

AER WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM

KAZAN, TATARSTAN (RU), 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

MINUTES

Adopted on 28 February in Lillehammer, Oppland-N

Opening

The meeting was opened and chaired by Thomas CARLSSON from Västerbotten.

ITEM 2 & 3: Minutes of previous meeting and agenda

Mr. Carlsson briefly presented the minutes of the previous meeting of the working group and asked if there were any amendments to make. **The minutes of the previous working group meeting were adopted unanimously as well as the draft agenda for the meeting.**

ITEM 4: Cooperation with the International Bureau for Social Tourism (BITS)

- Thomas Carlsson gave a brief feedback from the plenary of the BITS which he attended.
- Mr. Tonini, President of the International Bureau for Social Tourism (BITS) gave a presentation of the BITS and gave a working definition of social tourism. Mr. Tonini explained the legal basis for social tourism which can be found in the Montréal declaration, in a declaration from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) as well as certain documents on EU. The President of BITS concluded his presentation with an invitation to two events. The first in Riva del Garda from 2-5 October 2007 and the second in Quebec from 6-9 October 2008.

ITEM 5: Optimising the AER Tourism webportal

- Mr. Carlsson presented the modifications suggested by the AER secretariat to improve the existing webportal. The propositions were accepted by the group

ITEM 5: Peer Reviews

- Thomas Carlsson introduced the AER Peer Review Initiative
- Céline Dawans, Junior Policy Coordinator for Committee 1, presented the idea of adapting the Peer Reviews for economic development to other policies, including tourism policies. She gave an detailed overview of the adapted toolkit, including the questionnaire for the host region, the evaluation criteria and the methods of evaluation. This was followed by a discussion with the members.

- Mr. Carlsson suggested that we test the new toolkit before it is more widely used, in order to ensure that it is efficient.

ITEM 6: Interreg projects

- Thomas Carlsson introduced the Interreg projects
- Céline Dawans presented the two project propositions: Peer Reviews under Interreg ICV (today the project is called PRESERVE and will be submitted on 15 January) and the Routes under Interreg IVB. She presented the detailed operational plan of the first project and the main objectives.

*AER Committee 1 Secretariat,
13 December 2007*