



**“Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration -  
*Support to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe”***

May 2015 – April 2017



The project is financed by:

# ABDA SHG Meetings



# ABDA Capacity building

## CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

*For the Stakeholder Group (SHG) members in all 4 regions*

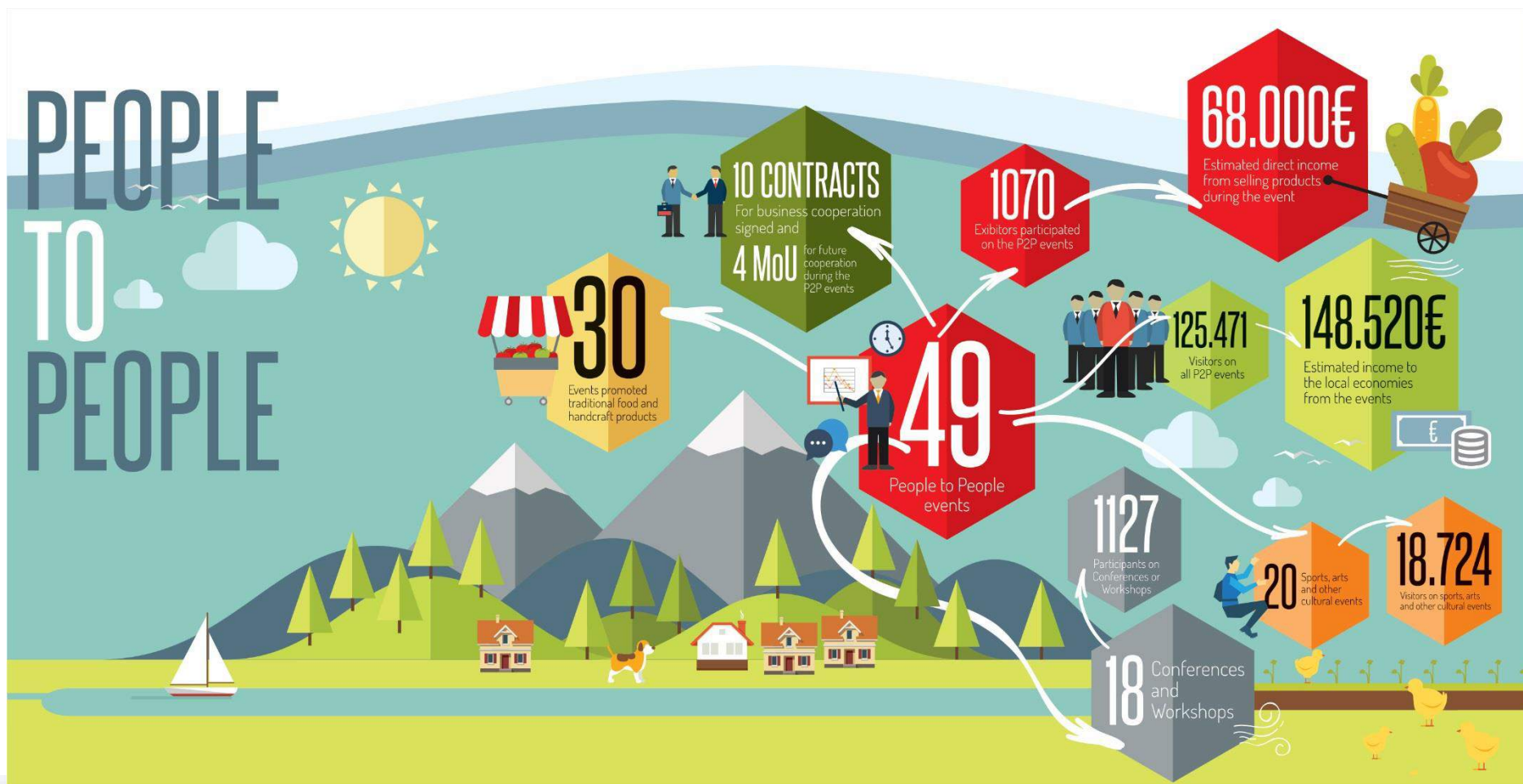
**2 STUDY TOURS**  
40 Participants on Study tours

