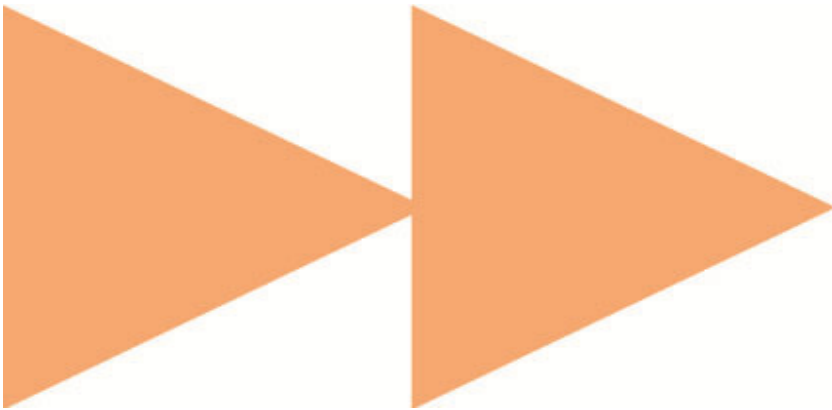




European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

# First Annual Programme Steering Committee

Bosilegrad, 27 July, 2011  
Minutes



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## I Agenda

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1. Welcome and introduction speeches
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Steering Committee
3. Presentation of the PROGRES Annual Report July 2010 - June 2011
4. Presentation of the Analysis "Obstacles for the Development of Infrastructure at the Local Level"
5. Presentation of the motions for approval/voting
6. Any other business

## II Minutes

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### Agenda item 1: Welcome and introduction speeches

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- Welcome from the **host**, the **Mayor of Bosilegrad**, Vladimir Zaharijev, who showed gratitude to all participants for coming to town for two special occasions: PROGRES Steering Committee and opening of the International Folklore Festival. The Mayor thanked PROGRES for approving the grant for the purchase of garbage collection truck and showed a short video presentation of Bosilegrad during which he spoke about the unexploited potentials of the area. He asked the Ministry for Economy and Regional Development to help with border crossing near Bosilegrad and to allow the truck transition which would significantly improve the economy of town.
- Welcome from the Serbian European Integration Office Deputy Director and the **Chairman of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC)**, Ognjen Mirić, who stated that the results in the first year of PROGRES implementation were extraordinary and that the continuation of such a programme should be considered. He added that there was a problem with the amount of spent funds and lagging behind in expenditure of the allocated budgets.
- Welcome from the **Project Manager of the Delegation of the European Union**, Ana Stanković, who said it was time to reflect on activities and to get strong feedback from all stakeholders of the Programme. Stanković urged the municipalities to start engaging more and make use of PROGRES funds and be more ready to co-finance implementation of projects. "PROGRES is an important resource and can fill in the gaps. I appeal on you to use these funds because if the administrations work efficiently, we shall be able to attract donors", she said.
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Deputy Director for Serbia**, Nadia Bohli, greeted the participants saying that PROGRES extensive support to development is giving significant results, especially in the Component 1. However, Bohli added the good governance does not stop within the Component 1. "All PROGRES activities should ensure transparency, efficiency, accountability, non-discrimination and participation as this would mean better use of public resources", Bohli concluded.
- **Head of Department for Regional Development Policy, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development (MoERD)**, Jovanka Vukmirović, stated that the MoERD was in the process of preparation of the National Plan for Regional Development and that working groups were formed from representatives of the national institutions so that the regional approach is present in all sectors' development policies. She added that the Centre for Development of Jablanica and Pčinja Districts was accredited and consequently became a part of the infrastructure for regional development of South Serbia.

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- **Deputy Director of the Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas**, Šemsudin Kučević, congratulated PROGRES on the results achieved in the previous period and hoped for a successful cooperation which would mainly reflect in support to municipalities in development of planning documentation. Kučević said it was of crucial importance that each municipality has a strategy of sustainable development and that the Office can support them in preparing it. He also highlighted the importance of spatial plans as a precondition for development and mentioned that the Office can support development of Geographical Information System (GIS), improvement of e-business and assessment of mineral composition of the soil. He emphasized that human resources in municipalities were crucial for the success in these endeavours. He hoped that the Ministry for Sustainable Development would be established next year.

## **Agenda item 2: Approval of the minutes of the previous Steering Committee**

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The Programme Steering Committee voting members unanimously approved the minutes of the third Steering Committee meeting.

