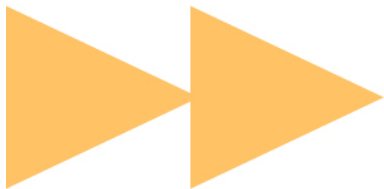


# The Tenth Programme Steering Committee

Ivanjica, 21 February 2013

## Minutes



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

## I AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductory speeches
2. Presentation of Ivanjica Municipality
3. Approval of the minutes of the previous Steering Committee held in Medveđa
4. Presentation of the Seventh Quarterly Report for October – December 2012
  - a. Overview of outputs and potential Programme impacts
  - b. Overview of critical projects and challenges
5. Update of Mid Term Evaluation and No Cost Extension
6. Presentation of requests for funding commitments
7. Update on Bujanovac Faculty
8. Voting
9. Any other business

## II MINUTES

### AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION SPEECHES

- The Head of the Department for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Aid of the Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO), Branko Budimir chaired the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) in the absence of the SEIO Deputy Director, Ognjen Mirić. He said that the PSC visited prior to the meeting the Kindergarten in Ivanjica that was supported through EU PROGRES. This project would enable enrolment of additional 180 children into kindergarten and employment of 28 persons, and was example of EU PROGRES' positive contribution both to social and economic development.
- The Mayor of Ivanjica, Milomir Zorić, welcomed participants and gave an overview of the projects supported by EU PROGRES in the municipality. He emphasized project for the construction of kindergarten as an example of effective cooperation: technical documentation had been developed through the EU and Swiss funded PRO Programme; construction was funded by the Ministry for National Investment Plan; and the kindergarten was furnished and equipped with the EU and Swiss support through EU PROGRES.
- The Head of Operations III of the Delegation of the European Union (DEU) in Serbia, Andrew Heady said there was a good progress in the implementation of EU PROGRES. He confirmed that due to challenges that the Programme was facing in the past two years – such as the elections and extreme weather conditions – DEU is looking to extend the Programme until March 2014 which would help EU PROGRES and municipalities to complete all projects and give contribution to better socio-economic conditions in the South and South West Serbia. This time would also allow for preparation of the next phase of the European PROGRES.



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

## AGENDA ITEM 2: PRESENTATION OF IVANJICA MUNICIPALITY

- **The Associate in Ivanjica Local Economic Development (LED) Office, Dragana Bogdanović** presented Ivanjica development perspectives, natural resources, and cultural events. Bogdanović also spoke about existing strategic documents and projects that were supported through PRO and EU PROGRES, while highlighting work on good governance.

## AGENDA ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS STEERING COMMITTEE

- The PSC voting members unanimously approved the minutes of the previous EU PROGRES Steering Committee held in Medveđa on 1 November 2012.

## AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION OF THE OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2012 QUARTERLY REPORT

- **EU PROGRES Programme Manager, Graeme Tyndall** said Ivanjica was an example of a proactive municipality, which used the Programme in a strategic manner. He reaffirmed there was a lot of work ahead of EU PROGRES, including spending of five million Euros by the end of the year. Municipalities should take offered opportunity, engage strongly with EU PROGRES and use the time provided within no cost extension. He said that donors asked from EU PROGRES to use no cost extension time for the conduct of several studies within preparations of the new programme. Tyndall also called on the representatives of the PSC from the newly elected Government to take ownership of the Programme.
- **EU PROGRES Deputy Programme Manager, Marko Vujačić** presented the October – December 2012 Quarterly Report. He noted positive trend regarding the number of completed projects: 85 projects or 45% were completed, which was increase by 5% in comparison with the previous reporting period. Vujačić also warned that the number of critical projects between two periods increased from one to six and highlighted that political instabilities continued to negatively affect the Programme.
- The PSC discussed five critical projects, having in mind one of six has been resolved in the period that was not covered by the Report, including:
  - Establishment of Citizens' Assistant Centre (CAC) in Crna Trava
  - Detailed Regulation Plan (DRP) for Mala Guba Settlement in Prokuplje
  - DRP for Storage and Trade Centre in Blace
  - Main design for the Transfer Station in Bujanovac
  - Regulation of the Green Market in Kuršumlija.
- **Budimir** said it was incomprehensible there were projects with delays ranging from 10 to 14 months. This might have been the indicator of poor project preparedness and identification and he called on municipalities to pay far more attention to this aspect. Budimir underlined that every grant contract included the Action Plan and that deviations in its implementation could trigger cancelation of a particular project. This would reduce efficiency in absorption



