



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

THIRD PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Bujanovac, 19 April, 2011



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 introduction speeches
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Steering Committee
3. Presentation of the Quarterly Report January-March 2011 and work plan for the second quarter of 2011
4. Presentation of good governance as PROGRES transversal theme
5. Motions - approval for funding commitments
6. Voting
7. Other Business

II Minutes

Agenda item 1: Welcome and introduction speeches

- ✚ Welcome from the host, the **Mayor of Bujanovac**, Shaip Kamberi, who thanked the participants for attending and PROGRES for organization of the meeting in this municipality. Kamberi also expressed gratitude to PROGRES for awarding Bujanovac with the grant project for the preparation of plan for identification of water source sanitary protection zones and belts for water supply adding that he expected every municipality would be able to fulfil some of its strategic goals through this Programme.
- ✚ Welcome note from the **Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) Deputy Director and the Chairman of the Steering Committee**, Ognjen Mirić, who stated that the previous three months had been very busy for PROGRES and that he expected even bigger intensifying of the activities in the coming period.
- ✚ Welcome from the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Director for Serbia**, Beatrice Meyer, who stated that there had been good progress with PROGRES in the previous period, and highlighted two main points: good governance principles and citizens assistance centres (CACs) in municipalities. In terms of good governance, Meyer reminded of the importance of the Citizens' Satisfaction Survey that was presented in January and which attracted great media coverage, saying that such survey was a baseline at the beginning of the Programme. "The construction of CACs goes into the same directions as the local self governments (LSGs) would like to be more accessible to citizens", she said.
- ✚ **Project Manager at the Delegation of the European Union**, Ana Stanković, in welcoming the participants said that the EU supported reform projects: both decentralisation and increasing LSG capacities which can thus become more effective and more efficient with increased citizens' participation. "PROGRES directly supports the Government of Serbia on its EU accession road", Stanković said and appealed to all municipalities to use available resources at PROGRES and to create inter-municipal partnerships, as there was a problem with the quality of projects.
- ✚ **UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative**, William Infante, saluted the great work the PROGRES team is doing in 25 municipalities, with DEU and SDC support. Infante also stated that various citizens' satisfaction surveys showed that citizens felt isolated and estranged from the governments, but that local communities in the South Serbia (Albanians, Roma and Serbs) are seeing equal disenfranchisement from Belgrade, adding it was his job to make sure that the South Serbia was part of discussions in Belgrade. Furthermore, Infante said he was concerned with education because each country needed qualitative education which would produce new generations of thinkers and leaders.
- ✚ Welcome from the **Head of Department for Regional Development Policy, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development (MoERD)**, Jovanka Vukmirović, who stated that the Ministry was concerned with the quality of the infrastructure projects and the absence of those dealing with economic infrastructure, adding that a great number of problems stems from the central level and the



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

institutional framework. The Ministry was working on establishing this institutional framework and is in the process of issuing accreditations to regional development agencies (RDAs). In the six months that the call has been opened, not a single RDA was accredited. RDAs should serve as a service to municipalities which are small and hence cannot fulfil significant development. Vukmirović asked the LSGs to support RDAs in the accreditation process, as the membership fees paid are investment into the future.

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

- ✚ The Programme Steering Committee voting members unanimously approved the minutes of the second Steering Committee meeting.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of the Quarterly Report January-March 2011 and work plan for the second quarter of 2011

