

Cross-border region "Drina - Tara"

"Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration"

Minutes from the 11th Stakeholders Group Meeting for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region



DRINA-TARA
CROSS-BORDER REGION

The project is financed by:



Minutes from the 11th Stakeholders Group Meeting for the
Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"
28. October 2015.
Tara Mountain, Serbia

I. List of participants

The Eleventh Stakeholders' Group Meeting for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region was attended by 52 participants, members of Stakeholders' Group from "Drina-Tara" region, representatives of public utility companies from the region, GIZ representatives for Solid Waste Management Project and LEIWWWE Programme and SWG project team.

Annex1: List of participants

II. Programme

October 28th , 2015 (Wednesday)

Hotel "Omorika", Tara Mountain, Serbia

08:30 – 08:40	Official Opening of the Meeting and Introduction to the Program Representative of SWG and Representative of Local authorities
08:40 – 09:30	Update on the ABDA program and operational activities
09:30 – 10:00	Update on the Solid waste management in SEE project activities
10:00 – 11:00	Outline of the Method for Assessing Environmental and Economic Impacts
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	Baseline Analysis and Impact Assessment
12:30 – 13:30	Conducting of assessment of regional cross-border impact of solid waste management in rural areas and stakeholder participation
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch

14:30 – 17:30

Rural development via water and forest management in SEE

- Identifying and evaluating priorities for the 4 cross-border pilot regions, that could be included in the project strategy;
- Assessment, verification and prioritization of the feasibility of measures for integrated forest and water resources management;
- Assessment, verification and prioritization of the feasibility of measures for income generation by sustainable use of natural resources in the pilot regions, with a focus on economic activities of women within at least one of the measures;
- Defining baseline and target values for identified measures, as well as relevant sources of verification;
- Identifying needs and strategies for capacity development in the cross-border pilot regions;

Minutes from the meeting:

The 11th SHG meeting aimed at discussion about general achievements related to the implementation of ABDA in the Western Balkan countries, on going activities and future perspective, as well as presentation of two GIZ programmes.

The main objectives of the Eleventh Stakeholders' Group Meeting held on 28th October on Tara Mountain, Serbia was to present the overall results of Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) program in the previous phase and ongoing and planned activities, project activities on Solid Waste Management Project implemented by GIZ and perspective for possible future implementation of GIZ project for Rural development via water and forest management in SEE.

Topics during the meeting:

- Update on the ABDA program and operational activities
- Update on the Solid Waste management in SEE project activities
- Rural development via water and forest management in SEE

Official opening of the event

The meeting was opened and welcomed by Ms. Dragana Ivanovic, inspector for environmental issues in the Municipality of Bajina Basta. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Aleksandar Damjanovic, SWG Regional Manager who was as well the moderator of the meeting.

1. Update on the ABDA program and operational activities

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager introduced the participants of the meeting with the SWG and its work. The “**SWG**” stands for **Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe**. It is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisted of governmental institutions responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective countries and territories. It is a platform for networking and regional co-operation among the SEE countries and territories in the field of agriculture and rural development. Its managing and coordinative body is the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, based in Skopje, Macedonia. SWG covers the area of four cross border regions: “Drina-Sava“, “Drina-Tara“, “Sharra“ and “Prespa“. Four Project Management Offices for cross-border regions are established and functional as well as Regional Office in Belgrade.

Integrated economic development implementing **Area Based Development** aims to support networking of local population, entrepreneurs, crafts, small farmers, service providers in tourism and other subjects in rural cross border regions, organizing joint working groups, sharing of resources and joint presentation. The focus is on:

- Improvement of competitiveness through small investments, introduction of new production processes that lead to improvement of existing and creation of new products/services.
- Promotion of regions and its resources through unique integrated tourist products and branding.

As well the Regional Manager presented the general achievements related to the implementation of grant scheme investment in the previous phase in the cross border regions “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava”:

- 9 cross border partnership projects were granted with 28 partners
- Total investment of all 9 projects =259.386, 3 € (55% contributed by the European Union and 45% contributed by beneficiaries)
- 7 new products are launched
- 7 beneficiaries have improved and modernized their production processes introducing new technology
- 6 projects have improved the tourist products and services in the regions
- 4 innovative services and products are developed
- 4 tourism facilities are reconstructed
- 3 new products are expected as a result from the investment
- 17 people were additionally engaged as seasonal workforce due to the investment
- 6 additional employments as result of the investments
- Additional employments are expected in the upcoming years due to the investments.

