

MINUTES

9 February 2011, Prokuplje

I Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction speech
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Steering Committee
3. Presentation of the Quarterly report and work plan for the 1st quarter of 2011
4. Voting
5. Other matters

II Minutes

Agenda item 1: Welcome and introduction

- Welcome from the **Mayor of Prokuplje**, Milan Arsović, who thanked participants for attending the meeting, but also donors who are, through PROGRES, assisting with the efforts to speed up the municipal and regional development, and improve infrastructure and quality of life. Arsović also announced opening of the new production hall within Leoni, in March 2011, that will employ 700 workers.
- Welcome note from the **Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) Deputy Director and the Chairman of the Steering Committee**, Ognjen Mirić, who reminded that PROGRES has been working with local self governments on definition of priority projects in the past six months but that, unfortunately, there was a general deficiency of good proposals in Serbia. Also, municipalities lack technical documentation for projects and there are issues with unresolved legal property. Furthermore, regarding PROGRES, the budget of 800,000€, allocated for Toplica District, will only be utilised if the local self governments prepare quality projects; otherwise the money can be redirected for other purposes. Mr. Mirić explained that the Mayors of Novi Pazar and Tutin have been delegated by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities to the Programme Steering Committee as voting members (with one vote) in order to ensure equal representation of the South and South-West Serbia.
- Welcome from **the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia**, Adriano Martins, who announced an additional 600,000€ from an unexpended IPA budget line, will be approved for the South Serbia area which is included in the PROGRES. “Through PROGRES, we want to increase absorption of funds and ensure local self governments use available instruments to get funding. It is important that municipalities start generating revenues as this could be one of the ways for infrastructure improvements to become regular municipal activity”, Martins said. Martins also announced that 200 million Euro will be available through IPA 2011 in mid-July, and that the Government of Serbia has already started preparation of IPA 2012, worth another 200 million Euros.

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- Welcome from the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Director for Serbia**, Beatrice Meyer, who reminded that the Swiss Government is not only interested to financially support the Programme, but also to contribute by introducing principles of, and experiences in good governance through Programme activities, with an ultimate goal of good services to citizens. Meyer emphasised the importance of those principles (accountability, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and non-discrimination) being applied not only in the local administrations, but also in the decision making processes within the PROGRES Programme. For example, “When voting, we should avoid a conflict of interest. Those putting forward projects for funding should abstain from voting”, Meyer added. She also announced the next visit of the Swiss good governance experts for the beginning of March.
 - Welcome from the **USAID Mission Director**, Susan Fritz, who spoke about continuation of support to local economic development in Serbia, through a five-year 21 million US dollars Programme - Sustainable Local Development - which will start in March 2011 and cover 37 municipalities in Serbia. The programme will focus on municipal clusters (12) formed for the purpose of municipal economic development in the South Serbia, Sandzak, Nis and Novi Sad.
 - The **Director of the “Clean up Serbia” action, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MoESP)**, Milan Kindić, congratulated Prijepolje, Priboj, Nova Varoš and Sjenica on establishing a joint company for waste management, remarking that this was a good example of PROGRES cooperation with the MoESP. This integrated approach, for managing of the Banjica Landfill, is the first project based on such a concept, that the Ministry will support in Serbia. The Ministry has funds to assist 30 municipalities in waste management and establishment of recycling centres. Kindić also pointed to the weak response to the Eco Fund call for proposals and said that the 500,000 Euro from 2010 have been transferred to this year’s budget.
 - Welcome from the **Head of Department for Regional Development policy, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development**, Jovanka Vukmirović, who indicated three main, systemic, obstacles related to preparing competitive project proposals by municipalities: 1. insufficiently trained staff and lack of technical documentation, 2. harmonised regional development being endangered by the fact that the bigger and richer municipalities have better capacity for writing projects and attracting funds which further widens the gap between rich and poor as poor municipalities become even poorer, and 3. inability of under-developed municipalities to co-finance projects. Therefore, the Government of Serbia has approved 100 million dinars grants Fund, which the municipalities and regional development agencies may use for formulation of projects, provision of technical documentation and contribution in co-financing. Depending on the devastation level of a municipality, percentage of co-financing can be from 10 to 50% (50% for devastated municipalities, 40 for IV category, 30 for III category, 20 for II category and 10 for I category). This fund can be used mainly for projects related to providing better conditions for doing business and infrastructure,

and will be available until December 2011. Assessments/allocation of funds will be made each month.

- Welcome from the **Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government**, Aleksandar Radisavljević, who observed there was a lot of work ahead, despite already achieved results in municipal capacity building. Radisavljević added that the Ministry will, by the end of 2011, adopt standards for the employment in public services as well as standards for human resource management.

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

- The Programme Steering Committee voting members unanimously approved the Minutes of the first Steering Committee meeting.