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

of EU funds. Budimir also encouraged municipalities to use EU PROGRES both for enhancing their capacities and for establishing contacts with the ministries.

- **Vujačić** explained that CAC project in Crna Trava was listed critical due to complaint on the public procurement results. The complaint was rejected and thus implementation of project has continued. Due to long delays the project would stay critical until risks are minimised. Issues with cadastre that were slowing down work on DRP for Mala Guba Settlement in Prokuplje have been addressed.
- **Grant Manager for Blace DRP for Trade and Storage Centre, Gordana Kitanović** said that the issues with cadastre layout were resolved and implementation continued. She confirmed that DRP concept plan would be developed by the end of February.
- **Head of Bujanovac Local Economic Development Office, Fazila Azemović** informed the PSC on positive developments regarding the project for the Main Design for the Transfer Station. Delays were initially caused by prolonged process for obtaining design conditions from the Water Directorate. After municipality provided the requested part of technical documentation for the transfer station, the Water Directorate issued requested conditions and this enabled continuation of the project. The ToR for the project is ready and Bujanovac would conduct of public procurement.
- **Grant Manager for Kuršumljia Green Market project, Sunčica Nestorović** explained that Public Utility Company "Srbijavode" owned part of the land that was planned for the construction of the green market. The Municipality initiated the procedure, as envisaged by the Law, for the transfer of ownership from Srbijavode to the state and from the state to Kuršumljia. Nestorović confirmed that this procedure has been successfully concluded and thus conditions for the continuation of the project have been created. The municipality would conduct public procurement and start with construction works in April.

PSC also reviewed status of several projects that could become critical if quick progress wasn't made, including:

- Implementation of the Quality Management System in Novi Pazar and Bujanovac
  - Sustainability of Citizens' Advisory Services
  - Water supply for Roma population in Blaževo
  - Novi Pazar hesitation to adopt decision for joining the Pešter Development Centre
  - Slowed progress regarding development of management model and investors' criteria for the Leskovac Green Zone
  - Ownership issues affecting the project for the Main Design for Sjenica Transfer Station
- **Vujačić** explained that due to local political instabilities there were delays in implementation of QMS projects in Novi Pazar and Bujanovac. **Tyndall** said it was necessary for these



Programme Funded by EU



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

projects to make significant progress by mid March as otherwise they would be recommended for cancellation. Citizens' Advisory Services were effective in providing free legal aid but beneficiary municipalities should invest efforts to ensure their sustainability. Water supply in Blaževo was important for Roma community living in the settlement as well as for nearby ambulance and school. After long delays, direct implementation of the project by EU PROGRES remains the most efficient option. Still, strong engagement from Novi Pazar is necessary.

