

*Romania – Serbia – Bulgaria Cross-border Tourism Initiative
ROSEB Initiative*

Partnership Memoranda

Mehedinti – Dolj – Olt – Bor – Zaječar – Vratsa – Montana - Vidin

Kladovo, 8th November 2016.

The Parties to this Memoranda,

RECOGNIZING that ROSEB area (bordering regions in Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria) need some joint, cross-border approach since:

- *Tourism is common development priority for all three border regions;*
- *Tourism and as well natural and cultural setting doesn't consider state or any other borders;*
- *There is a common administrative border between them;*
- *Lack of regional integration in the tourism sector and a baseline for improvement of the competitiveness of tourism in ROSEB Initiative area;*
- *Natural and cultural potentials of the area are a significant comparative advantage and an important development asset stretching across the border;*
- *We have to change border discourse – from barriers to resources.*

ACKNOWLEDGING the relationship between national borders and tourism development is complex, for borders manifest themselves in tourism and influence it in many ways.

RECALING that a physical border can form a barrier to tourism flows, or it can be crossed almost unnoticed. Border permeability, the barrier effects caused by the border such as regulations for the movement of people and goods, will directly influence tourism flows and the development and distribution of tourism infrastructures in a border region;

REFUSING to understand state borders as barriers – in terms of both mobility and development – since it will left border regions in a rather peripheral and marginal position;

AWARE that border regions and cross-border regions are key elements and bridges for EU unification process, for the cooperation of European population and minorities;

HAVING REGARD strategic policy framework consisted of THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY - European Strategy for a smart inclusive and sustainable growth and THE EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION (EUSDR);

FOLLOWING the guidance of REGULATION (EC) No 1082/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC);

ACKNOWLEDGING that utilization of natural and cultural resources, such as protected areas and cultural monuments, is a driving force in development of tourism offer;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Geographical scope

ROSEB Initiative covers three bordering regions from Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria:

- East Serbia – Districts Bor and Zajecar
- North West Bulgaria - Districts Vratsa, Montana and Vidin
- South West Romania - Districts Mehedinti, Dolj and Olt (south of Oltenia Region).

Article 2 Aim and objectives

ROSEB Initiative is the common trilateral initiative aiming to enhance smart, inclusive and sustainable socio – economic development through improving tourism and sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage of the cross-border area.

ROSEB Initiative Specific Objectives are:

- To create a Platform for cooperation in tourism by setting-up cross-border network of tourist stakeholders;
- To facilitate better utilisation of joint tourism potentials by setting-up mechanisms for structured participatory processes of needs assessment, priority setting, action planning and project implementation.

To this regard, ROSEB Initiative is:

- Area-specific (versus countries)
- Integrated (across sectors)
- Inclusive (communities)
- Participatory (bottom-up)
- Flexible (responsive to changes).

Article 3 Implementation of Memoranda

For the purpose of implementation of the Memoranda Parties agreed to establish a joint cross-border Network "ROSEB Initiative".

Network will work through regular Network meetings and other ways of communications. Meetings will be held in principle on six month base.

More precisely way of Network operations will be define on the first Network meeting by its Rules of Procedures.

Secretariat of Memoranda is responsible to organise Network meetings and to prepare Rules of Procedure.

Article 4 Secretariat of Network

Secretariat of Network is consisted by ROSEB initiators, one responsible organization from each of the participating bordering regions:

- RARIS – Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia, Serbia
- Vidin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bulgaria
- ARoTT - Romanian Association for Technology Transfer and Innovation, Romania

Each of them will take an overall leading role for a period of 1 year. This will include ensuring headquarters for the Secretariat, taking care on Network documentations and taking an overall responsibility for Network activities.

Task of the Secretariat are:

- To ensure proper communication between parties;
- To coordinate Network activities with other relevant national or international organisations and institutions ,
- To facilitate research, communication, information exchange, project preparation, inter-network communication and other activities required by Network,
- To keep Network documentations including financial,
- Other activities agreed on Network meetings

Article 5 Entry into force

This Memoranda will be open for signature at the Secretariat from November 8th 2016 to December 8th 2016.

Done in Kladovo, Serbia, on 8th November 2016 in four originals in the English language

Signatures of Memoranda following