

Minutes of Meeting Second steering committee meeting

Title	Danish-Russian Local Government Programme
Date	21 October 2008 at 10.00 hrs
Place	Russian Embassy, Copenhagen
Participants	Pavel Mamontov, Russian Embassy Thomas Djurhuus; Niels Hedegaard Jørgensen, DMFA Peter Korsby and Henrik Brade Johansen, COWI
Prepared by	HRJ, 22 October 2008
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Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of Agenda (by Pavel Mamontov)
2. Presentation of Activities during the previous Period (by Peter Korsby)
3. Proposed Activities for the following period (by Peter Korsby)
4. Budget issues (Henrik Brade Johansen and Peter Korsby)
5. Date and place for next meeting (by Chair)
6. Any Other Business (by Chair)

Re. 1 Welcome

The chairman of the Steering Committee, **Pavel Mamontov** welcomed the participants to the Russian Embassy.

Re. 2 Activities in previous period

Peter Korsby introduced the progress report. He suggested that the programme is well underway and is likely to reach its set outputs.

PK highlighted a few issues that merit the attention of the PSC, notably the question of payment of flight tickets for participants to Denmark from the Russian municipalities which seem to present serious problems for several of these. This could very well result in a very limited participation from the Russian side to the study tours to Denmark, planned for the coming months. He suggested that it should be possible for the programme management to offer funding for one or a few representatives on a case by case basis.

PK further pointed to the problems related to Bornholm's late response to the call for position and status papers, especially considering the upcoming study tour to Bornholm from Kirillov.

PK finally mentioned the contact taken to Pskov oblast and suggested that no further action should be taken towards Pskov until the preparations for the final programme workshop next summer - unless the oblast react themselves.

Thomas Djurhuus commended on the progress of the programme. He asked if the local Russian consultants were really local (three of them are) and accepted the proposals for leaving Pskov aside for the time being.

TD explained that the outlook for further projects in the Danish-Russian cooperation looks rather bleak and stressed that this programme should therefore strive to reach objectives in its own right - and not just project ideas for further Danish funding. This, he found, was also reflected in the progress report. He suggested that communication around the programme and the four pilot projects is important - both in Russia and in Denmark and asked the programme team to take this more into consideration.

On this last point, **Pavel Mamontov** suggested that the Governor of Kaliningrad could be forewarned and involved in a function in Gusev - this would ensure focus from the oblast on the cooperation.

PK proposed to involve regional organisations of local governments in the four oblasts in question to ensure outreach to more local governments of programme outputs.

HBJ suggested that articles could be produced for "Danske Kommuner" and for DMFA's "Udvikling".

Niels Hedegaard Jørgensen agreed that the programme should be able to use contingencies for paying flight tickets to ensure a certain representation. This was then approved by the meeting.

Re. 3 Activities in upcoming period

PK introduced the remaining programme and time-schedules. He proposed that the final wrapping-up workshop should take place in Skr. Petersburg in June or perhaps July 2009. Pointed to the fact that the explained the activities that have taken place, ref. Inception Report.

Re. 4 Budget issues

Given the approval of spending contingencies on flight tickets for Russians, there were no other major budget issues pending. It was agreed that COWI could initiate a discussion with DFC on spending on possible remaining funds in their allocation for the programme.

Re. 5 Next meeting

No exact date was set - but the next meeting will take place in mid-April 2009.

Re. 6 Any other business

There was no items under this point.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30.