- ✚ The overview of the main achievements and outputs in the previous quarter (January - March 2011) and the work plan for the second quarter (April – June 2011) was presented by the PROGRES Deputy Programme Manager (DPM) Aleksandra Radetić.
- ✚ There were several requests to change the wording in the quarterly report (all on page 12):
 - Second paragraph, about the support from the Turkish Government through the TIKA agency, needs to be rephrased to reflect the fact that those funds were intended for two important regional roads but that the final contract had not been signed yet. Turkish Government annual support is three-four million Euro.
 - The first paragraph in the South Serbia section, about the Maternity ward in Preševo, should acknowledge the support from the Ministry of Health for the project.
 - The second paragraph in the South Serbia section, about text books in Albanian, and the agreement with the Government of Albania to support printing of the ABC books, should read that the request was to display both Serbian and Albanian flags and that it was accepted by the Tirana administration.
- ✚ Other comments:
 - PROGRES PM informed that the draft quarterly report was posted on the website and that from now on all relevant documents will be published there.
 - The President of Bujanovac Assembly, Jonuz Musliu, raised two issues: why were there no PROGRES documents in Albanian and could the fact that only Serbian flag was displayed in textbooks be considered discrimination. The Director of the Coordination Body (CB), Danijela Nenadić observed that such issues should be discussed with the Ministry of Education and that it was not appropriate to burden PROGRES Steering Committee meeting with such discussions. Programme DPM remarked that PROGRES was one of the few projects that bothered bringing along translators who spoke Albanian to meetings with officials and promised Musliu to send the Executive Summary of the Quarterly Report in Albanian.

Agenda item 4: Presentation of good governance as PROGRES transversal theme, Dragan Mladenović, Component 1 Manager

- ✚ The presentation included a practical overview of good governance as a transversal theme and tried to inspire the participants to ask sets of questions when doing any work in the local self government.
- ✚ PROGRES Programme Manager, Graeme Tyndall, reinforced the importance of this topic in the implementation of projects: LSGs will receive money and it was important how these grants were administered, how projects were chosen, what decision making processes were. PROGRES modality of



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

working with the LSGs, civil society organisations and citizens can assure that funds are administered in the proper manner and if done right, there would be a huge benefit to all communities.

Agenda item 5: Motions - approval for funding commitments

The Component Managers presented motions for approval of funding commitments:

-  Good governance campaign within the Public awareness and Branding Component, Marko Vujačić, Component 4 Manager
-  Citizens Assistance Centres and Local Sustainable Development Strategies Implementation Monitoring within Municipal Management and Development Planning, Dobrivoje Stančić, Component 2 Manager
-  Infrastructure at regional and local level, Jasmina Ilić, Component 3 Manager

Comments/Discussion:

- Ognjen Mirić emphasized importance of cooperation with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister whose team is working on sustainable development. All strategies should be checked and aligned with the National Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia.
- The Mayor of Vranje, Miroljub Stojčić, commented that PROGRES should not seek financial contribution in the implementation of the CACs' projects in Trgovište, Crna Trava and Bosilegrad; although not high, these municipalities suffered from floods and benefit from any saving that can be made. Mr. Mirić replied that contribution from municipalities is a must (according to IPA rules) and that the percentage asked for from the municipalities is minimal in comparison with the other EU programmes.
- PROGRES PM clarified that the infrastructure projects mentioned in the presentation were coming from three different budget lines: 1. the Green Zone project in Leskovac was presented with an idea to get initial support from the PSC to bring the project to a mature state and there was a separate budget for inter-municipal projects. 2. The infrastructure projects in Toplica were a separate activity line, totalling €800,000 and intended as an entry point to this District. 3. The call for proposals which closed on 28 February – projects were still being evaluated and that there may be a separate PSC meeting to decide on funding. Finally, it is very important that PROGRES cooperates with other programmes and offices as the Programme can help the LSGs find common ground.
- Jovanka Vukmirović emphasized the importance of the projects such as the Green Zone in Leskovac. She added that regional development was especially endangered in rural areas and that projects as that one could support private producers to find a way to the market. Vukmirović again reinforced the importance of economic infrastructure projects adding that the MoERD would be at disposal to support technical documentation for such projects. Although the Government has adopted the criteria, the call has not been published yet; there was a great interest for this programme to succeed and hence MoERD would look to co-fund projects.
- Mayor of Trgovište, Darko Tomić, thanked PROGRES and stated that the opening of the CAC in this town would be an example of good governance practice. He added that he expected support from the Government in terms of human resources (higher number of expert staff employed in the municipality and provision of redundancy pay for old retiring staff). Tomić invited the PSC to have the next meeting in Trgovište municipality.
- The Component 3 Manager, Jasmina Ilić, invited municipalities to continue submitting information about projects which did not have technical documentation. Although the original deadline passed, there will be other opportunities which LSGs should take advantage of.



