**Project:** STEP

**Document: Online -** Final presentation (presentation of the results of the STEP project) as well as an open debate on **"Recommendations of the STEP project to overcome the challenges of improving tourism cross-border cooperation between the regions of Polog and Elbasan"**

**Date:** September 30, 2020

**Location:** Online - ZOOM platform

Time: 11.00h-13.30h

**Moderator of the event:** Florent Bajrami

**Moderator of the event:** Violeta Jonchevska

**Participants**

* Bardil Jashari - Executive Director of the Metamorphosis Foundation
* Freek JANMAAT Counsellor, Head of Section, Economic issues, Institution-Building, Cross-Border Cooperation, EU Delegation , Skopje
* Florent Bajrami - project coordinator of STEP
* Teuta Arifi - Chairman of the Advisory Board of STEP and Mayor of the Municipality of Tetovo (TBD)
* Fatmir Saiti - Director of the Center for Development of the Polog Planning Region
* Bukorosh Stafa - Director of the Elbasan County Council (TBD)
* Hasan Drazi - Member of the Advisory Board of STEP
* Representative of EUD – Skopje (TBD)

**Officials from the following institutions**

* Ministry of Local Self-Government
* Ministry of Transport and Communications, Economy and Tourism of both countries
* Tourist chambers in both countries
* Municipalities in the Elbasan region
* Municipalities in the region Polog - Tetovo, Gostivar, Mavrovo - Rostusha ..etc.
* ELEM or another body that manages Popova Shapka
* Competent state institutions that manage Popova Sapka
* Directorate for Protection and Rescue
* Border police
* Mountaineering associations
* Agency for Promotion and Support of Tourism in Northern Macedonia
* National Tourism Agency - Albania
* Ministry of Tourism Albania
* STEP members

**Protocol:**

**11.00h** - Inclusion of participants online through the ZOOM platform

**11.00 - 11.05** - Florent Bajrami (project coordinator of STEP) greets the present guests and thanks them for their presence, briefly introduces them to the agenda of the online event. Then he invites the Executive Director of the Metamorphosis Foundation, Mr. Bardil Jashari to address the audience.

**11.05h - 11.10h** - Address of Mr. Bardil Jashari

**11.10h -**  The moderator thanks Mr. Jashari and invites Freek JANMAAT Counsellor, Head of Section, Economic issues, Institution-Building, Cross-Border Cooperation, EU Delegation , Skopje

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**11.10h - 11.20h** – Opening speech – Mr. Freek JANMAAT Counsellor, Head of Section, Economic issues, Institution-Building, Cross-Border Cooperation, EU Delegation , Skopje

**11.20h - 11.25h** - The moderator thanks Mr. JANMAAT and invites Ms. Teuta Arifi - Chair of the Advisory Board of the Center for Development of the Planning Region Polog and Mayor of the Municipality of Tetova. Address by Ms. Arifi.

**11.25h - 11.30h** - The moderator thanks for the address of Mr. Stafa invites Mr. Fatmir Saiti - Director of the Center for Development of the Polog Planning Region. Address by Mr. Saiti.

**11.30h - 11.35h** - The moderator invites Mr. Bukorosh Stafa - President of the Elbasan County Council. Address by Mr. Stafa

**11.35 - 11.40** - The moderator invites Mr. Hasan Drazhi - Representative of the STEP project partners – Albania. Address by Mr. Drazhi.

**11.40h -11.55h** - Florent Bajrami - Project coordinator of STEP project will briefly give an overview of the work of STEP in the past two and a half years and will present the results of the STEP project.

**11.55h – 12.05h** – Pause

**Panel discussion**

Panel discussion and debate on "**Recommendations of the STEP project for overcoming the challenges for improving the cross-border tourism cooperation between the regions of Polog and Elbasan"**

**Speakers**

**Speakers - North Macedonia**

• Biljana Pejoska Risteska - Executive Director of the Economic Chamber of Tourism of North Macedonia

• Darko Buldioski - consultant for digital communications. founder and director of NewMediaMK

• Fatmir Saiti - Director of the Center for Development of the Polog Planning Region

**Speakers - Albania**

• Matilda Naco - Andoni - Executive Director of the Tourist Association of Albania

• Albert Kaleci - Administrator of the local unit Steblevo

**12.05h** - The moderator greets the speakers and the guests and opens the Panel discussion. 5 speakers will speak on "**Recommendations of the STEP project to overcome the challenges of improving tourism cross-border cooperation between the regions of Polog and Elbasan**", and each in its own field of expertise. Each panelist / speaker will have a maximum of 10 minutes to share their views on the topic.

**13.00 - 13.30** - Debating the participants, questions and answers

**13.30** - The moderator thanks the attendees for their participation, and closes the event with a few greeting sentences.

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