

THE SECOND PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes





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I. Agenda

1. Welcome and introductory speeches
2. Presentation of the Municipality of Aleksinac, with the focus on the plans for development
3. Approval of the minutes of the introduction Steering Committee meeting held in Belgrade on 24 September 2014
4. Presentation of the Inception Period and the Inception Workshop Reports
5. Presentation of requests for approval:
 - Proposal for Gender Equality activities to be implemented through UN Women
 - Call for Proposals for Provision of Support to Clusters
 - Call for Proposals for Development of Technical Designs
6. Voting
 - Inception Report
 - Inception Workshop Report
 - Gender Equality Project Proposal
 - Call for Proposals for Clusters
 - Call for Proposals for Technical Designs

II. Minutes

Agenda item 1

Welcome and introductory speeches

Branko Budimir, the Head of the Unit for Planning of EU Funds and Development Assistance and Coordination of Programmes in the Area of Economic and Social Cohesion in the European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SEIO) greeted the participants and expressed satisfaction that the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was organized in one of the nine new European PROGRES municipalities.

Nenad Stanković, the Mayor of Aleksinac, welcomed the participants and highlighted that unemployment that exceeds 50% was the key local challenge. He expressed hope that European PROGRES would support municipal efforts to facilitate investments and strengthen their capacities to access the European Union funds.

Richard Masa, Head of Operations Sector 3 of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, reminded that municipalities are the cornerstone of countries' success or failure, while the local self-governments (LSGs) are the mirror of citizens' satisfaction. The success of LSGs will depend on the quality of projects, preparatory phase, and their relevance and feasibility. It is important to avoid shortcuts and to implement projects in line with the existing rules and regulations. Masa called on LSGs to influence the preparation of national development strategies rather than only to conform to available activities and funds.

Isabel Perich, Director of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Serbia, reaffirmed SDC commitment to support development of local self-governments' (LSG) capacities and services, which should result in more conducive environment for economic development and increase of general citizens' trust. LSGs need to follow the defined set of rules, in participatory and consultative manner and with full transparency in execution. Municipalities should utilize the major strength of European PROGRES - its area based approach, which allows for greater cross-municipal cooperation, support for the exchange of good practices and generally allowing partners to achieve more as a group than they would do independently.

Agenda item 2

Presentation of the Municipality of Aleksinac, with focus on plans for development

Uroš Veličković, Associate in Aleksinac Local Economic Development (LED) Office provided an overview of the municipality while underlining its key development potentials: coal mining, agriculture and accessibility to pan-European Corridor 10. Other investment opportunities include revival of agriculture, water supply projects, establishment of flood defence systems, industrial zone refurbishing and acquisition of industrial land from the Ministry of Defence. Aleksinac has so far

attracted three main foreign investments in metal, tourism and automotive industry. The Municipality expects support from European PROGRES in development of technical documentation, acquiring equipment for utility services, improvement of Local Tax Administration and Geographic Information System (LTA GIS) and running of Service Provision Centre.

Agenda item 3

Approval of the minutes of the introduction Steering Committee meeting

The PSC unanimously approved the minutes of the introduction meeting that was held in Belgrade on 24 September 2014.

Agenda item 4

Presentation of the Inception Period and the Inception Workshop Reports

Graeme Tyndall, European PROGRES Programme Manager, said that European PROGRES would apply transparent and participatory approach in implementation and invited beneficiaries to use the website to access documentation and information on activities. He confirmed that European PROGRES would provide opportunity for integrated approach to development and called upon the mayors and the key staff in the LSGs to take the lead. Those municipalities who plan ahead will do well.

Marko Vujačić, European PROGRES National Programme Manager, presented the Inception Report covering the period from 7 May to 16 September 2014. He reinforced that the Programme accomplished three key objectives: confirmed feasibility and relevance of the action, established organization and developed initial set of activities. Vujačić also presented conclusions of the Inception Workshop that was held in Aranđelovac on 14 and 15 October.

Nagip Arifi, the Mayor of Bujanovac asked whether the information about the signing of the Contract between the Municipality and the Subotica Faculty of Economics was presented in the Report. Vujačić confirmed that information, with relevant details and dates, was included.