Programme funded by EU



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

- The President of the Albanian Minority Council, Galip Bećiri, enquired about the status of the infrastructure project submitted by Bujanovac municipality which involved the reconstruction of the AMC offices. He was dissatisfied with the procedure stressing that it was too long. The PSC Chairman explained that the procedure was not so complicated, compared with other EU programmes and that it was crucial that the building started during the season, which was the original aim of the call. In addition, he thanked Toplica District on good work and submission of seven projects, as the things were critical at the last PSC meeting.
- The Mayor of Bosilegrad, Vlada Zaharijev, thanked PROGRES and the PSC for approving works on the CAC in his municipality and stated that Bosilegrad had secured co-funding. Zaharijev also highlighted the importance of economic projects, and for his municipality, the development of cattle breeding which the LSG could co-fund with 50%. Mr Zaharijev said that he would be very pleased to have the next PSC meeting in Bosilegrad.

Agenda item 6: Voting

- ✚ The Programme Steering Committee voting members adopted the Quarterly report with the amendments proposed and the Work plan for the forthcoming period.
- ✚ All motions presented were endorsed:
 - Up to 100,000 Euro for the Good governance campaign
 - Up to 80,000 Euro for the consultancy to work on the Local Sustainable Development Strategies in the South West Serbia and Toplica District
 - Up to 136,000 Euro for the Citizens Assistance Centres in Crna Trava (37,400 Euro), Bosilegrad (61,000 Euro) and Trgovište (37,600 Euro)
 - Up to 560,468 Euro for seven infrastructure projects for Toplica District:
 - Blace: Reconstruction of a Health Clinic in Barbatovac village and Reconstruction of toilets in Primary school (a total of 78,575 Euro)
 - Kuršumljija: Construction of a central laboratory and Finishing works on the Sports Hall (a total of 178,798 Euro)
 - Prokuplje: Health Clinic – Parking/Approach area and Regulation of Straževačka River (a total of 223,495 Euro)
 - Žitorađa: Construction of sports stadium stands (a total of 79,600 Euro)
 - Support to Leskovac to finalise the Green Zone project

Agenda item 7: Other Business

It was agreed that the next Project Steering Committee meeting would be taking place in Bosilegrad in July, while Trgovište offer would not be forgotten.

Jovanka Vukmirović appealed on PROGRES to prepare a study which would indicate which were the reasons for absence of economic infrastructure projects. The MoERD would like to revitalise Brownfield projects but the absence of legal regulations of property are a formal obstacle.

Graeme Tyndall also emphasized the importance of high quality proposals with economic implications and agreed that PROGRES would look into the reasons for insufficient number of such projects that would be presented as a study at the next meeting.



Programme funded by EU



Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

The list of participants¹

	NAME AND SURNAME	INSTITUTION / ORGANISATION	FUNCTION
VOTING MEMBERS AND DONORS			
1.	Aleksandar Radosavljević	MHMRPALSG	Special Adviser
2.	Ana Stanković	Delegation of the European Union to Serbia	Project Manager
3.	Beatrice Meyer	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Director
4.	Danijela Nenadić	Coordination Body	Director
5.	Jovanka Vukmirović	MoERD	Head of Department for Regional Development Policy
6.	Ognjen Mirić	Serbian European Integration Office	Deputy Director and PSC Chairman
PARTICIPANTS			
7.	Agon Islami	Committee for Human Rights	Coordinator
8.	Ankica Žegarac Milenković	Surdulica municipality	LED Office
9.	Arbnora Ahmedi	Albanian National Minority Council	Secretary
10.	Armend Aliu	USAID	Field Office Manager
11.	Bajram Aljović	Tutin municipality	Head of the Department for Economy and LED
12.	Bojan Milčev	Žitorađa municipality	LED Office
13.	Bora Obradović	USAID	Consultant / Associate
14.	Borka Jeremić	UN Office of the Resident Coordinator	RC Coordination Specialist
15.	Božidar Živković	Žitorađa municipality	Mayor Assistant
16.	Branko Budimir	Serbian European Integration Office	Head of Group for Socio-Economic Cohesion
17.	Branko Delibašić	Coordination Body	Advisor/Head of Preševo Office

¹ In alphabetical order. The mayor of Preševo, Ragmi Mustafa, arrived after the event, due to an unexpected meeting of the Assembly.