Agenda item 3:

Presentation of the Quarterly report and work plan for the 1st quarter of 2011

- Overview of the main achievements and outputs in the previous quarter (October-December 2010), Graeme Tyndall, Programme Manager
- Presentation of key findings of the Citizens Satisfaction Survey, Aleksandra Radetić, Deputy Programme Manager
- Presentation of the results of the first public call for the Citizens Involvement Fund, Dragan Mladenović, Component 1 Manager
- Presentation of developments regarding PROGRES support to Citizens Assistance Centres and urban plans, Dobrivoje Stančić, Component 2 Manager
- Presentation of infrastructure projects, Jasmina Ilić, Component 3 Manager
- Presentation of integrated waste management solution projects, Dusan Čukić, Technical Specialist
- Presentation of the work plan for the 1st quarter of 2011, Marko Vujačić, Component 4 Manager

Discussion

- Leskovac Mayor's assistant, Milorad Mladenović, enquired whether the Citizens Involvement Fund applicants were informed about the competition results. It was explained that the results will be published on PROGRES website after the Steering Committee endorsement. The organisations that showed low capacities in writing projects will be given an opportunity to apply for training that will be organised by PROGRES prior to the second CIF call.
- PBILD Deputy Programme Manager, Tatjana Strahinjić Nikolić, observed that the fact that PBILD and PROGRES have calls for proposals at the same time was unfortunate as

both programmes rely upon LED offices to prepare projects. PROGRES Infrastructure Component 3 Manager remarked that this was rather a fortunate coincidence and that it would be good if there were even more calls at the same time.

- The Manager of the Centre for Development of Jablanica and Pčinja District, Biljana Stanković, announced that the Centre won PBILD tender for service provision and that they could help in implementation of activities of both programmes. She pointed that the regional cooperation is important and that by supporting RDAs capacities of the region can be improved.
- UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Juerg Staudenmann, accentuated need to coordinate PBILD and PROGRES activities, as both programmes complement each other, and suggested production of joint campaigns. PROGRES Programme Manager assured DRR that both programmes have good coordination on operational and strategic issues, giving examples on gender, citizen assistance centres and Migration where strategic coordination was in place while operationally, DPMs coordinated and staff attended the others meetings and conferences. He confirmed that there would be another strategic session as soon as practicable after the PBILD recruits a new Programme Manager.
- UN RC Coordination Specialist, Borka Jeremić reiterated that there were challenges on all levels and that it was important to pass the information to main actors in these regions about donor activities. PBILD will get a new Programme Manager in March, Jeremić said. She also raised the issue of joint PBILD/PROGRES visibility events, joint Programme Steering Committee meetings and other similar programming events. The PROGRES Manager replied that the European Partnership with Municipalities was a Programme funded by the European Union (EU), the Swiss Government and the Government of Serbia and had the key objective to promote the EU and Serbian Government partnership toward EU accession which was wholly consistent with the Swiss-Serbia Country Cooperation objectives. In all instances, when the UN goals were consistent with this objective, such as the promotion of the UN Day, marking International Days of People with Disabilities, Roma Day or Women's Day (and similar), then PROGRES also has a responsibility to work within the UN system to promote these values.
- Mayor of Bujanovac, Shaip Kamberi, pointed out that the negotiations on multi-ethnic authority were finished long time ago and that it will be expanded to seven more members. Hence, the statement in the activity 1.7 of the Report should be updated. Mayor Kamberi asked whether any Albanians were employed in PROGRES, since the programme is implemented in Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa. The PROGRES Programme Manager explained that the Programme is an equal opportunity employer and that it strives to employ local professional staff and reassured the Mayor that the efforts are being made to recruit a skilled expert from the ethnic Albanian and Roma ethnic communities.
- The Coordination Body Deputy Director, Danijela Nenadić, suggested that expression "Serbian minority" should be replaced with "Serbian ethnic community" in the part of the quarterly report dealing with the political updates.

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- The Head of Toplica District, Srdjan Jordačijević, remarked there was no information about the investors in Prokuplje, observing Leoni was a major investment. He suggested establishment of Business zone in cooperation with the City of Niš which can help development of Toplica District and expand business activities to ground safety zone. Also, there was a recommendation to include information about presentation of PROGRES to Roma non-governmental organizations, held in October 2010, to the Quarterly Report.

Agenda item 4: Voting

- The Quarterly Report adopted, with amendments given by the Mayor Kamberi, Danijela Nenadic and the Head of Toplica District (related to meeting with Roma organisations).
- 40 Citizens Involvement Fund projects, worth 439,059.31 EUR in total, with PROGRES contribution of up to 334,738.99 EUR, endorsed
- PROGRES work plan for the first quarter of 2011 approved
- Up to 200,000 EUR approved for PROGRES contribution to redesign of technical documentation for the integrated waste solution management at Banjica Landfill (total value of the project up to 240,000 EUR)
- Up to 25,000 EUR approved for PROGRES contribution for Lim River Floating Waste project (with co-financing of MoESP and REC in the amount of 25,000 EUR each)
- Up to 75,000 EUR approved for PROGRES contribution for the main design of the recycling yards.

Agenda item 5: Other matters

- There were no further questions from the participants. The Chairman thanked everyone for participation, as well as organisers, and hosts in the municipality of Prokuplje, and concluded that the adoption of the Quarterly Report guarantees implementation of future activities within the given framework.

