



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

PPP Working Group Meeting

7 - 8 November, 2016

Danilovgrad (Montenegro)

Provisional Discussion Paper and Agenda



Background

In fulfilling its role, ReSPA has earlier recognized the needs of its member states in the PPP field and has introduced the PPP workshops in 2011, 2012 and 2013, as well as a follow-up activities including site visit to PPP projects successfully implemented in Croatia. The first 3-day introductory workshop have comprised the subjects of basic PPP project cycle based on the EU PPP/concession policy and Croatian experience in PPP/concession implementation. The program of the 3-day PPP workshop delivered in 2012 has been designed on the basis of the evaluation of the earlier workshop and deepened the subjects which participants have identified as the most needed in understanding of PPP principles comparing with the traditional procurement. The workshop was interactive providing group assignments and practical exercises as the most appropriate method for adult learners.

Following these two successful PPP trainings and the observations and evaluation of the mentioned activities, ReSPA has organizes a follow-up training and a visit to PPP projects in Croatia for the same participants who attended the previous trainings. The training program was designed for on-site visit of the PPP project in the implementation phase, where participants from previous ReSPA PPP trainings can link the theory and practice in perspective of Croatian PPP experience. It has provided participants with the Croatian experience in project planning, preparation, delivery and monitoring.

Later, based on the feedback from the participants, and the recommendation from the 2012 and 2013 reports resulted from the WBIF activities in funding the infrastructure projects and providing the technical assistance program in strengthening PPP institutional capacity, ReSPA has initiated PPP expert's network in June 2014.

Up until now there were five events of PPP network. **The first PPP network meeting** which took place in June 2014 in ReSPA was dedicated to the novelties on concession directive of the EU and structuring of strategic framework for successful PPPs in the region. The participants expressed the following needs for networking: development of guidelines, permanent opportunity to discuss common problems and finding necessary solutions, possibility to participate in future similar meetings to clear the confusion about PPP and practicalities of PPP project's implementation, to contribute to further competence building of local and regional authorities in order to manage political risks, to initiate task force or regional institution to promote PPP model, to initiate PPP project by several public authorities with contribution from IPA. As a conclusion, highly ranked participants have expressed the needs for further enhancement of competencies in PPP field through training program.

The second PPP network meeting took place on 19-20 November 2014 in Luxembourg. It was jointly organized with European PPP Expertise Centre (hereinafter referred to as the "EPEC") in the premises of European Investment Bank. The content of the program regarding the working group activities was dedicated to introduce the comprehensive PPP training program, carrying out the regional comparative study on PPP, future working group activities in 2015 including 3-module training programme. It had provided open discussion on the main priorities in introducing the comprehensive PPP training program on the ground of the identified gaps on necessary expertise at national level and on assessment of administrative capacity and maturity in project planning, design and procuring. The participants have also discussed the optimal method in introducing the comprehensive training programme.

The third PPP WG meeting has been held at ReSPA on 1-2 June 2015. The agenda of this meeting encompassed the topics identified by the participants as the most important training needs from the list of 12 main PPP competencies. Further, prior to the third working group meeting ReSPA has conducted online survey on the topics and issues to be addressed via

PPP network. The outcomes of the survey have revealed that in the majority of the WB countries no PPP training program is provided and the capacity building via trainings is recognised as the best tool to bridge a gap of necessary PPP competencies. The topics identified as the most relevant are considered for the future PPP events.

The fourth PPP WG meeting took place in ReSPA on 4-6 November 2015. The training programme was designed to address the explicitly expressed training needs identified by the previous survey.

The fifth PPP WG meeting has been jointly organized by ReSPA and EBRD and took place in EBRD HQ on 16-17 November 2015 with aim to further strengthening the institutional capacity in WB countries in the domain of two important thematic areas PPP and PP. The structure of the study visit was designed as to match the expressed priorities and to deliver other related topics in order to obtain the comprehensive program compiling the most important PPP and PP related topics.

Besides this, in 2015 ReSPA has launched "Comparative Analysis of Lessons Learned from Recent Developments in Implementation of PPP Projects in the Western Balkans Region". The main aim of this analysis is to support the related Public Administration institutions dealing with the PPP market development in WB and to encourage development of common PPP practice in the WB region. The study has been published on ReSPA website in March 2016 in the format of the working paper. Similarly to the discussions and the recommendations from the participants, this study has proven that it is reasonable to further facilitate competence building activities for representatives of PPP network.

