



In cooperation with:



Regional Development
Agency, Korca



Center for Inter-Balkan
Cooperation, Kozani



Regional Enterprise
Support Agency, Bitola

Training of Administrative Experts and Working Group Representatives
Ohrid, 08 - 09 June 2005

TRANS-FRONTIER INSTITUTION BUILDING PROJECT FOR THE PRESIPA/OHRID REGION 2003-2005
TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROREGION

Working Group Report

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I. Background

The Training Workshop of Administrative Experts and Prespa/Ohrid Working Group formed part of a series of meetings and trainings on the elaboration of development priorities of the Prespa/Ohrid region for the period 2005 – 2007. The Training Workshop was predicated upon recommendations made by the Prespa/Ohrid Euroregion council representing local and regional authorities in the Prespa/Ohrid region. The Council met for the first time on 01 June 2005 in Florina, Greece, where members defined framework development priorities for the region. They decided that these recommendations should be elaborated by administrative experts from the local and regional authorities as well as other stakeholders, especially representatives from the Prespa/Ohrid Working Groups on Higher Education, NGO Development and Tourism. It was further resolved to invite an experienced trainer in Strategic Planning and Project Development to guide the elaboration process.

The set of development priorities endorsed by the Prespa/Ohrid Euroregion Council comprised development goals in the area of infrastructure, business, tourism, education, health and NGO development as well as the strengthening of institutionalised cooperation procedures and environmental/resource management. Each council member appointed at least one administrative expert who, together with other stakeholders, came together for two days in Ohrid to work with the trainer Mr. Predrag Cveticanin from the University of Nis.

II. General Conclusions

The Council meeting started with welcoming words from Ms. Sasha Havlicek, the Senior Director of the EastWest Institute's Centre for Border Co-operation and the Mayor of Ohrid who emphasized the importance of planning the coming period of cross border development as comprehensively and systematically as possible and institutionalise relations further in the future. Ms. Havlishek pointed out that EU assistance for the region is increasing while other donor money is waning. The EU, as other donors, increasingly demands well planned and well argued projects that are embedded in a broader development framework.

Mr. Cveticanin, thus, introduced the participants to strategic planning especially problem analysis and solution finding. The participants split in three groups that discussed and elaborated the most important problems of their communities. The findings were presented to the panel and categorized into main focal action points: The lack of Political Co-operation manifests itself in inadequate visa regimes and border management and the lack of basic physical infrastructure. The latter in turn result in underdeveloped economic and educational links and unemployment.



Mr. Cveticanin encouraged the participants in a second step to develop strategic visions based on the problem analysis, that may be presented to political decision makers at the second Council Meeting from 14 - 15 June 2005 in Bitola.

A comprehensive problem analysis can be found in Annex to this report.

III. Agenda

Venue: Hotel Millenium, Ohrid

DAY 1, 08 June 2005

10.00 (local time): Arrival of Participants

10.15 Welcoming Notes

- *Ms. Sasha Hawlicek, Senior Director of the Centre for Border Co-operation, EastWest Institute*
- *Mr. Alexander Petreski, Mayor of Ohrid (tbc)*

10.30 Introduction to the Workshop

- *Mr. Predrag Cveticanin, University of Nis*

11.00 First Working Session: *Strategic Planning, SWOT and GAP analysis*

12.15 Second Working Session: Action Planning

13.30 Lunch

14.30 Third Working Session: *The Logical Framework Approach*

15.45 Coffee Break

16.15 Practical Exercise: *The LFA Matrix: Logic of Intervention, Assumptions & Risks*

18.00 Dinner

DAY 2: 09 June 2005

9.30 Practical Exercise: *The LFA Matrix: Indicators and Sources of Verification*

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Practical Exercise: *Euroregion Workplan Elaboration and Working Group Projects*

13:00 Lunch

14.00 Practical Exercise: *Euroregion Workplan Elaboration and Working Group Projects*

15.00 Coffee Break

15.30 Practical Exercise: *Euroregion Workplan Elaboration and Working Group Projects*

16.30 Closing Session and Outlook

17.00 Departure of Participants



IV. List of Participants

Tutor

Mr. Predrag Cveticanin, Lecturer, University of Nis; OGI
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Prefecture of Florina

Mr. Georgios Blagas, Project Advisor

Prefecture of Kastoria

Mr. Pashalis Ikonomidis, Director of the Development Office
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Municipality of Korca

Ms. Enola Stermolli, Municipality of Korca

Municipality of Erseka

Ms. Anna Gutierrez - Peace Corps Volunteer
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Municipality of Ohrid

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V. Annex

Development Priorities for the Prespa/Ohrid Region Problem Analysis

Elaborated by Local Authority Administrative Experts and Working Group Members

from 08 – 09 June 2005 in Ohrid

Identification of Problems in the Prespa/Ohrid Region hampering Cross-Border Co-Operation

Political Co-operation

Need to improve neighborhood relations

Slow proceeding of the issuing of visas at consulate in Korca and Skopje

No border crossing at Agios Germanos - Markova Noga

No Greek consulate in Bitola

Tourism

Lack of information connected with cultural and natural attractions that could be presented

Lack of access to the countries (border crossings are time consuming)

Lack of inexpensive accommodation

Lack of entertainment and cultural activities

Lack of transport (lake bus, lake boat)

Lack of joint projects in tourism



Lack of standardization of tourism facilities
Lack of international promotion of the region
No web tool for booking available
Lack of promotional materials (maps, guides...)
Lack of trained human resources (tour guides, rescue teams, tourist staff...)
Lack of joint ventures of tourist agencies
No easily recognizable road indicators

University collaboration

Too little cooperation between the universities
Lack of cross border info on curriculum
Too few staff exchanges
Too few student exchanges
No joint research work
Too few common meetings, workshops and summer schools
Only small number of joint EU funded projects

Business

Lack of information on cooperative legislation and trafficking of goods
Lack of information on the available funding, donors and credit lines
Lack of info on what companies are active (their industrial capacities, and other characteristics – no directory)
Lack of common fairs
Problems of communication (language)
No smart visas and special cross border passes for business people
Lack of appropriate translations of labels
No information on available seasonal jobs

NGOs

Overlapping of projects
Little coordination of NGO activity
NGOs not working together on specific issues
Lack of equipment
No support centers in Albanian and Greece
No sufficient funding
Little communication
No collaboration of development institutions
No NGO Council
Problems with visas
Little transparency of NGO activities
No certification programs
Lack of cooperation with local and governmental authorities
Not enough media coverage of NGO
No study of institutional capacities

Culture

No database on cultural monuments



No database of cultural events, festivals,
No database on spoken traditions
Declining of the use of traditional handicrafts
Lack to visits to cultural monuments
No or few cultural joint ventures and research
No regional conference on cultural heritage and its use for development (culture-tourism)
Lack of professionalism and clarity of presentations
Lack of exchange and collaboration of cultural institutions from three countries
Lack of international promotion of the culture of the region
Underdeveloped commercial potential of cultural heritage (branding, marketing, shop for handicrafts)
Lack of information on the available funding