



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 12th Stakeholders Group Meeting for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region



The project is financed by:



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Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"
25 March 2015
Milici, B&H

I. List of participants

The Twelve Stakeholders' Group Meeting for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region was attended by 28 participants, members of Stakeholders' Group from "Drina-Tara" region, interested stakeholders, local media and SWG project team.

Annex1: List of participants

II. Programme

March 25th , 2016 (Friday)

Motel "Milici", Milici, Bosnia and Herzegovina

9:30 – 10:00 **Arrival of the participants and welcome gathering**

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome speech**

Mr. Momir Lazarevic, Mayor of Municipality of Milici

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager for Cross-border regions "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava"

10:10 – 10:20 **Introduction to the programme**

Mrs. Danica Nesevic, Coordinator for Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"

10:20 – 10:40 **Implemented and planned activities within the framework of the EU project:
"Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of
Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration"**

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager for Cross-border regions "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava"

Mrs. Danica Nesevic, Coordinator for Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"

10:40 – 11:00 **Information on pilot activities within the project: "Solid Waste Management in
cross-border rural and coastal areas of SEE region"**

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager for Cross-border regions "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava"

Mrs. Danica Nesevic, Coordinator for Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"

11:00 – 11:30 **ABD Grant Scheme within the project: "Rural development through integrated
forest and water resources management (LEIWW)"**

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager for Cross-border regions "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava"

Mrs. Danica Nesevic, Coordinator for Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"

- 11:30-12:00 **Coffee Break**
- 12:00 – 13:00 **ABD Grant Scheme within the project: "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)"**
Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager for Cross-border regions "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava"
Mrs. Danica Nesevic, Coordinator for Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"
- 13:00 – 13:30 **Nomination of Chairperson and Chairman/s of Stakeholder group according to the Operational protocol**
Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager for Cross-border regions "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava"
- 13:30 – 14:00 **Presentation of the Drina-Tara web platform**
Danica Nesevic, Regional Coordinator for the cross border region "Drina-Tara"
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Conclusions and future activities**
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Lunch break**
- 15:30 **Departure**

Minutes from the meeting:

The 12th SHG meeting aimed at discussion about general achievements related to the implementation of ABDA 4 in the Western Balkan countries, ongoing activities and future perspective, as well as implementation of two GIZ programmes.

The main objectives of the Twelve Stakeholders' Group Meeting held on 25th March in Milici, B&H was to present ongoing and realized activities within EU project: "Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration", realized and planned activities within GIZ project "Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas of SEE region" and announcement of new ABD Grant scheme within GIZ project of Rural development via water and forest management in SEE.

Topics during the meeting:

- Update on the ABDA 4 program
- Update on the Solid Waste management in SEE project activities
- New ABD Grant Scheme – GIZ LEIWWWE programme
- Nomination of Chairperson and Chairman/s of Stakeholder group

Official opening of the event

The meeting was opened and welcomed by Mr. Momir Lazarevic, Mayor of Municipality of Milici. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager who was as well the moderator of the meeting.

1. Implemented and planned activities within the framework of the EU project: “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”

In the ongoing forth phase of implementation of Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) within people to people activities 2 regional events were supported: “Drinski kotlic” in Visegrad, “Days of Pljevlja Cheese” in Pljevlja. As well Regional Development Agency Zlatibor was supported Presentation of traditional products from cross-border regions “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” at the Belgrade Tourism Fair 2016 – through the “Mountain breakfast” concept. Till the end of this phase of EU funded project, SWG will support 7 more traditional events.

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.

2. Solid Waste management in SEE - project activities

Realized activities within 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 were presented. 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 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.

Realized activities:

- Kick off meeting, Albania, August 2015;
- First Dialog Platform ((input to the model and draft ISWM models for the pilot regions), Zlatibor December 2015;
- Assessment of regional cross border impact of Solid Waste Management in rural areas (Report);
- Second Dialog Platform session (input to the model and draft ISWM models for the pilot regions), Banja Koviljaca, March 2016.

Planned activities:

- ISWM model in the cross-border rural and coastal areas;
- Joint Workshop on measures and policy recommendations, Neum, April 2016;
- Pilot ecological actions;
- Final project conference, June.

Pilot environmental actions will be organized in a scope of celebration of “Earth day” in 10 municipalities in “Drina-Sava-Tara” river region: Uzice, Zlatibor, Prijepolje, Loznica, Bogatic (SER), Brcko District, Visegrad, Ugljevik, Lopare (B&H), Bijelo Polje (MNE).

3. ABD Grant Scheme within the project: “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)”

The LEIWW Programme “Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South-East-Europe” - (LEIWW) 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.