**4 WORKSHOPS**  
143 Participants on Workshops

In cooperation with

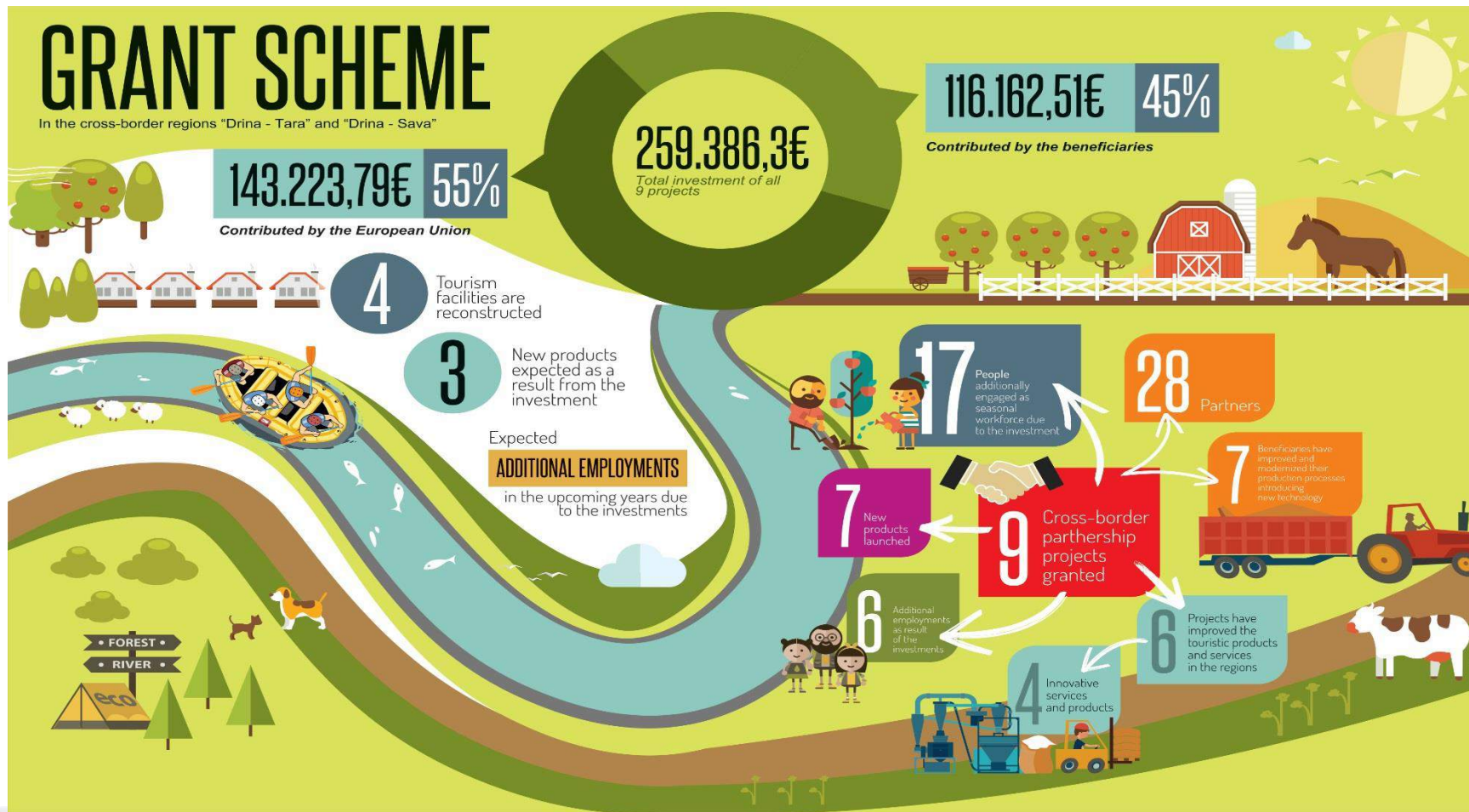


# ABDA – people-to-people





# ABDA Grant scheme



# Project objectives

- The project aims at **fostering regional cooperation** among **institutions and stakeholders** in the agriculture and food sector, as well as to **facilitation of the process of balanced territorial development** of the Western Balkan countries in the progression towards EU integration.
- The objective of the project is to **strengthen the networking and cooperation among the public institutions and stakeholders**, as well as with other relevant regional bodies in order to **accelerate the EU accession process** of the WB candidate and potential candidate countries in the field of agriculture and rural development.

# Specific project objectives

- **O1:** Political and policy dialogues related to agriculture and rural development among Western Balkan countries and relevant institutions and stakeholders are enhanced.
- **O2:** Cooperation in at least four cross-border rural areas of the Western Balkan (“Drina-Sava”, “Drina-Tara”, “Prespa” and “Sharra”) is strengthened with implementation of different projects with cross-border and regional relevance.
- **O3:** Performance of baseline analysis and strategic planning and programming of economic development in at least two additional cross-border regions is initiated.

# Expected project results related to specific project objectives

- **R1:** Joint documents on agriculture and rural development issues (statements, positions, declarations) of the participating Western Balkan countries are prepared based on the political and policy discussions organized by the SWG
- **R2:** Quality project proposals for economic development of rural cross-border areas are prepared and submitted for financing
- **R3:** Baseline analysis and strategic planning has been performed in at least two additional cross-border areas



# General approach

## ABDA

- Main focus on - capacity building to stakeholders and support to preparation of applications for calls for proposals
- Development of short value chains
- Grants will not be financed in the phase
- Analysis of situation in 3 more WB c-b areas

# General approach

## Political and policy dialogue

- Support to SWG core functions



# Foreseen activities

- Facilitation of economic development through intensive political and policy dialogue
  - Organization of Ministers` Meetings
  - Organization of APF
  - Organization of working group discussions

# Foreseen activities

- Facilitation of process of economic development of the cross-border areas
- Organization of meetings with stakeholders
- Capacity building measures for preparation of project proposals
- Support to stakeholders for preparation of project proposals for different calls (emphasis on IPA II)
- Performance of publicity activities related to available funding



# Foreseen activities

- Facilitation of process of economic development of the cross-border areas
  - Organization of people-to-people actions
  - Participation on meetings of other regional structures

# Foreseen activities

- Initiation of assessment of situation and strategic planning in three of the cross-border areas
- Baseline analysis and strategic planning in “Pcinja”, “Neretva” and “Prokletije” cross-border regions

# Role of the PMUs

The PMUs will have responsibility to:

- Assist the SHG in preparation of projects based on the ABD programme and other donors as appropriate,
- Carrying out information and publicity activities for different available EC instruments and programmes and potential donor activities in the area,
- Managing activities in the respective cross-border area during the implementation phase,
- Manage funding of the functions of the SHG and the PMU activities,
- Serve as a Secretariat for the SHG,
- Serve as the interface with the SWG Headquarter,
- Develop knowledge about existing support instruments potentially available to support projects in the region.