- **Budimir** asked why Novi Pazar had not adopted the decision on joining the Pešter Development Centre. **Novi Pazar Grant Manager, Faruk Suljević** requested two additional weeks for the City to make the decision on whether to join the Centre. Novi Pazar underwent political crisis and as a result got new ruling coalition on the day of the PSC. This slowed down progress, but Suljević believed Novi Pazar would make positive decision. **Mayor of Sjenica, Hazbo Mujović** said that this was a regional project and that political issues should not be excuse. Novi Pazar needed to state clearly whether it wanted to participate in the project or not so other partners could continue accordingly. Tyndall pointed that he had three meetings with the Novi Pazar Mayor with a limited follow up by the City on agreed actions and said that two weeks should be final deadline. Budimir asked if there was a possibility for Novi Pazar to join the Centre later. Tyndall explained this would mean development of a new business plan, re-composition of the Steering Committee, voting mechanisms etc.
- **The Assistant to the Minister of Regional Development and Local Self Government, Jelena Spasić** pointed out that when it came to regional projects, decisions by individual municipalities affect other partners as well as sustainability of the action. Contracts for regional projects should include elements which define conditions under which a partner may leave a project. **Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Janićije Jeremić** supported approval of two additional weeks for Novi Pazar but called on EU PROGRES' team to continue work on development of the project in a manner that will enable unhindered implementation in the case of negative decision by Novi Pazar. After consultations with the PSC members, Budimir set 8 March deadline for Novi Pazar decision to join the Centre. The City should also make progress regarding introduction of Quality Management System within this period.
- **The Director of Leskovac Agency for Local Economic Development (ALED), Bojan Tojaga** explained that progress with regard to good governance aspects of the Green Zone slowed down due to changes in City ruling coalition. Positive developments, however, were made: ALED was officially responsible for the project; the Action Plan for the Zone for the period 2013-2023 has been developed and would be considered at the next Assembly session; criteria for investors entering the Zone have been prepared, while six investors already expressed interest. **Tyndall** reiterated it was necessary for Leskovac to adopt the Action Plan and criteria as soon as possible.



Programme Funded by EU



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

- While talking about ownership problem for the Main Design for Sejnica Transfer Station, **Mujović** said that municipalities had problems with the PUC “Srbijašume” which owned large part of land on the territory of municipalities. This included the plot planned for the transfer station. Mujović asked PSC to assist Sjenica in transferring ownership over particular plot from “Srbija Šume” to the municipality. **Budimir** said that the PSC would try to facilitate a solution.
- **Vujačić** informed the PSC about risks deriving from the exchange rate fluctuation as losses may be significant and could reduce scope for financing of new projects.
- **Tojaga** asked if the Green Zone project could be declared as a project of national importance in order to obtain exemption from payment for the conversion of agricultural into construction land. **Budimir** said that the Law procedures were clear and that Leskovac would have to pay the conversion fees. The City could however consider different options, such as partial conversion.

#### AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATE OF MID TERM EVALUATION AND NO COST EXTENSION

- EU PROGRES informed the PSC that “No Cost Extension” request was finalised: SDC had approved the request; DEU had announced positive response.
- EU PROGRES reaffirmed that work on enhancing the Programme Monitoring System has continued: the format for the Quarterly Report has been changed; the focus was further shifted toward reporting against achievements and impact.

#### AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION OF REQUESTS FOR FUNDING COMMITMENTS

EU PROGRES presented the following requests for funding commitments:

- Development of the Main Design for Vranje National Theatre
- Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Regional Waste Management Plan in Pčinjski District
- Preparation of the Tourism Strategic Marketing Plan for the part of the South West Serbia.

#### AGENDA ITEM 7: UPDATE ON BUJANOVAC FACULTY

- **Advisor to the Director of the Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, Milica Rodić** gave an overview on Bujanovac Faculty developments. She reaffirmed importance of this institution in enabling access to high education for the Albanian community. The Faculty was also important in terms of integration, as Albanian students



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

would attend classes in Serbian as well. The lack of premises could endanger this successful project and it was important to construct facilities. **Azemović** confirmed that the Bujanovac Municipality, in line with deadline set during previous PSC meeting, provided plot of land; preliminary design, predicting construction of a modern faculty building that will meet national standards for high education institutions has been developed; work on the main designs was in progress and would be developed by the end of the month.

## AGENDA ITEM 8: VOTING

The PSC unanimously approved the following:

- The Quarterly Report, for October-December 2012
- Development of the Main Design for Vranje National Theatre
- Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Regional Waste Management Plan in Pčinjski District
- Preparation of the Tourism Strategic Marketing Plan for the part of the South West Serbia.

## AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **The Mayor of Vranje, Zoran Antić** congratulated EU PROGRES on winning City Award for contribution to local development. Antić was pleased to confirm investments by Geox, Ditrelitalia and DinaDivani in the Industrial Zone. MRDLSG pledged to support construction of part of the by pass road to the Zone while realisation of Geox investment would start in May. Antić proposed the next PSC to be held in Vranje.
- **The President of Ivanjica Association for Cerebral Paralysis, Svetlana Glavinić** praised excellent cooperation with EU PROGRES. She highlighted results of the project “Weekend Rest Programme”, which prevents institutionalization of children with disabilities. She said that funding for continuation of this project had been provided by the DEU and that the project won the ERSTE Foundation award. The Association was the first to initiate this service in Serbia with support of EU PROGRES Programme.
- **Tyndall** informed the PSC that EU PROGRES expects to receive a small project that will facilitate access to education for Roma pupils. Budimir said that the PSC will consider the proposal after its submission.
- **The Mayor of Raška Municipality, Jovan Čorbić** asked when municipalities could expect the results of the third call for local infrastructure proposals.
- **Budimir** said that EU PROGRES received 24 proposals. Requests towards EU PROGRES to conduct several studies within preparations of possible successor, in combination with noted exchange rate fluctuation losses, may affect funding available for projects. Having in mind



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

this, the PSC would review financial status and received proposals at the extraordinary meeting that would be held within one month. The PSC will be careful during the selection of projects because there was no room for delays. Municipalities would be informed on the decisions.

- **Nestorović** called on EU PROGRES to ensure transparency regarding decisions on funding of projects within call for proposal. The Programme could provide detailed ranking list of projects on the website and thus enable municipalities to learn from examples.
- **Budimir** thanked everyone for participation and said the next regular meeting would be held in Vranje.

### III LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Institution/Organisation	Function
<b>PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>			
1.	Branko Budimir	The Serbian European Integration Office	Head of the Department for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Aid
2.	Andrew Headey	DEU	Head of Section III Operations
3.	Janićije Jeremić	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy	Secretary
4.	Jelena Spasić	Ministry of Regional Development and Local Self-Government	Assistant to the Minister
5.	Milica Rodić	Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Director's Advisor

<sup>1</sup> The entire list is in alphabetical order.





Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

6.	Sandra Hadžagić	Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas (OSDUA)	Advisor
7.	Tanja Milojković	Ministry of Regional Development and Local Self-Government	Sector for European Integration, International Cooperation, and Projects
8.	Žarko Malinović	Ministry of Finance and Economy	State Secretary Cabinet Member
<b>PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>			
9.	Albin Crnišanin	Sandžak Regional Economic Development Agency	Project Coordinator
10.	Aleksandar Kolić	Trgovište Municipality	Deputy Mayor
11.	Armend Aliu	PBILD	Coordinator for Regional Development and Strategic Planning
12.	Bajram Aljović	Tutin Municipality	Executive for LED
13.	Bojan Tojaga	LED Agency Leskovac	Director
14.	Brankica Jovanović	SEIO	Manager of Group for Implementing and Monitoring Implementation of EU-Funded Projects
15.	Sunčica Nestorović	Kuršumlija Municipality	Grant Manager for Kuršumlija Green Market project
16.	Dejan Simić	Medveđa Municipality	Head of LED Office
17.	Dragana Bogdanović	Ivanjica Municipality	LED Office Associate
18.	Dragoslav Petrović	Trgovište Municipality	LED Office

The Programme is funded by the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia and is implemented by UNOPS, in partnership with 25 municipalities of the South and South West Serbia

[www.euprogres.org](http://www.euprogres.org)