Objectives of the Grant scheme:

- Improvement of integrated economic development of the region through support to entrepreneur initiatives focusing on improvement of tourism offer in the region;
- Improvement of value chains in agriculture and food production;
- Support to development of rural areas, income generation and employment;
- Improvement of regional competitiveness through support and creation of green value chains;
- Support to economic development of rural areas through sustainable use of natural resources;
- Support to improvement of economic activities and women entrepreneurship;
- Improvement of integral water and forest resource management.

Within this session the Regional manager presented draft criteria, eligible economy sectors for support, eligible investments, costs (eligible, non-eligible), payment schedule, financial frame of the call, submission of Applications and implementation process. Within the LEIWW programme will be organized specific oriented trainings.

Questions:

- VAT refund is seen as not eligible cost, due to fact that SWG has no legal status in participating countries (only in Macedonia);
- One can purchase equipment from service provider who is not in a system of VAT;
- If the project is submitted in the framework of the partnership, whether the same be approved if one partner fails to realize Investments? - No (official response after the announcement of the call);
- Can individuals who have categorized tourist household can apply at the Call? (official response after the announcement of the call);
- Can the subsidies from Local government to agricultural households can be seen as co-financing – Yes (official response after the announcement of the call);
- Does financial support of 10% of participation can be provided from other donor resources - No (official response after the announcement of the call);

Final answers on questions will be delivered within finalization of criteria and announcement of the Call! Several Info days will be organized and one consultant appointed for all necessary clarifications. Promo film on realized investments for the previous ABD Grant investments was presented to all stakeholders in order to develop ideas on time.

4. Nomination of Chairperson and Chairman/s of Stakeholder group

In accordance with Operational Protocol and Rules of procedures of the Stakeholder Group in the “Drina-Tara” cross border region, the Stakeholder Group has been established and its members /alternate have been appointed based on the Memorandum of Understanding. The Chairperson of the SHG shall be selected by the members of the Stakeholder Group. Till now Stakeholder group didn't elect its Chairperson nor Chairman/s. Even though Meeting was not attended by majority of members of stakeholder group, the election process of Chairpersons was organized where 5 representatives from each country from private, public and civil sector were elected and Chairperson as well.

From Bosnia & Herzegovina were suggested/elected:

1. Olivera Todorovic, Tourism Organization of Visegrad
2. Jelena Kuzmanović Šalipur, Municipality of Rudo
3. Slavoljub Mladenović, Eco-rafting club „Rajska plaza“, Bratunac
4. Svetlana Vuković, COD „Luna“, Rudo (suggested not confirmed)
5. Momčilo Mirković, Motel „Aura“, Visegrad

From Serbia were suggested /elected:

1. Vladimir Bojović, Municipality of Cajetina
2. Nikola Nikolić, City of Uzice
3. Jovan Milić, Municipality of Bajina Bašta
4. Esad Kurbegović, Association “Prijatelji Brodareva“, Prijepolje
5. Simović Dragoljub, Entrepreneur for recreational activities „Simo-raft“, Prijepolje

From Montenegro were suggested /elected:

1. Duško Dangubić, Tourism Organization of Bijelo Polje

2. Dejan Zejak, "Centre for Development of Agriculture", Bijelo Polje (suggested not confirmed)
3. Vesna Ostojić, Municipality of Pljevlja
4. Vaso Knečević, Association "Da zazivi selo", Pljevlja (suggested not confirmed)
5. Predrag Cvijović, Hotel "Pljevlja", Pljevlja

Ms. Olivera Todorovic, Tourism Organization of Visegrad was elected as a Chairperson for a year period.

5. "Drina-Tara" web platform

Web site for cross border region „Drina-Tara“: <http://drina-tara.seerural.org/> is functional. On this web page are placed relevant information about the cross border region, stakeholders, Stakeholders group meeting, people to people activities etc. At the meeting it was not discussed how stakeholders can promote its activities on this Web page. Facebook page is in a development phase.

Annex 2: Presentation

Conclusions from the meeting:

- Call for new grant scheme under GIZ LEIWW program will be announced at the beginning of May;
- Seven people to people activities will be supported till the end of ABDA 4 project;
- Implementation of five pilot environmental actions within the framework of "Earth Day";
- SWG Project Management Unit in Visegrad will in future provide technical assistance in the preparation of project proposals focusing on the CBC program;
- Update the list of stakeholder group (many on the list are not active). The stakeholders who are interested to submit the nominations for membership need to do so in a 10 days' time from the date of the meeting (4.04.2016.);
- If any of elected members of presidency is not able or not willing to participate in presidency, members of stakeholders group from that country will propose another member.
- If necessary members of stakeholders group will suggest changes of Operational protocol which will be discussed on the next meeting;

Prepared by:
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