## **Agenda item 3: Presentation of the PROGRES Annual Report July 2010 – June 2011**

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The Programme Manager, Graeme Tyndall spoke in general about the key issues in implementation of PROGRES and the fact that despite large commitment, and the number of grant contracts at 80<sup>1</sup>, the expenditure is quite low. In addition, there were issues with the ownership and the fact that the projects were not identified in development strategies, as well as the lack of spatial plans. Tyndall highlighted the importance of good governance in PROGRES and described how the Programme went from the conceptual level to implementation of those principles in its activities. “We can go as fast as you go. PROGRES can only have potential if you give it attention it deserves”, Tyndall remarked.

PROGRES Deputy Programme Manager (DPM) Aleksandra Radetić presented the overview of the main inputs and outcomes achieved in the first year of the programme (July 2010-June 2011) as well as the key achievements of each of the programme components.

Following the presentations, **the PSC voting members unanimously approved PROGRES First Annual Report July 2010-June 2011.**

## **Agenda item 4: Presentation of the Analysis “Obstacles for the Development of Infrastructure at the Local Level”**

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PROGRES Technical Specialist, Dušan Čukić, presented key obstacles in development of infrastructure at the local level adding that the full analysis would be finalised by the beginning of September 2011. The document could be a basis for discussion with the line Ministries on how to improve the situation.

The PSC Chairman mentioned the concerns that USAID/SIDA have about the Law on Building and Planning and suggested they should be consulted in preparation of the Study. The reports should also contain creative solutions so that it serves as a best practice manual for interested parties.

The MoERD Head of Department for Regional Development Policy reiterated the need to include solutions and improvements and not leave the local self governments to seek for explanations on their own. There could be a new project fiche developed that would include project activities to that effect.

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<sup>1</sup> There were 80 grants before the PSC meeting. With the new approvals, the number is coming up to 100.



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## Agenda item 5: Presentation of the motions for approval/voting

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There were seven motions for approval:

1. Provision of equipment for CACs: up to 78,500 EUR based on list received from LSG
2. Provision of equipment to directorates for urban planning: Leskovac, Novi Pazar, and Vranje: up to 75,000 Euros based on equipment lists received from the Cities
3. Design of 12 detailed regulation plans: up to 175,000 EUR
4. Development of technical documentation: 14 beneficiary municipalities: up to 380,000 EUR
5. Construction of communal infrastructure for Green Zone in Leskovac: 483,960 EUR: Leskovac City Implementing Partner
6. Pešter Development Centre: 221,690 EUR: SEDA (Sandzak Economic Development Agency) Implementing Partner
7. Support in principle for development of the Kopaonik Waters Project with co funding from MoERD

**The PSC voting members unanimously approved funding of all presented motions.**

## Agenda item 6: Any other business

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- The Chairman of the PSC remarked that PROGRES committed almost seven million Euros, which was a great result, but that there were problems with implementation and hence the next meeting should include a discussion about realisation; in particular, where is the stalling occurring, monitoring of realisation, and how the problems can be solved.
- PROGRES Programme Manager announced that the Deputy Programme Manager, Aleksandra Radetić, would be leaving PROGRES. He thanked her for a fantastic year and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.
- Nevenka Kostadinova, from “Iber” company was interested in potential PROGRES activities related to business sector. PROGRES Technical Specialist replied that the Programme primarily dealt with the provision of conditions for business development. Further to this, Ognjen Mirić announced that a Fund for Western Balkans was in the process of establishment and that the Government was doing its best so that business sector could have a better access to it. Finally, PROGRES Component 2 Manager, Dobrivoje Stančić, announced that the Programme would have experts to work with local business sector representatives in order to better understand the needs and thus structure PROGRES support with regards to those.
- The Mayor of Bosilegrad thanked all participants and remarked that Aleksandra Radetić’s departure was a great loss for PROGRES but that she left a great team who cooperated with municipalities in a highly professional manner.
- It was agreed to hold the **next meeting in Sjenica in mid October 2011.**



