

Cross-border region „Krsh“

“Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”

Minutes from the 6th Stakeholders' Group Meeting for cross-border region “Krsh”



Niksic, Montenegro

2nd March 2018

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02. March 2018.

IPC Tehnopolis, Niksic, Montenegro

I List of participants

The sixth Stakeholder's Group Meeting for cross-border region „Krsh“ was attended by 28 participants, Vice President of the Municipality of Niksic, representatives of the stakeholder group of the cross-border region „Krsh“, representatives of media and SWG project team.

Annex 1: List of participants

II Agenda

02. March 2018. (Friday)

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center "Tehnopolis", Niksic

09:30 – 10:00 **Arrival of the participants**

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome speech**

Sonja Nikcevic, Vice President of the Municipality of Niksic

Ratko Batakovic, CEO of the "Tehnopolis"

Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager

10:15 – 11:00 **ABDA project and activities implemented in cross-border region "Krsh"**

Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager

Marko Zizic, SWG Regional Coordinator

- Call for support of the events in cross-border region „Krsh“
- Examples of supported P2P events, scoring
- Support in preparation of cross-border's projects in region
- Organization of trainings in cross-border region "Krsh"
- Operational protocol

11:00 – 12:00 **Panel discussion**

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00

Departure of participants

III Minutes of the meeting

The sixth meeting of the stakeholder group of the cross-border region „Krsh“ was held on the 2nd March 2018, in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center “Tehnopolis”, Niksic, Montenegro.

The meeting was dedicated to the activities on the project “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas” financed by the European Union.

During the meeting next topics were discussed:

- Call for support of the events in the cross-border region “Krsh”
- Examples of supported P2P events, scoring of the events
- Support in preparation of cross-border’s projects in region
- Organization of trainings in cross-border region “Krsh”
- Operational protocol

Official opening of the meeting:

Ms. Sonja Nikcevic, Vice President of the Municipality of Niksic warmly welcomed all the attendees who managed to arrive on the meeting despite the harsh weather conditions. *“What needs to be emphasized is that the Municipality of Niksic is satisfied with the fact that, from day to day, there are more and more contents that strive to strengthen the population of our city and agricultural producers as well. Those contents are trying to lead the producers to the level of the demanding market of Europe we strive for. Niksic is fortunate that with opening of the “Tehnopolis” the doors are opened to a large and significant number of entities that create new values on the common field. The opening of the SWG office in “Tehnopolis” is the reason for the satisfaction of all of us and the reason for support, because we believe that in that way we will be able to make significant contacts, which will enable significant funds from the different funds to come to Niksic, and thus open new jobs.”*

Mr. Ratko Batakovic, CEO of “Tehnopolis” greeted the guests and pointed out the participants’ desire to participate in the process that SWG has developed with states in which it operates. *“We are pleased and grateful that SWG has chosen “Tehnopolis” and the municipality of Niksic as a place where they will have their regional office. SWG has already been a partner in the activities that took place in Niksic, including New Year’s Bazaar. We will have benefits from SWG, having in mind the knowledge they possess when it comes to the civil, public and private sector. SWG has a big impact in order to connect with partners from the region because SWG serves as a platform that connects. Now we are focusing on the region and mutual cooperation and all those things we can do together”.*

Regional Manager of the cross-border region “Krsh” Mr. Aleksandar Damjanovic opened the meeting and welcomed guests. *’This meeting is a continuation of the work that started two years*

ago, when the region had the working title "Neretva", but stakeholders agreed that "Krsh" is the best term that describes the entire region. It was mutual initiative that the SWG open the regional office in "Tehnopolis", which is logical because Niksic is the center of this region, and "Tehnopolis" is seen as ideal solution, especially considering that there are other organizations with offices here, with whom we are trying to make communication and cooperation on all the projects we are working on. "Drina-Tara", "Drina-Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra" are the first four regions that were established within Area Based Development project, a project based on the development of the region. "Krsh" is a continuation of the story, established with two other new regions "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna" and "Pcinja", which makes a total of seven SWG supported regions, with funding from the European Union".

