

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

Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Stakeholders Group for the cross - border region of “Sharra”



Jun 28th, 2016

Kukes, Albania

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I. INTRODUCTION

Time and place:

Jun 28th, 2016, Bar Restaurant Shahu, Kukes, Albania

Participants:

The structure of the participants on the 13th SHG meeting included 21 members of the stakeholder group, 8 from the local and central government institutions, 11 from the NGO sector and two from the business sector, municipality mayors, Regional development agencies, SWG Head Office staff and Sharra PMU staff. The meeting was organized and moderated by the Sharra PMU. During the meeting were discussed the general activities of ABDA implementation in the “Sharra” cross-border region, as well as updates on upcoming calls for the ABDA Grant scheme in the “Sharra” cross-border region.

The full list of participants and presentations from the meeting can be found at:

ANNEX 1: PDF_Participants list of 13th Sharra SHG Meeting 28.06.2016

ANNEX 2: PPP_Presentation P2P actions in Sharra

II. MEETING PROGRAMME:

PROGRAMME

10:30 – 11:00 **Arrival of the participants and welcome gathering**

11:00 – 11:10 **Welcome speech**

Mr. Sreten Koceski, President of “Sharra” Stakeholder Group

Mr. Salim Jonuzi, Mayor of Dragash municipality

Mr. Emrullah Spahiu, Regional Coordinator of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

11:10 – 11:30 **Introduction to the programme**

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

11:30 – 12:30 **Discussion about ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW programme**

Presentation of current state of the Grant scheme

Establishment of partnerships for upcoming calls for proposal in “Sharra” cross – border region

Mr. Darko Buzarovski, Field Officer of “Sharra” Cross-border Region



Mr. Gazmend Ahmeti, GIZ expert for application and business plan development within the LEIWW programme (TBC)

12:30 – 12:30 **Coffee Break**

12:30 – 13:15 **Future activities related to People to People actions in “Sharra” region**
Elaboration of realized and upcoming “People to People” actions in “Sharra” region

Mr. Emrullah Spahiu, Regional Coordinator of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

13:15 – 13:30 **“Sharra” SHG Operational “Protocol and Rules of procedure**

Mr. Emrullah Spahiu, Regional Coordinator of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

13:30 – 14:15 **Future activities related to implementation of ABDA in “Sharra” cross-border region**

Mr. Emrullah Spahiu, Regional Coordinator of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

14:15 – 14:30 **Conclusions**

14:30 – 15:30 **Lunch**

15:30 **Departure of participants**

III. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular 13th Stakeholders Group Meeting aimed at presenting of the ongoing and future activities related to the implementation of ABD approach in the “Sharra” cross-border region, update with the information and encourage the stakeholder organisation to apply on upcoming calls for ABDA Grant scheme for Integrated Economic Development within the project “Rural Development Through Integrated Forest and water resources management (LEIWW)” which also targets the cross-border region of “Sharra”. Also, the discussion was on the rescheduling of the preapproved projects for events/manifestations under the People-to-People (P2P) programme and inform the Stakeholder Group (SHG) for the realised P2P events, stressing the importance of the regional participation and impact.



Minutes of the meeting

The meeting was opened with a welcome speech by Mr. Sreten Koceski, President of the “Sharra” Stakeholder Group, who welcomed and thanked the participants for their presence, by emphasising the importance of the regional cooperation for overall development of the region, also pointed that the Stakeholder group of “Sharra” is consolidated and the opportunity for regional cooperation is important, emphasising the opportunities of the open Grant scheme and upcoming P2P events/manifestations.

On behalf of the Municipality of Dragash Mr. Salim Jonuzi also expressed the support of the overall activities of SWG and the “Sharra” SHG in the region. On behalf of SWG PMU office in “Sharra”, the Coordinator Mr. Emrullah Spahiu welcomed all the participants and thanked for the participation. He once again stressed the importance of the regular stakeholder’s group meeting and the importance of stakeholders’ active role in the regional initiatives and activities for the development of the region.

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional manager of the “Sharra” cross-border region, presented in details the program of the meeting, focusing on each session and the issues to be discussed. There was a slight change of the agenda, hence the discussion about the ABD Grant scheme within the LEIWW programme was moved for the last session, because of the interest of the stakeholders to widely discuss on the application procedures, and this change was accepted by all stakeholders without objection.

Session I

Future activities related to People to People actions in the “Sharra” region

The first part of the presentation was an overview of the activities released and upcoming preapproved events under the P2P programme in the “Sharra” cross-border region. The session started by presenting the results from the four successfully realised events and expecting the successful realisation of the nine pre-approved events/manifestations by the SWG to be supported in upcoming period.

The presentation was focused on the application process for local subsidies within the P2P programme, by introduction on how the whole process needs to be followed and which are the deadlines that should be respected by the applicants. The following steps should be respected:

- Submission of full application and budget (at least two-months prior the date of the event/manifestation);
- Contracts to be signed (one month before the event);



- Request for first instalment immediately after signing of the contract (60% of approved budget)

The most important part of the presentation was the obligation of the organisation for reporting and the obligation under the contract with the focus on Annex 1 of the contract, where in details is precisely described the reporting documentation that should be delivered by the contractor to SWG, two weeks after the realised event:

- Technical report (signed and stamped);
- Financial specification report (signed and approved by the financial director);
- Finance report and Procurement procedures;
- Final payment (three weeks after approval of the Technical and Financial report by SWG).