In the forthcoming period SWG will facilitate the process of development of project proposals with a focus on CBC programmes. PMU office in Visegrad so far provided support on five project proposals development within CBC programme Serbia- Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro, 2007-2013 under the IPA II.

Annex 2: ABDA presentation

2. Solid Waste management in SEE - project activities

Ms. Katerina Spasovska, presented the project “Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas of South Eastern Europe” which is in the implementation phase by “Network of Associations of Local Authorities in SEE” (**NALAS**) and the “Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE” (**SWG**) founded under the GIZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Modernization of Municipal Services (ORF MMS) and the Government of Switzerland. The project aims to improve the conceptual and organizational framework conditions for Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) in cross-border rural and coastal areas in SEE with the specific goal to assess and develop schemes (models) for integrated management of solid waste that are environmentally effective and economically affordable in order to reduce adverse environmental and economic impacts of solid waste miss-management and support the ecological and socio-economic development of the cross-border rural and coastal areas in the SEE countries. The project will support the local authorities and stakeholders in establishing a dialogue platform for assessing and developing effective management schemes for integrated solid waste management in the regional cross-border rural and coastal areas. In order to attain policy and operational means which are best and meet the social, economic and environmental conditions of the involved municipalities and countries.

The proposed intervention focuses on three pilot areas: "Sharra mountain" (Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo*), "Drina-Tara" (Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro), "Drina-Sava" (Serbia-Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia) and third costal area between Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The project will result with:

- Development of a Method for assessment of cross border adverse environmental and economic (tourism) impacts,
- Assessment of regional cross border impact of Solid Waste Management in rural areas (Report),
- Two Dialog Platform session (input to the model and draft ISWM models for the pilot regions),
- ISWM model in the cross-border rural and coastal areas,
- Report on best practices from EU member states for ISWM in rural areas,
- Joint Workshop on measures and policy recommendations,
- Drafting project fiches from the developed and agreed models and
- Final project conference.

MS.Ana Petrovska and Mr.Predrag Markovic, SWG international experts conducted small workshop on assessment of regional cross-border impacts of solid waste management in rural and coastal areas. The aim of the workshop was to give the input for development of schemes (models) necessary for changing the legislative and strategies in the sphere of solid waste management and to create instrument that will be helpful for municipalities. The methodology is dealing with source of problems, assessment of impact of illegal damp sides, as well as development of project ideas for potential donor funds.

Outline of the method for assessing environmental and economic impacts will be performed in following steps:

1. Baseline Analyses: Waste Generation and Composition and Waste Management Practices; Environmental Hotspots and Pollution Agents and Migration Paths & Migration Drivers.
2. Impact Assessment: Priority Waste Streams; Assessment of Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts on National Scale and Assessment of Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts on Regional Scale (Transboundary Context)
3. Mitigation Measures / Conclusions - ISWM Model

Experts presented the collected information on each municipality and members of the stakeholder group and representatives of the Public Utility discussed on the wastes management charges, charging methods, payment effectiveness, recycling methods etc. There are significant oscillation in waste generation in the municipalities depending of the season. The data for waste composition are missing.

Some of the problems identified during the meeting:

- Floating waste in the cross border areas
- Lack of containers and trucks for disposal
- Illegal dump sites by population, tourists, industrial and construction companies
- Chief executives as operational people in utility working unites are not well informed
- Lack of synchronized cooperation between municipal officials, public utility companies and inhabitants
- Potential barriers for reorganization of Public utility companies (fear, capacities and money)

On of the issue discused at the meeting was waste recycling. The participants agreed that waste is not a trash. The interest of privet sector regarding vaste collection is crucial. The main problem are variations of market prices. The aim is tranzit of waste on the national level and creation of model of colection of primary selected waste to creat the ideal price.

Conclusions:

- To establish the best charging method for waste generation;
- To determine the environmental hotspots and pollution agents;
- Development of organizational schemes of waste collection in rural areas;
- Waste transfer – to foresee the building of stationer and mobile transfer stations;
- Mapping and evaluation of economic and environmental impacts of landfills
- Reconstruction of illegal damp sites
- To establish contacts with representative of respective Ministries as well as hydroelectric power plants
- Education of local population in order to raise awareness on waste is necessary

The members of the stakeholder group express their willingness to submit all needed information to the experts like developed plans, strategies regarding solid waste management as well as experiences from previous projects and new project ideas to define the economic and environmental impacts in a sphere of solid waste management.