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and Cooperation SDC



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## List of participants

Nr.	Name	Organisation	Position
1.	Ana Stanković	The Delegation of the European Union	Project Manager
2.	Nadia Bohli	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Deputy Director
3.	Petar Vasilev	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	National Project Officer
4.	Ognjen Mirić	Serbian European Integration Office	Deputy Director, Chairman of the PSC
5.	Aleksandar Radosavljević	Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self Government	Special Advisor
6.	Jovanka Vukmirović	Ministry of Economy and Regional Development	Head of Department for Regional Development Policy
7.	Milica Rodić	Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Advisor to the Director
8.	Šemsudin Kučević	The Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas	Deputy Director
9.	Edib Kajević	The Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas	Assistant Director
10.	Sandra Hadžagić	The Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas	
11.	Branko Budimir	Serbian European Integration Office	Head of Group for Socio-Economic Cohesion
12.	Nicholas Hercules	PBILD	Programme Manager
13.	Galip Bećiri	Albanian National Minority Council	President
14.	Gligor Gligorov	Bulgarian National Minority Council	Vice-President
15.	Nikolajča Manov	Bulgarian National Minority Council	Secretary
16.	Daniela Kostov Pejčev	Bulgarian National Minority Council	Assembly Representative
17.	Vitimir Mihajlović	Roma National Minority Council	President
18.	Vujica Tiosavljević	City of Novi Pazar	Deputy Mayor
19.	Milomir Zorić	Ivanjica municipality	Deputy Mayor
20.	Lazar Rvović	Priboj municipality	Mayor
21.	Vladimir Mitrović	Raška municipality	Mayor's Assistant
22.	Muriz Turković	Sjenica municipality	Mayor
23.	Bajram Aljović	Tutin municipality	Head of Department for Economy
24.	Nikola Bulajić	Prokuplje municipality	Municipal council
25.	Zoran Dimitrijević	Prokuplje municipality	Mayor Assistant
26.	Dejan Jovanović	Kuršumlija Municipality	Head of Department for Economy
27.	Vesna Jakovljević	Kuršumlija municipality	Mayor
28.	Radoje Krstović	Blace municipality	Mayor
29.	Jovica Ćurčić	Blace municipality	Vice-President of the Assembly
30.	Slobodan Kocić	City of Leskovac	Mayor
31.	Dragoslav Anđelković	Bojnik municipality	Head of Municipal Administration
32.	Mića Stanković	Lebane municipality	Mayor
33.	Slobodan Drašković	Medveđa municipality	Mayor

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34.	Srđan Šušulić	Vlasotince municipality	Mayor
35.	Jasmina Stanojković	Surdulica municipality	Head of Municipal Administration
36.	Dejan Nikolić	Vladičin Han municipality	Mayor Assistant
37.	Milan Vučković	Vladičin Han municipality	Municipal Council
38.	Boban Stanković	City of Vranje	Mayor Assistant
39.	Darko Tomić	Trgovište municipality	Mayor
40.	Saša Stevanović	Trgovište municipality	
41.	Vladimir Zaharijev	Bosilegrad municipality	Mayor
42.	Šaip Kamberi	Bujanovac municipality	Mayor
43.	Goran Gavrilović	Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	
44.	Budimir Mihajlović	Pčinja District	Head
45.	Biljana Stanković	Centre for Development of Jablanica and Pčinja Districts	Director
46.	Samir Kačapor	SEDA	Director
47.	Dragana Disić	Turistic organisation, Surdulica	
48.	Mirosljub Ivanović	Youth Centre, Surdulica	President
49.	Kiril Kirilov	NGO "Optimist", Bosilegrad	President
50.	Saša Milanov	EPS	Deputy Director
51.	Predrag Trajkov	PUC Usluga	Director
52.	Nevenka Kostadinova	DOO Iber	Director
53.	Straško Apostolov	Directorate for construction	Director
54.	Igor Jovanovski	Radio Bosilegrad	Journalist
55.	Petar Rangelov	NIU Bratstvo	Journalist
56.	Ivanov Božidar	Radio Bosilegrad	Journalist
57.	Jordan Kolev	DABČ, Sofija	President
58.	Mihail Mihailov	DABČ, Sofija	Representative
59.	Andrej Kovačev	European Parliament, Sofija	Representative
60.	Hristo Kovačev	Foundation "Region" in Bulgaria	President
61.	Svetislav Gerakinov	Foundation "Region" in Bulgaria	Professor
62.	Graeme Tyndall	PROGRES	Programme Manager
63.	Aleksandra Radetić	PROGRES	Deputy Programme Manager
64.	Dušan Čukić	PROGRES	Technical Specialist
65.	Marko Vujačić	PROGRES	Communications Officer
66.	Jasmina Ilić	PROGRES	Component 3 Manager
67.	Dragan Mladenović	PROGRES	Component 1 Manager
68.	Dobrivoje Stančić	PROGRES	Component 2 Manager
69.	Nermin Hasanović	PROGRES	Head of SW Office
70.	Radule Ristović	PROGRES	Senior Coordinator for South
71.	Evgjenije Islami	PROGRES	Coordinator
72.	Ivana Todorović	PROGRES	Coordinator
73.	Boris Zlatanov	PROGRES	Coordinator
74.	Bojan Marčić	PROGRES	Coordinator
75.	Milan Kolašinac	PROGRES	Programme Engineer

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76.	Dejan Drobnjak	PROGRES	Communications Assistant
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