Therefore, in order to sustain the interest in PPP, ReSPA is organizing the working group meeting providing the open platform for discussing the most recent issues in PPP.

Objectives

The objective of this discussion paper is to provide with the topics and issues related to the content and the method of the future PPP activities which take into account the needs of each country for public investment capacity building¹ and the outcome (findings and recommendations) of the comparative regional study on PPP. The overall objective of the sixth PPP working group meeting is to further enhance capability of responsible institutions to carry out the tasks in designing and implementing PPP projects in an efficient manner, to contribute in fostering homogeneous good practice in WB and ensure sustainability of working group activities.

Content

The programme of the meeting is designed to provide the platform for open discussion among participants and to provide the last updates on the PPP development in each country.

The program will tackle the findings and recommendations of the regional comparative study, need assessment resulting from main recommendations and as expressed by the

¹ WBIF – STAREBEI Report, June 2016 available at:

<https://www.wbif.eu/content/stream//Sites/website/library/2-STAREBEI-clean-2016-07-2.compressed.pdf>

participants, identification of the cross cutting activities with other ReSPA working groups (especially with public procurement, e-Gov etc.), cooperation with different European and international institutions, the PPP activities in 2017.

The agenda is providing the framework for open discussion in which the participants are invited to participate actively and provide suggestions for topics to be discussed at future meetings and ideas for the next steps in working group operations

The target group

The sixth PPP Working group meeting will gather 18 participants (three representatives from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*), primarily PPP working group members who took part in the previous PPP Working group meetings held in 2014 and in 2015 respectively, and who represents:

- *Policy makers* (Heads of the PPP units or high ranked representatives of the line ministry responsible for PPP); and
- *Senior managers responsible for PPP project preparation and implementation* in the PPP Units or line ministry responsible for PPP.

And who:

- Have at least 5 years of relevant work experience in the topic of the working group.
- Possess a clear and demonstrated interest in the working group topics and are motivated to participate in discussions and exchange of opinions/best practices with other colleagues from the WB countries.

The participants are invited:

- to actively participate in the discussion and practices exchange; and
- to provide the inputs for the further working grouping needs and steps to be taken.

The programme is designed to be opened to analysis and feedback, both from the facilitators and their co-participants.

Workshop Trainers

tbd

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and it is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

DRAFT AGENDA – 6th PPP Working group meeting

Day 1- 7th November 2016

- 9:00 – 9:15 Registration of the participants
- 9:15 – 9:30 **Opening session**
Agenda overview and introducing objectives of the meeting
- 9:30 – 10:15 Debriefing – country presentations
- Last developments in 2016 (5 minutes for each country)
- 10:15 – 11:00 the findings of the “Comparative Analysis of Lessons Learned from Recent Developments in Implementation of PPP Projects in the Western Balkans Region”
- 11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 – 12:15 Prospective of Investment Policy
- Public investment and sustainable growth
 - Usage of the ‘Methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects’
 - Opportunities for PPP implementation
 - European Investment policy – evaluation of the last three years
- 12:15 – 12:45 Discussion – challenges for public sector
- 12:45 – 13:45 *Lunch break*
- 13:45 – 14:45 Discussion on the need assessment
- Identification of the target groups
Consideration of the previous recommendations
- 14:45 – 15:00 *Coffee break*
- 15:00 – 16:15 Discussion on the identification of the cross – cutting activities with other working groups (public procurement, e-Gov etc.)
- 16:15 – 16:30 *Wrap-up and closure of the first day*

Day 2 – 8th November 2016

9:00 – 10:00 Discussion on PPP activities in 2017

- Determining the short-term, mid-term and long-term activities
- Preferences in topics and methods
- Recommendation for follow-up activities

10:00 – 11:00 Discussing the proposal for cooperation with European and international institutions

- Opportunity to participate in PPP Open days in Brussels
- Joint activities with EPEC in the framework of the program “Western Balkans: Strengthening the Capacity of the Public Sector to Undertake PPPs”

11:00 – 11.30 Discussion and wrap – up of the meeting

12:00- *Lunch and departure of the participants*

