ljiljana Jovanović</td>
<td>Programme Officer for Monitoring EU Exchange 4 Programme</td>
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International organisations
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<td>OSCE Bujanovac</td>
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**Institutions**

| National Council of the Roma National Minority | Vitomir Mihajlović | President |

**Host**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kuršumlija Municipality</th>
<th>Rodoljub Vidić</th>
<th>Mayor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunčica Nestorović</td>
<td>Head of the Local Economic Development Office</td>
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| Vladan Jovanović | Head of Municipal Administration |
| Jasmina Savić | Municipal Associate |

**Municipality Representatives**

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<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bela Palanka</td>
<td>Biljana Milenković</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
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<td>Blace</td>
<td>Miroljub Marković</td>
<td>Assistant to the Mayor</td>
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<td>Brus</td>
<td>Miloš Azdejković</td>
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<td>Fazila Azemović</td>
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<td>Doljevac</td>
<td>Goran Ljubić</td>
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<td>Gadžin Han</td>
<td>Marija Cvetković</td>
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<td>Milka Kaplanović</td>
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<td>Aleksandar Simonović</td>
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<td>Raška</td>
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<td>Association of Roma women &quot;Osvit&quot;</td>
<td>Ana Saćipović</td>
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<td>Roma Association “Prokuplje”</td>
<td>Dejan Živković</td>
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<td>Music Art Project</td>
<td>Marijana Milošević Simić</td>
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<td>Jasmina Ilić</td>
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<td>Milan Kolašinac</td>
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<td>Nataša Ivanović</td>
<td>Programme Associate for Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups</td>
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<td>Ivana Popović</td>
<td>Communications Sector Manager</td>
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