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

19.	Emir Hašimbegović	Prijepolje Municipality	Mayor
20.	Faruk Suljević	City of Novi Pazar	Mayor's Assistant
21.	Fazila Azemović	Bujanovac Municipality	LED Office Manager
22.	Goran Puzović	Public Enterprise "Srbijavode"	Director
23.	Gordana Kitanović	Blace Municipality	Grant Manager
24.	Hazbo Mujović	Sjenica Municipality	Mayor
25.	Ilir Sadriu	Preševo Municipality	LED Office Manager
26.	Ivan Stojanović	Bojnik Municipality	Mayor
27.	Jovan Čorbić	Raška Municipality	Mayor
28.	Krsto Janjušević	Priboj Municipality	LED Adviser to the Mayor
29.	Marinko Đorđević	Vlasotince Municipality	LED Office
30.	Marjan Stanković	Lebane Municipality	Office for Project Management
31.	Milan Vučković	Vladičin Han Municipality	LED Office
32.	Milena Poledica	Society for Cerebral Paralysis	Defectologist
33.	Milka Kaplanović	Ivanjica Municipality	LED Office Coordinator
34.	Milomir Zorić	Ivanjica Municipality	Mayor
35.	Milorad Nikolić	Trgovište Municipality	LED Office Manager
36.	Miroljub Đokić	Vladičin Han Municipality	Municipal Council Member
37.	Mustafa Fatlum	Preševo Municipality	Head of Mayor's Cabinet
38.	Nebojša Stojanović	Vlasotince Municipality	Mayor
39.	Nedžad Behljuli	Bujanovac Municipality	LED Office

The Programme is funded by the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia and is implemented by UNOPS, in partnership with 25 municipalities of the South and South West Serbia

[www.euprogres.org](http://www.euprogres.org)



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

40.	Olivera Antić	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	Advisor at Republic Water Directorate
41.	Radoje Krstović	Blace Municipality	Mayor
42.	Radojka Savić	Regional Agency for Spatial and Economic Development of Raška and Moravica District	Director
43.	Radosav Vasiljević	Nova Varoš Municipality	Deputy Mayor
44.	Rasim Jahić	Sjenica Municipality	Directorate for Urbanism and Construction
45.	Saša Dodić	Bojnik Municipality	Head of LED Office
46.	Saša Vasilić	Priboj Municipality	President of the City Assembly
47.	Slavko Lukić	Regional Development Agency Zlatibor – Užice	Director
48.	Slobodan Drašković	Medveđa Municipality	Mayor
49.	Slobodan Popović	Ivanjica Municipality	Head of Finance Unit
50.	Sunčica Nestorović	Kuršumlija Municipality	LED office
51.	Svetlana Glavinić	Society for Cerebral Paralysis	Director
52.	Vitomir Mihajlović	National Roma Minority Council	President
53.	Vule Pašajlić	Raška Municipality	Head of LED Office
54.	Zoran Antić	City of Vranje	Mayor
55.	Zoran Ilić	Lebane Municipality	Mayor
<b>EU PROGRES</b>			
56.	Grem Tindal	EU PROGRES	Programme Manager

The Programme is funded by the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia and is implemented by UNOPS, in partnership with 25 municipalities of the South and South West Serbia

[www.euprogres.org](http://www.euprogres.org)



Programme Funded by EU



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

57.	Marko Vujačić	EU PROGRES	Deputy Programme Manager
58.	Dušan Čukić	EU PROGRES	Technical Programme Specialist
59.	Dragan Mladenović	EU PROGRES	Component 1 Manager
60.	Jasmina Ilić	EU PROGRES	Component 3 Manager
61.	Dejan Drobnjak	EU PROGRES	Component 4 Manager
62.	Nermin Hasanović	EU PROGRES	Head of Office for South West Serbia
63.	Milan Kolašinac	EU PROGRES	Engineer
64.	Danica Pavlović	EU PROGRES	Coordinator
65.	Evgjenije Islami	EU PROGRES	Coordinator
66.	Seada Bogučanin	EU PROGRES	Coordinator
67.	Slobodan Derikonjić	EU PROGRES	Coordinator
68.	Maida Jusufović	EU PROGRES	Programme Assistant
69.	Petar Janjatović	EU PROGRES	Communications Assistant

The Programme is funded by the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia and is implemented by UNOPS, in partnership with 25 municipalities of the South and South West Serbia

[www.euprogres.org](http://www.euprogres.org)