

from the Agenda of the Second meeting of the Joint Working Group for preparation of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme 2014 – 2020

JTS location

Letters of support with positions in favor of retaining the location of the Joint Technical Secretariat for the 2014 – 2020 period

| <i>Nr</i> | <i>Letter dated</i> | <i>Signed by</i> | <i>Summary of content</i> |
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| 1 | 20.03.2014 | Ivan Karakashki, District Governor of District Kyustendil, Bulgaria | <p>The position for retaining the location of the main office of the Joint Secretariat in Kyustendil, Republic of Bulgaria is supported by the following justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The JTS was established in Kyustendil on the proposal of the District administration of Kyustendil in 2005; - The Secretariat has excellent office space available provided for free by Municipality of Kyustendil to the Ministry of Regional Development; - The JTS has successfully built and improved the local capacity for project planning, implementation and reporting within the region by facilitating the implementation of projects funded under PHARE CBC Programme Bulgaria - Macedonia 2004 – 2006, which could be seen from the final report on implementation of the PHARE CBC Programme; - District administration Kyustendil (as project partner in a first call project funded by the current IPA CBC programme) has always received proper, professional and responsible response from the JTS; - Performance of JTS duties was rated as <i>excellent</i> and <i>very good</i> according to a survey performed by ECORYS-FED Consortium in the framework of the mid-term evaluation of the Bulgaria – Macedonia IPA CBC programme 2007 – 2013; - Staff in the JTS has developed skills and competencies, experience and knowledge in working with beneficiaries since 2005; - Institutional continuity and the already created capacity will contribute to the timely and smooth implementation of the programme for the period 2014 - 2020 |
| 2 | 27.03.2014 | Zhivko Ivanov, Managing Director of the Association "Business Information and Consulting Centre" – Sandanski, Bulgaria | <p>The position in favour of retaining the location of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the IPA Cross -border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Macedonia 2014 - 2020 in the town of Kyustendil is supported by the reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 years of long lasting business relations with the JTS; - Secretariat offices in Kyustendil and Strumica established themselves as units in the border area, where one can find information, support and competent assistance application and implementation of the programme. |

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| 3 | 28.03.2014 | Vladimir Moskov, Mayor of Municipality of Gotse Delchev, Bulgaria | The Mayor of Municipality Gotse Delchev wishes success to the Joint programming group of IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Macedonia 2014-2020 and recommends his positive opinion about the work of the JTS to be taken into account when determining the structures for implementing the program in the next period. In the current programming period, the municipality of Gotse Delchev has participated in a number of projects that solved joint problems, strengthened and developed contacts with partners in the Republic of Macedonia. |
| 4 | 28.03.2014 | Rositsa Djambazova, Director of Business Incubator – Gotse Delchev, Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre, Bulgaria | JTS staff (both Head office in Kyustendil and the Antenna office in Strumica) is assessed to have extensive skills and competencies, as well as substantial experience and considerable knowledge in working with the beneficiaries. It is believed that it is of great importance that the accumulated skills and experience of the JTS from both programming periods are being engaged in the future and it is recommended that all efforts are put in ensuring the continuity of the JTS. |
| 5 | 02.04.2014 | Dragica Zdraveva, Manager of Centre for Development of the East Planning Region, Shtip, Macedonia | The Centre for Development of the East Planning Region is on the position that it is highly important to support the JTS in the up-coming programming period in its whole capacity and permanence. - Without the professional assistance, management and supervision of the JTS it is almost impossible to implement an EU action. - There is a strong need of competent authority to facilitate the implementation of projects for the complexity of Programme requirements and rules; |
| 6 | 03.04.2014 | Mladen Protik, Center for Development of the Third-Northeast Planning Region, Kumanovo, Macedonia | It is underlined that the complexity of the numerous requirements and rules during the application and implementation process of the Programme necessitates competent authority that will facilitate the beneficiaries from the very start until the end of the successful implementation of projects. JTS offices (Kyustendil and the Antenna office in Strumica) with their substantial skills and competences provide the necessary professional assistance, management and support for all issues related to the CBC programme. It is believed in the necessity of future support by the JTS and is strongly recommended that Managing Authorities of the programme should guarantee its permanence. |
| 7 | 08.04.2014 | Emil Iliev, Mayor of Municipality of Strumyani, Bulgaria | JTS staff has developed skills and competences, experience and knowledge in dealing with local and regional beneficiaries. Municipality Strumyani is grateful to the staff of the JTS located in Kyustendil for the proper attitude that led to the successful implementation of all projects implemented by the municipality in the framework of Bulgaria – Macedonia IPA CBC Programme, which should be regarded as a reference when defining the role and place of structures for implementing the program in the next programming period. |
| 8 | 08.04.2014 | Sadula Duraku, Mayor of Municipality of Lipkovo, Macedonia | It is stated that the programme funds have been essential for the realization of the development agenda of a small municipality like Lipkovo. The way of administrating projects from the JTS (both the Head office and the Branch office) is admired. The continuation and presence of the JTS is highly recommended. |

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| 9 | 16.04.2014 | Arsencho Alexovski, Mayor of Municipality of Kriva Palanka, Macedonia | <p>Municipality of Kriva Palanka implemented several projects for cross-border cooperation and it is satisfied with the established partnerships with partners from Bulgaria such as Municipality of Dupnitsa, Municipality of Kyustendil, Regional Museum of History in Kyustendil. Apart from good project partnerships, the successful implementation of projects is a result of the professional attitude from the staff of the Joint Technical Secretariat in Kyustendil and Strumica and from the timely and accurate answers to our questions and doubts.</p> <p>Municipality Kriva Palanka is satisfied with the implementation of the current programme and with the location, professional and technical capacity of the JTS and it recommends the same to be retained for the next programming period.</p> |
| 10 | 16.04.2014 | Zulieta Gjurkova, Head of Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region, Strumica, Macedonia | <p>The Centre, their employees and the whole South-East region utilizes the benefits from the projects under the Programme for Cross-Border cooperation between Bulgaria and Macedonia.</p> <p>The cooperation with the experts from JTS – main office in Kyustendil and JTS – branch office in Strumica regarding the implementation of the projects is rated as excellent. JTS provides the necessary support with continuous flow of information for smooth and successful implementation of all projects. Any problem that the projects' team faces is resolved without any delays.</p> <p>Without the professional assistance, management and supervision of the JTS it is almost impossible to effectuate an EU action. The Centre is looking forward to any further successful collaboration.</p> |