III Attendance List

Nr.	Name	Organisation	Position
1.	Adriano Martins	Delegation of European Union	Deputy Head
2.	Ana Stanković	Delegation of European Union	Project Manager
3.	Beatrice Meyer	SDC	Director
4.	Petar Vasilev	SDC	National Project Officer
5.	Ognjen Mirić	Serbian European Integration Office	Deputy Director
6.	Aleksandar Radosavljević	MPALSG	Advisor
7.	Milan Kindić	MoESP	Director of Clean Up Serbia
8.	Jovanka Vukmirović	MoERD	Head of Department for Regional Development Policy
9.	Danijela Nenadić	Coordination Body for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa	Deputy Director
10.	Borka Jeremić	UN office of the Resident Coordinator	RC Coordination Specialist
11.	Juerg Staudenmann	UNDP	Deputy Resident Representative
12.	Susan Fritz	USAID	Mission Director
13.	Michael Metzler	USAID	Director (Acting) Economic Growth Office
14.	Danijel Dašić	USAID	Manager
15.	Galip Bećiri	Albanian National Minority Council	President
16.	Vitomir Mihajlović	Roma National Minority Council	President
17.	Meho Mahmutović	City of Novi Pazar	Mayor
18.	Milomir Zorić	Ivanjica municipality	Deputy Mayor
19.	Lazar Rvović	Priboj municipality	Mayor
20.	Dragiša Ilić	Raška municipality	Mayor
21.	Bajro Gegić	Tutin municipality	Mayor
22.	Milan Arsović	Prokuplje municipality	Mayor
23.	Zoran Dimitrijević	Prokuplje municipality	Member of Municipal Council
24.	Goran Stojković	Zitorađa municipality	Mayor
25.	Bojan Milčev	Zitorađa municipality	Coordinator LED office
26.	Slobodan Kocić	City of Leskovac	Mayor
27.	Milorad Mladenović	City of Leskovac	Deputy Mayor
28.	Dragan Janković	Lebane municipality	Head of Administration

29.	Bojan Cvetković	Vlasotince municipality	Head of Administration
30.	Aleksandar Veličković	Vlasotince municipality	Deputy Mayor
31.	Snežana Vrbenac	Surdulica municipality	Head of Administration
32.	Dejan Nikolić	Vladičin Han municipality	Deputy Mayor
33.	Milan Vučković	Vladičin Han municipality	Member of Municipal Council
34.	Igor Andonov	City of Vranje	Deputy Mayor
35.	Darko Tomić	Trgovište municipality	Mayor
36.	Milorad Nikolić	Trgovište municipality	Coordinator LED office
37.	Sveta Tošić	Crna Trava municipality	President of Assembly
38.	Slavčo Vladimirov	Bosilegrad municipality	Deputy Assembly President
39.	Šaip Kamberi	Bujanovac municipality	Mayor
40.	Ragmi Mustafa	Preševo municipality	Mayor
41.	Srđan Jordačijević	Toplica District	Head of District
42.	Biljana Stanković	Centre for Development of Jablanica and Pčinja Districts	Director
43.	Živko Ivanković	VEEDA	Director
44.	Goran Kostić	VEEDA	Team leader
45.	Aleksandar Protić	Regional Agency for Economic and Spatial Development of Raški and Moravički districts	Advisor for Economic Development
46.	Tatjana Strahinjčić-Nikolić	PBILD	Deputy Programme Manager
47.	Igor Kostić	The Initiatives	President of Executive Board
48.	Snezana Ilić	EHO	Director
49.	Graeme Tyndall	PROGRES	Programme Manager
50.	Aleksandra Radetić	PROGRES	Deputy Programme Manager
51.	Dušan Čukić	PROGRES	Technical Specialist
52.	Marko Vujačić	PROGRES	Component 4 Manager
53.	Jasmina Ilić	PROGRES	Component 3 Manager
54.	Dobrivoje Stančić	PROGRES	Component 2 Manager
55.	Dragan Mladenović	PROGRES	Component 1 Manager
56.	Nermin Hasanović	PROGRES	Head of SW Office
57.	Radule Ristović	PROGRES	Senior Coordinator South Serbia
58.	Milan Kolašinac	PROGRES	Engineer
59.	Predrag Cvetković	PROGRES	Programme Coordinator
60.	Bojan Marčić	PROGRES	Programme Coordinator



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Implementing Partner

Office in Novi Pazar

Kragujevačka 1, 36300 Novi Pazar

Tel: +381 (0)20 337 300, 337 301

Fax: +381 (0)20 411 032

Office in Prokuplje

Timočka 4, 18400 Prokuplje

Tel: +381 (0)27 333 125, 32 99 72

Fax: +381 (0)27 32 99 73

Office in Vranje

Kneza Miloša 52, 17500 Vranje

Tel: +381 (0)17 40 55 44, 40 55 45

Fax: +381 (0)17 40 55 46

www.progresprogram.org