Annex 3: Solid Waste Management Project

Annex 4: Workshop on Assessment of regional cross-border impacts of solid waste management in rural and coastal areas

3. Rural development via water and forest management in SEE

Mr. Aleksandar Damjanovic, Regional Manager presented the conclusions of working group for integrated economic development during the Agricultural Policy Forum (APF 2015). The working group presents priorities for development of the cross-border regions, the defined measures, as well as the experiences related to implementation of the grant scheme on integrated economic development were shared. The group also discussed how the GIZ Technical Cooperation measure on Rural Development by integrated forest and water resource management would support the implementation of the ABD priorities in the WB rural cross-border regions.

Defined set of measures and sub-measures defined in the ABDA Programme for Economic Development for cross border region „Drina-Tara“ (2014-2020) as well as possible type of actions regarding possible implementation of grant scheme were presented:

Measure 1: Sustainable rural economy development

Sub Measure 1.1: Rural economy development through joint regional initiatives for development of integrated offer of products and services

Sub Measure 1.2: Increasing employment and the competitiveness of the region through strengthening value chains and capacity building

Sub Measure 1.3: Support to individual investments in businesses development within the regional initiatives

Measure 2: Rural economy environment improvements

Sub Measure 2.1: Protection of environment and management of natural resources

Possible identified general type of actions for “Drina-Tara” region:

- Tourism development based on sustainable natural resources (1.1 1.3)
- Ecologically friendly production of agricultural products (1.1 1.2)
- Ago-forestry development (1.1 2.1)
- Green value chains development (1.2 1.3 2.1)
- Eco engineering services within small communities (2.1)
- Secondary forest products processing (1.2 2.1)
- Use of renewable energy (1.3 2.1)
- Responsible use of water in rural economy (1.1 1.3 2.1)

Ms. Elena Gavrilova, GIZ representative shortly introduction the LEIWW Programme “Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South-East-Europe” - (LEIWW). This is a three years period programme (2015-2017) which targets 6 countries in SEE. It aims to build capacities for rural development, sustainable forest and water resource management. Field of activities: regional cooperation; national policy; Income generation based on the use of natural resources in the cross-border regions.

Mr. Thomas Wehinger, GIZ consultant pointed out that GIZ and SWG are in the negotiation phase for the presented LEIWW programme; by the end of the year the results of the negotiation and information if the project would be implemented in the ABDA regions will be announced. This Programme envisage potential possible grant scheme investments with soft measures. Stakeholders were divided into five working groups were briefly were presented some of the project ideas:

1. Energy efficiency Eco camp in Prijepolje and Ljubovija (Serbia) and Rudina Glava, Gorazde (B&H) – refurbishment of front facade and procurement of solar panels with promotion;
2. Designing of the application for tourism offer of the region (eco SOS application);
3. Development of regional scout centre (education, organization of eco-historical tours, eco patrol);
4. Sustainable eco-tourism (improvement of accommodation facilities, introduction of innovative offer, promotion);
5. Promotion of magic tourist ring (tourist attractions in border parts of Serbia and B&H);
6. Sustainable use of biomass in the village schools in DT region in the function of rural development
7. Improvement of raspberry production in DT region (education, SMS service, study tour)

These collected ideas should be further evaluated within the ABDA framework and the approach.

Ms. Danica Radojicic, Coordinator for the cross border region “Drina-Tara” stated that in the previous phase within people-to –people activities 14 regional events were supported, and in this phase of EU funded project 10 manifestations will be supported out which 2 are already successfully organized in Visegrad and in Pljevlja.

Annex 5: GIZ LEIWW Project

Conclusions from the meeting:

- Municipalities and Public utility companies should deliver are developed plans, strategies regarding Solid Waste Management as well as experiences from previous projects, new project ideas to define the economic and environmental impacts in the sphere of solid waste management;
- Possible implementation of grant scheme investment and soft measures within the Project “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe” (LEIWW);

Prepared by:
Danica Radojicic
Coordinator for CBR “Drina-Tara”