

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

Minutes of the 14th meeting of the Stakeholders Group for the cross - border region of “Sharra”



September 24th, 2016

Tearce, Macedonia

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I. INTRODUCTION

Time and place:

September 24th, 2016, Restaurant “Cucla”, Tearce, Macedonia

Participants:

The structure of the participants on the 14th Stakeholder Group meeting included 14 members of the stakeholder group of “Sharra” Cross-border region, 7 from the local and central government institutions, 5 from the NGO sector and two from the business sector, municipality mayors, SWG Head Office staff and Sharra PMU staff. The meeting was organized and moderated by the SWG Head Office staff and Sharra PMU. The meeting was appointed to be held on Saturday, since there was an opportunity for the regional stakeholders to also participate in the People-to-People event “Beans Day 2016”, which was held on the same day in Tearce.

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

ANNEX 1: List of participants_14th Sharra SHG Meeting 24.09.2016

II. MEETING PROGRAMME:

PROGRAMME

09:30 – 10:00 **Arrival of the participants and welcome gathering**

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome speech**

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

Mr. Flamur Sylejmani, Vice-president of “Sharra” Stakeholder Group

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

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

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

10:20- 11:30 **Overview of the general and future activities related to the implementation of ABDA and future activities related to People to People actions in the “Sharra” cross-border region**

Elaboration of realized and upcoming actions in the “Sharra” Cross-border region

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



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

11:30 – 11:50 **Coffee Break**

11:50 – 12:00 **Discussion on the Operational “Protocol and Rules of procedure in the “Sharra” cross border region**

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

12:00 – 12:40 **Informative session on the outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project and possibilities for a Second call**

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

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

12:40 – 13:00 **Conclusions**

13:00 **Lunch and field visit of the “Beans Day 2016” in Tearce**

Departure of participants

III. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular 14th Stakeholders Group Meeting aimed at presenting the ongoing and future activities related to the implementation of the ABD approach in the “Sharra” cross-border region, update with the new development in the region and information regarding the foreseen activities under the project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”, with the main focus on the ABD Grant scheme and the People-to-People actions.

The topics of the meeting were:

- Overview of the general and future activities related to the implementation of ABDA and future activities related to People to People actions in the “Sharra” region;
- Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure;
- Informative session on the outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project and possibilities for a Second call;
- Field visit of the “Beans Day 2016” in Tearce, organized by the Centre for Education and Development – CED, member of the Stakeholder Group of the “Sharra” cross-border region.



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, as well as the opportunities of the ABD Grant scheme, by encouraging stakeholders to work closely in order to gain benefits with this opportunity.

Mr. Flamur Sylejmani, Vice-president of the SHG, 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 participants and thanked for the participation. He once again stressed the importance of the regular stakeholder’s group meetings and the importance of stakeholder’s active role in the regional initiatives and activities for the development of the region.

Ms. Bojana Jovanovska, Regional Manager of “Sharra” Cross-border Region, presented in details the program of the meeting, focusing on each session and the issues to be discussed.

Session I

Overview of the general and future activities related to the implementation of ABDA and future activities related to People to People actions in the “Sharra” cross-border region

The first part of the presentation was an overview of the general realised and future activities, stressing the importance of stakeholders group meetings, the P2P events and manifestations, results from the first call of ABD grant scheme, announcement for the second call for application under ABD Grant Scheme and realised events/manifestation under the People-to-People programme in the “Sharra” cross-border region.

During this session the Regional manager and Coordinator stressed 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.

This session continued by presenting the results from the successfully realised events and the expectations for successful realisation of the other pre-approved events/manifestations, that are to be supported in upcoming period.



Through the presentation it was once again briefly introduced the process that needs to be followed by the organizers, stressing the deadlines that should be respected by the applicants before and after event.

Session II

Discussion on the Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure in the “Sharra” cross-border region

The second session continued with a short overview by Mr. Emrullah Spahiu regarding the Operational Protocol and Rules of Procedure of the “Sharra” Stakeholder Group. He pointed out that the Operational Protocol has been sent to stakeholders and that there was no feedback for any changes in the document, therefore confirming that the actual version of the document is acceptable. Also, for the future function or any changes needed in the Operational Protocol, the changes will be discussed and approved by stakeholders during the regular SHG meetings.

Session III

Informative session on the outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project and possibilities for a Second call

In the third session, Mr. Darko Buzarovski presented some unofficial statistical data regarding the application process for the first call of the ABD Grant scheme in the four cross-border regions. He mentioned that the expectation was higher for project applications in the cross-border region of “Sharra”. He presented the current state, mentioning that in the cross-border region of Sharra there have been seven projects submitted in total, mentioning the municipalities from which the applicants were, number of the partners and amount of requested funding in the first call for application.

During the presentation, the Regional Manager encouraged the stakeholders to be prepared for the second call for project proposals. Also, it was stressed that the PMU, SWG team and the Local experts will be constantly in the field in order to be close to the potential applicants, to increase the number of quality projects, to discuss and improve the business ideas in order to achieve higher ranking during the evaluation process.

During this session, the discussion initiated by the stakeholders was mostly related to questions related to the eligibility criteria for the second call, hence if there will be any changes of the criteria, also the regarding cross - border partnerships, the difficulties that applicants face with the partners from the other side of the border and how SWG can help in these issues, the



criteria for partnership within the country and the ranking, 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 applying with project that can be ranked higher, such as projects with partnerships or projects that include alternative energy elements or environmental friendly actions and equipment. The stakeholders were informed that for any unclarified questions in the future related to the ABD Grant scheme they will have the opportunity to discuss them in the next info days or directly to be sent to the official email for the “Sharra” cross-border region, as soon as the second call is open.

Session IV

Conclusions and future activities

In the last session the following conclusions were drawn:

- Sharra PMU and SWG are serving and will continue to 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 the active IPA CBC programs in the region and other open calls;
- The deadlines for submitting the full applications and reporting documents for the People-to-People events should be respected, according to the contracts and deadlines underlined with the contracts;
- The SWG team and the Local experts will be in service for the potential applicants, in order for them to apply with complete and more quality project under the second call of the ABD Grant scheme;
- 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 the People-to-People program or other open calls in the “Sharra” cross-border region;
- It was suggested that the next SHG meeting for the cross-border region of “Sharra” could be organized in the Municipality of Prizren or Dragash.

Prepared by:

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