The request from stakeholders was to reschedule some of the preapproved P2P events because of their activity and the ABD Grant scheme. The events are planned as follows:

- Conference panel, visit and marking 10 touristic destinations in Zhupa for the last week of September;
- Kukes Handicraft Fair in the third week of November;
- Regional Youth entrepreneurship fair- beginning of October;
- Regional Entrepreneurship Fair - last week of August;
- Regional Gastronomic Fair - beginning of September;
- Beans day 2016 – September, To be confirmed by the applicant;
- Cheese day 2016 – To be confirmed;
- Discover Sharri (touristic Fair) – To be confirmed;

ANNEX 2: PPP_Presentation P2P actions in Sharra



Session II

“Sharra” SHG Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure

The second session continued with the presentation of Mr. Emrullah Spahiu regarding the Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure of the “Sharra” Stakeholder Group. He pointed out that the Operational Protocol for the proper functioning of the Stakeholder Group of “Sharra” should be formalised and the draft Operational Protocol will be delivered to the Stakeholder Group for the final revision, so that at the next meeting it will be approved by the Stakeholder Group. Related to the presidency of the Stakeholders Group, he explained that the SHG functions with President and two Vice-Presidents, representing all three countries, while the President is elected with a rotation and with a mandate of one year.

Also, there were mentioned the procedures for accepting the new members of the SHG, as an important part of the document which needs to be given an importance and to set the rules for recruiting the new SHG members.

It was suggested by the stakeholders that the members of the SHG should get some kind of a certificate stating their membership in the “Sharra” SHG. This suggestion was raised in order to increase the recognisability of the group and to protect it from abuse by other organisations/institutions which are not members.

Session III

Future activities related to the implementation of ABDA in the “Sharra” cross-border region

Mr. Spahiu gave an overview of the importance of the integrated economic development as a platform for cooperation between the local population, business sector, farmer’s community and rural community actors in the cross-border region, by organizing joint actions, sharing information on resources and marketing of the joint offers. The main focus should be on enhancing investments, through establishing the partnership, in order to improve products and services, as well as promotion of the region and its resources, through unique regional integrated tourism products/services and branding.

Through the presentation Mr. Spahiu encouraged the stakeholders to apply for different open calls in the “Sharra” region, mentioning that some of the organisations had already applied for the grants and some of the projects have been approved. He also indicated the need to intensify the cooperation with the PMU-s, mentioning that they will remain in service to the Stakeholders and will continue to serve as an information point where members of the SHG will obtain the necessary information on new calls for proposals and programs.



Session IV

Discussion about the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW Programme

In the fourth session, Mr. Darko Buzarovski presented the opportunity opened with the call for the Grant scheme intended for the cross-border regions under ABDA, focusing on the eligible criteria, reminding them of the deadline which is very close, and the importance to focus on the possible partnerships, as well as the green value chain, which can accumulate more evaluation points.

During his presentation, Mr. Darko Buzarovski explained the Guidelines for beneficiaries, regarding the Grant scheme, by mentioning the overall objective of the ABD programme in the “Sharra” cross-border region, as well some of the planned measures.

During this session the interest from the stakeholders was mostly related to the questions related to the cross- border partnerships and if that criterion will be ranked with higher point during the evaluation, as well as questions related to the minimum and maximum amount of the grants, eligible investments and eligible sectors.

Once again Mr. Darko Buzarovski stated the importance of cooperation and for any unclarified questions in the future related to the ABD Grant Scheme to be sent by the official email for the “Sharra” cross-border region.

Session V

Conclusions and future activities

In the last session the following conclusions were drawn:

- Sharra PMU and SWG are serving and will serve as an information point where members of the group (SHG) will obtain the necessary information on new calls for proposals and programs. They will continue to support the preparation of applications for different call for proposals and will provide information on possible partners for active IPA CBC programs in the region and other open calls;
- The deadlines for submitting the full applications and reporting documents should be respected, according to the contracts and deadlines underlined under the contracts;
- The “Sharra” Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure will be sent to the SHG for additional comments. The reviewed document will be approved on the next meeting;



- Sharra PMU, in collaboration with the members of the SHG, will target, collect and develop additional actions and ideas which can be supported by any Grant scheme or under People to People program or other open calls in the “Sharra” cross-border region;
- The Facebook page of the cross-border region of “Sharra” will be continuously updated and the stakeholders will send relevant information related to the activities and events in the region. This will contribute to increased communication and cooperation, as well as awareness raising related to the cross-border region of “Sharra”;
- It was suggested that the next SHG meeting for the cross-border region of “Sharra” could be organized in the Municipality of Tearce.

Prepared by:

Emrullah Spahiu

Regional Coordinator of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

Bojana Jovanovska

Regional Manager of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