Jelena Radojković, the Deputy Mayor of Svrlijig, asked whether European PROGRES would support establishment of new clusters. **Budimir** said that on the basis of the conducted analysis, investments into existing 18 clusters will be prioritised due to limited funding. **Radojković** also asked about possibility of partnerships between participant and non-participant municipalities and clusters. **Budimir** explained that project applicants as well as activities should take place in one of 34 municipalities, while project partners can be from areas not covered by the Programme. Funds allocated will be dispersed only if projects meet all of the set criteria. If projects submitted are of low quality a new call will be issued but only after addressing the issues that cause the low quality of proposals.

Agenda item 5

Presentation of requests for approval

Proposal for Gender Equality activities to be implemented through UN Women

Dragan Mladenović, Sector Manager for Governance and Social Inclusion said that European PROGRES, in partnership with UN WOMEN, aims to further strengthen local gender mechanisms through tailor made approach for each municipality, establishment of local institutional framework and allocation of small grants to support capacity building and visibility activities at local level.

Asya Varbanova, UN Women Gender Specialist / Head of Serbia Office added that the approach will be systematic, sustainable and complimentary to Serbia's nationally and internationally made commitments to fulfil women rights. In 2015 two major gender equality strategies in Serbia will be concluded and data collected will inform future related plans and policies. On 1 January 2015 all municipalities will embark on gender sensitive budgeting - activity for which adequate technical support will be provided.

Branko Budimir reminded that the funds are limited and suggested discussion on how the Result 3 - activities 3.4 and 3.10 on creation of 'employment and social inclusion action plans' can be linked with the development of gender action plans. Serbia has about 700 strategies and plans and it was important to avoid proliferation of these documents and to create basis, including financial, for their sustainable implementation.

Vitomir Mihajlović, the President of the National Minority Council of the Roma National Minority emphasized that Roma women face double discrimination and that it's important to prioritise projects that benefit this target group.

Jelena Radojković informed the participants that Svrlijig received international award for its project on Roma integration. **Budimir** congratulated Svrlijig and called this municipality to exchange experiences with other Programme municipalities. **Radojković** also asked whether European PROGRES would support agricultural cooperatives or other forms of agricultural associations, primarily those gathering women.

Dragan Mirković, the Head of Rural Development Department in the Ministry of Agriculture replied to **Radojković** regarding funding for women work-based associations, saying that all forms of organization of agricultural producers' will be eligible to apply for funding.

Call for Proposals for the Provision of Support to Clusters

Olivera Kostić, European PROGRES Sector Manager for Competitiveness presented criteria of the Call for Proposals (CfP) for the Provision of Support to Clusters. The objective of the call is to enhance competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SME) through provision of support to cluster to introduce innovations and enhance marketing. The Call will be open in November and will last for 45 days; the total budget allocated is 200,000 Euros.

Call for Proposals for Development of Technical Designs

Jasmina Ilić, European PROGRES Sector Manager for Infrastructure presented criteria of the CfP for development of technical documentation of social and economic infrastructure. The indicative amount allocated for this call is 1.78 million Euros.

Branko Budimir emphasised that the project selection conducted through Ministry of Finance's CFCU department will be more stringent than in the previous Programme, meaning that all projects without proper documentation will, without exception, be automatically disqualified.

Ana Stanković, Project Manager with the Delegation of the European Union underlined that European PROGRES criteria for financial support will be strictly conditioned by availability/submission of all necessary documents for commencing infrastructure work. Absolutely no exception will be made on this point.

Regarding both CfPs, **Branko Budimir** stressed the need for intensive coordination to avoid duplication in support of certain applicants and marginalising others. Good project planning also means exploring variety of funding opportunities and synchronisation of complimentary activities, which always results in projects that are more marketable and sustainable.

Agenda item 6

Voting

Branko Budimir informed the meeting participants that the PSC members had insight into submitted proposals and confirmed adoption of the following:

- Inception Period Workshop Report
- Inception Workshop Report
- Un Women Gender Equality Project Proposal
- Criteria for the Call for Proposals for Provision of Support to Clusters
- Criteria for Call for Proposals for Provision of Support for Development of Technical Designs.

