



"Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)"

Minutes from the 21st Stakeholders' Group Meeting for cross-border region "Prespa"

26th March 2019, Lakeview hotel, Oteshevo, Republic of North Macedonia



South Eastern Europe
SWG RRD
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



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PRESPA
CROSS-BORDER REGION

Participants in the meeting:

The structure of participants in the 21st Stakeholder Group meeting included 24 participants, representatives of the stakeholder group for the cross-border region “Prespa”, representatives from GIZ and the SWG project team.

The full list of participants' contacts and details can be found at:

ANNEX 1: Participants list of 21st Prespa stakeholder group meeting 26.03.2019;

Program of the meeting:

21st Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Prespa”

10:30 – 11:00 **Arrival of the participants and welcome gathering**

11:00 – 11:15 **Welcome speech**

Representative of the Municipality of Resen, TBC
Mr. Darko Buzarovski, SWG Regional Manager
Ms. Etleva Thimo, SWG Regional Coordinator

11:15 – 11:30 **Presentation of SWG GIZ project: “Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)”**

- **Output 1: Regional cooperation and policy advice**
- **Output 2: Sustainable business models**
- **Output 3: Community-led and area-based development**

Mr. Darko Buzarovski, SWG Regional Manager
Ms. Etleva Thimo, SWG Regional Coordinator

11:30 – 12:00 **Presentation of overall activities within SWG GIZ project: “Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)” in “Prespa” cross-border region**

- **Possibilities for Grant scheme/investments support within SEDRA project**
- **Open Call for support to People to People events**
- **Capacity building activities**

Mr. Darko Buzarovski, SWG Regional Manager
Ms. Etleva Thimo, SWG Regional Coordinator

12:10 – 12:30 **Capacity building event**

Coaching stakeholders for planning, organization and implementation of P2P activities of economic activities in the rural cross-border areas through short value chains



12:30 – 13:00 **Discussion and conclusions of the meeting**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

Minutes of the meeting

The 21st meeting of the stakeholders' group for the cross-border region of "Prespa" was held on 26th March 2019, at Lakeview hotel in Oteshevo, Republic of North Macedonia. The meeting started with the welcome speech of Mr. Darko Buzarovski, SWG Regional Manager who welcomed the participants and endorsed the Prespa stakeholders for their cooperation and presented the agenda with the objectives of the 21st stakeholder group meeting.

1. Topics during the meeting:

The focus of the discussions was on the following topics:

-Presentation of SWG GIZ project: "Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)"

Output 1: Regional cooperation and policy advice

Output 2: Sustainable business models

Output 3: Community-led and area-based development

-Discussion about planned overall activities within the SWG GIZ project: "Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)" in "Prespa" cross-border region

-Capacity building event Coaching stakeholders for planning, organization, and implementation of P2P activities

Annex 2: Presentation during the meeting

2. Presentations

The session started with the presentation of Ms. Etleva Thimo focused on the overview of the SWG GIZ project: "Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)" project and planned activities for the cross-border region of "Prespa". In addition, Ms. Anica Palazzo added more information's about the project and the future planned activities.

Capacity building event Coaching stakeholders for planning, organization, and implementation of P2P activities



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The call for support to "People-People" activities was announced, on March 22, 2019, and will be open until April 19, 2019. The application package, and the reporting package documents, were presented at the meeting.

It was especially emphasized that the support is focused on:

- Promotion of mountaineering tourism;
- Regional cooperation, networking, and partnerships;
- Promotion of traditional agriculture products;
- Impact on the environment and encouraging green procurement;
- Gender equality;
- The inclusion of women and young people;
- Promoting employment opportunities in the region;
- Impact of events on the revenue generated by the local and regional economy;
- Sustainability;
- Strengthening regional economic exchange through selected value chains;
- The inclusion of businesses and local communities.

Also, eligible and non-eligible costs were presented as well as examples of good practice, i.e. manifestations that were supported under the People to People actions.

Key statements and conclusions during the meeting:

- SEDRA project is a very good opportunity to support the economic diversification in Prespa region as a very relevant project to increase the small rural economies in the region.
- It was emphasized that the value chain of tourism and mountain tourism in Prespa region is a very important economic driver in the region that should be improved and supported.
- Stakeholder group members agreed that will further support the future work and activities on the development of mountain tourism in the cross-border region of "Prespa".
- More support is needed to increase the capacities and strengthen of cooperation and networking in the region.
- Business sector needs to be more active and involved in future planned activities.
- Networking of regional business sector should be supported through project activities and people to people activities.
- The stakeholders endorse the capacity building measures list and consider it as a very helpful tool with relevant topics (branding, online marketing, workshop for women and crafts) to be developed for Prespa region.



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- Support is needed for promotion of traditional events, local products and people to people is a very good tool to support such activities.
- It was suggested that in the upcoming meeting new presidency of the stakeholder group for Prespa cross-border region should be selected and voted by the stakeholder members.
- LEADER measure can contribute to improve the quality of life and as a potential for attracting funds in the future in Prespa region.
- Further support is needed for the preparation of applications for different call for proposals and possible partners for active IPA CBC programs in the region and other open calls.
- Prespa Project Management Unit (PMU) and SWG will continue to serve as an information point where members of the stakeholder group will obtain the necessary information and support on new calls for proposals and programs.

Prepared by:

Etleva Thimo, SWG Regional Coordinator

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