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic presented Baseline Study and Strategic Plan for development of the cross-border region "Krsh", developed in cooperation of the SWG and Joint Research Centre of European Union, which is comprehensive analysis of the potentials of the region. In defining the cross-border region "Krsh", territorial, cultural-historical and economic criteria and parameters are taken into account. This Strategy relates to improvement of the rural economy, not only agriculture, but also to tourism and additional values, which are promoted through various donor programs, such as partnerships, cross-border partnerships, or economic additional values in terms of processing basic agricultural products and joining through clusters or associations. He invited all the attendees to send comments or suggestions related to the Strategy, bearing in mind that strategies are live documents that can change over time.

1. Call for support of the events in the cross-border region "Krsh"

Regional Manager informed stakeholders that there are foreseen funds in the project, which give the opportunity to support three events, up to 2000 euros, that can be used to regionalize the event. Event should have an economic component, and the priorities are agriculture and tourism. He explained that these are not funds intended for the procurement of equipment. In the next ten days, a call will be announced, and all members of the stakeholder group will be notified by e-mail.

He also said that it is planned to create the website of cross-border region "Krsh", where all activities related to the region will be promoted, modeled on the already existing sites of the "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava" regions.

2. Examples of supported P2P events, scoring

Examples of supported events are listed: fairs of small producers, meetings, workshops, conferences. It is explained that the Regional Manager and the Regional Coordinator will not participate in evaluating proposals that arrive, it will be done by someone else. There were 59 applications for supporting events in "Drina-Tara" and "Drina Sava", which indicates that people on the field are interested in work. These types of SWG support are of great importance because they allow small producers to apply for EU funds.

3. Support in preparation of cross-border's projects in region

The role of SWG in the cross-border region "KrsH" is also to support preparation of cross-border projects in the region. The role is informative and advisory, which means that it will follow calls for cross-border projects and inform stakeholders about the possibilities of application. It will also provide advice to a group of stakeholders when applying for a call, both through discussions and possible trainings.

4. Organization of trainings in cross-border region "KrsH"

Mr. Damnjanovic presented entire Area Based Development Approach. He introduced the participants with details starting from the first phase of the project, when the first cross-border region "Drina-Tara" was established, through the second phase and the establishment of the "Drina-Sava" region, the third phase and the establishment of "Prespa" and "Sharra" regions. In the previous phase of the project, three new cross-border regions have been established "KrsH", "Prokletije-Bjeshket e Nemuna" and "Pcinja-Krajiste", which makes a total of 7 cross-border regions within this project. Workshops and trainings are planned at this stage of the project, most likely in April and May. It is expected that stakeholder group propose topics for training, including specific training, which they would help them in their work. He presented examples of trainings from "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava" region, among which are: cooking trainings, where the trainers were famous chefs, several trainings related to beekeepers, raspberries, etc.

It has been noted that this year there will not be grants within ABDA, but it is expected in the coming years, as is already happening in other regions that exist for several years.

5. Operational protocol

An example of organizing a stakeholder groups in the cross-border regions of "Drina-Tara" and "Drina-Sava" is presented. On the initiative of the representatives of the stakeholder groups, they are formed as a working body. Modeled on LEADER approach, the working body is composed from the public, civil and private sector, with a total of 15 representatives, 5 representatives per country. The structure is: 2 representatives come from the public sector, while the remaining 3 are from the civil and private sectors. The working body then elects the president and two vice-presidents, who are invited to attend some of the other events organized by SWG. It is a good opportunity to represent the stakeholder group at the meetings where representatives of ministries, academies, EU and other donors attend. An example of the Operational Protocol, which is in fact the type of Rules of Procedure, will be submitted to a group of stakeholders, as an example of how it is possible to arrange work in the cross-border region "KrsH".

The meeting was attended by the representatives of Radio Television Niksic, and the video report from the meeting was broadcasted in the news on that television. Local internet portal, Onogost.me also published a report from the meeting.

Conclusions

The stakeholder group agreed to continue the activities on the implementation of Area Based Development Approach. During March, a P2P call will be published, and all members of the stakeholder group will be notified about it. Representatives of the stakeholder group of the cross-border region "Krsr" will submit the training proposals. In the coming period, facebook and website of the "Krsr" region will be prepared. An example of the Operational Protocol will be submitted to a group of stakeholders for consideration and eventual adoption in the upcoming period.

Prepared by:

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