



BULGARIA – the Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA

IPA Cross-border Cooperation PROGRAMME 2014 – 2020

FINAL Joint Working Group Meeting

Minutes

Date:	21 August 2014
Venue:	BEST WESTERN PLUS City Hotel, Sofia, Bulgaria
Participants:	According to the registration list (JWG members and guests – Annex 1)
Part A Opening of the meeting and agreement on the agenda	
<p>The meeting was opened by Ms. Maria Duzova, General Director of the Directorate General "Territorial Cooperation Management" at the Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria and co-chairperson of the Joint Working Group (JWG).</p> <p>Welcome speeches addressing the JWG members and guests were held by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Yordanka Chobanova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development;- Ms. Brankica Ristovska, Ministry of Local Self Government of the Republic of Macedonia;- Ms. Ann-Jasmin Krabatsch, Programme Manager in Competence Centre "Macro-regions and European territorial co-operation", Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy;- Mr. Ali Elvis, EU Delegation in Skopje;- Mr. Goce Georgievski - the Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia to the Republic of Bulgaria. <p>The agenda of the meeting was presented to the JWG members and it was adopted unanimously.</p>	
Part B Presentations: Programming approach, Conclusions and Recommendations of the Ex-ante evaluation and SEA and Final version of the IPA CBC Programme for the 2014 – 2020 period	
The meeting continued with presentations (<i>Annex 2 and 3</i>) by consultants focused on: the	



programming approach and the scope and content of the final version of the Programming document. In addition, the conclusions and recommendations of the ex-ante evaluation and SEA were presented. The programming experts informed the JWG members on the forthcoming steps towards Programme approval by the EC.

During the meeting, various themes, proposals and questions on the scope and content of the future Programme were raised and discussed. Comments on the future programme implementation were made by the JWG members from the following institutions and organisations: the Regional Development Council of South-West region in Bulgaria (Kyustendil District administration); the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Centre for Development of the East Planning Region.

Clarifications were made by the Managing Authority and it was outlined that all proposals will be taken into consideration during the Programmer implementation stage.

Part C Closure of the meeting

At the end of the meeting, the members of the JWG adopted with consensus and without any objections the Programme document. The co-chairpersons thanked to the JWG members for their active participation during the process of preparation of the future IPA CBC Programme between the two partnering countries.

The JWG approved a Decision (*Annex 4*) which reflects the results of the third (final) meeting of the JWG.