III. List of participants

	Name	Institution/Organisation	Function
1.	Branko Budimir	European Integration Office	Head of Unit for Planning of EU Funds and Development Assistance and Coordination of Programmes in the Area of Economic and Social Cohesion
2.	Richard Masa	Delegation of the European Union	Head of Operations Section II
3.	Isabel Perich	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Country Director
4.	Ana Stanković	Delegation of the European Union	Project Manager
5.	Petar Vasilev	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	National Programme Officer
6.	Lidia Vujičić	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Project Manager
7.	Dragan Mirković	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection	Head of Department for Rural Development
8.	Danijela Nenadić	Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Director
9.	Milica Rodić	Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Advisor to the Director
10.	Nina Zelić	Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government	Advisor
11.	Aleksandar Marinković	Standing Conference on Towns and Municipalities	Group Manager for IPA Human Resources Operative Programme

	Name and surname	Position	Municipality
1	Nenad Stanković	Mayor	Aleksinac
2	Čedomir Rakić	Deputy Mayor	Aleksinac
3	Danijela Petković	Assistant to the Mayor	Aleksinac
4	Uroš Veličković	PR and LED Associate	Aleksinac
5	Goran Miljković	Mayor	Bela Palanka
6	Biljana Milenković	Head of Project team	Bela Palanka
7	Jelena Radojković	Assistant to the Mayor	Svrljig
8	Slobodan Drašković	Mayor	Medveđa
9	Dejan Simić	Head of Local Development Office	Medveđa
10	Bojan Milčev	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Žitorađa
11	Milan Stanković	Safety Associate	Žitorađa
12	Radovan Stajić	Assistant to the Mayor	Brus
13	Jevtimije Milovanović	Deputy Mayor	Brus
14	Faruk Suljević	Assistant to the Mayor	Novi Pazar
15	Sead Bukvić	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Sjenica
16	Ragmi Mustafa	Mayor	Preševo
17	Nagip Arifi	Mayor	Bujanovac
18	Fazila Azemović	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Bujanovac
19	Marjan Stanković	Local Economic Development Office	Lebane
20	Marko Cvetković	Urbanism Department	Lebane
21	Aca Jovanović	Deputy Mayor	Bojnik
22	Saša Dodić	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Bojnik
23	Dejan Cvetković	Director of Direction for Construction	Bojnik
24	Ankica Žegarac Milenković	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Surdulica
25	Nenad Krstić	Mayor	Trgovište
26	Slavoljub Blagojević	Mayor	Crna Trava
27	Bojan Nešić	Mayor	Merošina
28	Jelena Jovanović	Chief of Cabinet	Merošina
29	Sabina Dazdarević	Member of Parliament of Serbia	Tutin
30	Nihat Holić	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Tutin
31	Dimitrije Paunović	Mayor	Nova Varoš
32	Lazar Rvović	Mayor	Priboj
33	Miroljub Paunović	Mayor	Prokuplje
34	Milomir Zorić	Mayor	Ivanjica
35	Dragoslav Nikolić	Head of Local Economic Development Office	Ivanjica
36	Ignjat Rakitić	Mayor	Raška

37	Sunčica Nestorović	Associate Local Economic Development Office	Kuršumlja
38	Gordana Kitanović	Head of LED Office	Blace
39	Marija Cvetković	Member of the Municipal Council	Gadžin Han
40	Milan Đokić	Mayor	Knjaževac
41	Miloš Vukotić	Deputy Mayor	Doljevac
42	Neda Jovanović	LED Associate	Doljevac
43	Vesna Radivojević	Head of Inspection Department	Aleksinac
44	Selena Milojković	Urbanism Department	Aleksinac
45	Milena Maksimović	Municipal Sport and Tourism Organisation	Aleksinac
46	Slobodan Stojković	Telekom	Aleksinac
47	Sasa Miletic,	Business Association	Aleksinac
48	Aleksandar Zivković	Serbian Business Parliament	Aleksinac
49	Jasna Nikolić	Social Work Department Head	Aleksinac
50	Dragoslav Živadinović	Head of Urbanism Department	Aleksinac
51	Rodoljub Paunović	Urbanism Department	Aleksinac
52	Mirjana Files Nasković	Urbanism Department	Aleksinac
53	Dragan Vesić	ALT Television	Aleksinac
54	Milan Vlajic	Radio Aleksinac	Aleksinac
NGOs and RDAs			
1	Vitomir Mihajlović	President	The National Minority Council of the Roma National Minority
2	Nenad Tairović	Representative	The National Minority Council of the Roma National Minority
3	Goran Mladenović	President	Niš Cluster NICAT
4	Aleksandra Stevanović	President	NGO Aleksinac- Creativity Development Association
5	Snežana Živadinović	Representative	NGO Aleksinac
6	Slavko Lukić	Director	RDA Zlatibor
7	Dijana Spalević	Regional Project Manager	SLDP
European PROGRES Staff members			