Programme funded by EU



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

18.	Budimir Mihajlović	Pčinja District	Head of the District
19.	Damjan Čuprić	The Office for Sustainable Development of Insufficiently Developed Areas	Advisor
20.	Darko Tomić	Trgovište municipality	Mayor
21.	Dejan Jovanović	Kuršumlija municipality	Chief of the Department for Economy and LED
22.	Dejan Nikolić	Vladičin Han municipality	Mayor Assistant
23.	Dragiša Ilić	Raška Municipality	Mayor
24.	Edib Kajević	The Office for Sustainable Development of Insufficiently Developed Areas	Assistant Director
25.	Galip Bećiri	Albanian National Minority Council	President
26.	Gligor Gligorov	Bulgarian NMC	Vice President
27.	Goran Stojković	Žitorađa municipality	Mayor
28.	Hazbo Mujović	Sjenica municipality	Deputy Mayor
29.	Ivanka Miladinović	Prokuplje municipality	Municipal Council Secretary
30.	Jasmina Arsić	CTIJS Bujanovac	Director
31.	Jonuz Musliu	Bujanovac municipality	Assembly President
32.	Lidija Stojković	CRC Bujanovac	President
33.	Maša Tilinek	CSO Generator Vranje	Coordinator and finance
34.	Mića Stanković	Lebane municipality	Mayor
35.	Milena Aleksić	Surdulica municipality	LED Office
36.	Milomir Zorić	Ivanjica Municipality	Deputy Mayor
37.	Milorad Mladenović	City of Leskovac	Mayor Assistant
38.	Miroljub Stojčić	City of Vranje	Mayor

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



Programme funded by EU



Implementing Partner



European Partnership with Municipalities Programme

39.	Nebojša Nenadović	Municipality of Bojnik	Mayor
40.	Nebojsa Rančić	USAID	Team leader for Components 1 and 2
41.	Nicholas Hercules	PBILD Programme	Programme Manger
42.	Pajaz Jusufović	Tutin municipality	Deputy Mayor
43.	Samir Kačapor	SEDA	Director
44.	Saša Stevanović	Trgovište municipality	Mayor Assistant
45.	Shaip Kamberi	Bujanovac municipality	Mayor
46.	Skender Demiri	CTIJS Bujanovac	Programme Assistant
47.	Slobodan Draškovic	Medveđa municipality	Mayor
48.	Slobodan Kocić	City of Leskovac	Mayor
49.	Sunčica Nestorović	Kuršumlija municipality	LED Office
50.	Šušulić Srđan	Vlasotince municipality	Mayor
51.	Sveta Tošić	Crna Trava municipality	Assembly president
52.	Tatjana Panić Živković	RDA Leskovac	Project manager
53.	Vesna Cvetković	Nexus Vranje	Project manager
54.	Vesna Jakovljević	Kuršumlija municipality	Mayor
55.	Vitomir Mihajlović	Roma NMC	President
56.	Vladimir Zahariev	Bosilegrad municipality	Mayor
57.	Vujica Tiosavljević	The City of Novi Pazar	Deputy Mayor
58.	William Infante	UN	Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
59.	Xhelal Hasani	Development Agency for Preševo and Bujanovac	Director
60.	Zoran Dimitrijević	Prokuplje municipality	Member of Municipal Council

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



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

61.	Zoran Najdić	The City of Vranje	Member of Municipal Council
-----	--------------	--------------------	-----------------------------

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