



Project funded by the European Union



Minutes of the 18th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Sharra”

March 06th, 2018

Hotel “Theranda”, Prizren

List of participants:

The structure of participants at the 18th Stakeholder Group meeting included 44 participants from the “Sharra” cross-border region. The meeting was organized and facilitated by the staff of the Project Management Unit for Sharra and SWG Secretariat.

The full list of participants' contacts and details can be found at:

ANNEX 1: Participants list of 18th Stakeholder group meeting in the cross-border region “Sharra”, 06.03.2018

ANNEX 2: PPP_Presentations New phase of ABD 5, P2P and ABD Grant Scheme results

Program of the meeting:

18th Meeting of Stakeholders Group for the Cross-Border Region of “Sharra”

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome speech**

*Mr. Damjan Surlevski Project Manager SWG
Representative from the municipality of Prizren (TBC)
Representative from the municipality of Dragash (TBC)*

10:15 – 10:40 **Presentation and discussion of the new ABD phase of the EU project “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”**

Mr. Damjan Surlevski Project Manager SWG

10:40 – 11:00 **Informative session on the outcomes of the People to People Call for “Sharra” cross-border Region**

Mr. Darko Buzarovski, Regional Manager of “Sharra” Cross-border Region

11:00 – 11:40 **Discussion and future activities**

11:40 – 12:00 **Conclusions of the meeting**

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

Minutes of the meeting

The meeting started with the welcoming speech from the Project Manager of SWG, Mr. Damjan Surlevski who welcomed the participants and expressed the pleasure for the high interest and presence of the stakeholder group members confirming the intensification of good cooperation between stakeholders in cross-border region of Sharra through ABDA implementation approach. In addition, he introduced new Mrs. Flaka Bytyqi, new Regional Coordinator for cross-border region “Sharra” and Regional Manager Mr. Darko Buzarovski. Mr. Damjan Surlevski presented the program of the meeting, focusing on the topics to be discussed.

Session 1

Presentation and discussion of the new ABD phase of the EU project “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”

The session started with the presentation of Mr. Damjan Surlevski, project manager SWG, who gave an overview of the new ABD 5 phase of the EU project “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”. The presentation was focused on the general and specific objectives of the project regarding ABDA implementation approach and implementation of future activities during the new phase of the project. This project phase of the EU founded project: “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”, for cross-border region “Sharra”, will include the implementation of activities such as regional People-to-People events, workshops for capacity building for the stakeholders, facilitation of development of project applications, regular stakeholder meetings, creation of policy documents in line with the European Union acquis, as well as activities to enhance cooperation and networking among IPA II beneficiaries in order to accelerate the EU accession process of the Western Balkans in the agriculture and rural development sectors. Mr. Damjan Surlevski emphasized the importance of the integrated economic development in the cross-border region of “Sharra”, by sharing information and organizing joint actions with the stakeholders in the cross-border region.

During the discussion, it was emphasized that the future work of the stakeholder group should be focused on the establishment of different working groups/cluster initiatives for important sectors. Meanwhile, it was concretely suggested that these working groups should be focused in the main priorities for the development of the cross-border region such as agriculture and tourism. Also, these working groups can focus their work on the specific issues, problems and challenges of the respective sectors. The establishment of these working groups/cluster initiatives will increase the wider cross-border cooperation by including new stakeholders in the stakeholder group and will also create opportunities to further improve the integrated economic development of the region. Also it was stated that Project Management Unit for Sharra cross-border region and SWG will continue to serve as an information point where members of the stakeholder group 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 possible partners for active IPA CBC programs in the region and other open calls;

Session 2

Informative session on the outcomes of the People to People Call for “Sharra” cross-border Region

The presentation started with the overview of the People to People Call for the four regions of “Drina – Tara”, “Drina – Sava”, “Sharra” and “Prespa”. During the presentation, additional information was given regarding the evaluation process and the main outcomes for the open call for People to People events. In total, there were seventy-four (74) applications submitted for the all four regions. Regarding the cross-border region of “Sharra”, 4 (four) applications were submitted. After the evaluation process only 1 (one) application succeeded with the necessary points for financial support. Meanwhile, because of insufficient funds, 1 (one) project application that succeeded the evaluation process with the necessary points was put on the waiting list for future possible support.

Discussion was opened for the lack of submitted applications, how to improve the process in the future and ideas from the stakeholders regarding the People to People events. The stakeholders' delivered several proposals: to have joint cross-border pre-applications prioritized in cross-border region “Sharra” by workshops, and also, participation in pre-financing from SWG for P2P application instead of 50% should be 70% before starts of the event. It was confirmed that applicants for future open calls for P2P and other projects have the need of support from professional project writer or to have basic trainings how to apply in projects and how to write project proposal.

Session 3

Informative session on the outcomes of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project

The session started with the presentation of Mr. Darko Buzarovski, Regional Manager for the cross-border region of “Sharra”, who gave an overview of the ABD Grant Scheme implementation within the LEIWW project. During the presentation, additional information was given regarding the evaluation process and the implementation process of the grant scheme. In addition, general information was given regarding the main outcomes of results for the first and the second call for the “Sharra” cross-border region. In total, 7 (seven) applications were submitted during the first call and only one beneficiary succeeded in the evaluation process and had signed contract. During the second call total 14 (fourteen) project applications were submitted, from which 8 (eight) applications succeeded in the evaluation process, and the official signing of the grant contracts with the grantees. Meanwhile, because of insufficient grant funds, 2 (two) project applications that succeeded the evaluation process and had the necessary points were put on the waiting list for future possible support and latter supported. Also, it was stressed that the project applications submitted were mainly focused in the sectors of agriculture and tourism.

During the open discussion, it was stressed that the grant scheme implementation was a good opportunity to improve the business conditions and the integrated economic development of the Sharra region. Also, it was emphasized that during this project implementation phase a lot of positive results have been achieved, including the participation of new stakeholders from important sectors, as well as increasing the cooperation between the stakeholders and sustainability of the stakeholder group. In addition, it was suggested that in the future the business sector participation should be increased and included to actively participate in the stakeholder group.

The session ended with the presentation of the video documentary: Results and achievements from the ABD Grant Scheme for regions of Drina-Tara, Drina-Sava, Prespa and Sharra.

Conclusions and future activities

Within the last session, the following conclusions were drawn:

- This project phase of the EU founded project: “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”, for the cross-border region “Sharra” will include the implementation of activities such as regional People-to-People events, workshops for capacity building for the stakeholders, facilitation of development of project applications, regular stakeholder meetings, as well as activities to enhance cooperation and networking among IPA II beneficiaries in order to accelerate the EU accession process of the Western Balkans, especially in the sectors of agriculture and rural development;
- Sharra PMU and SWG will continue to serve as an information point where members of the stakeholder group 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 possible partners for active IPA CBC programs in the region and other open calls;
- During the opened call for support of P2P events in the cross-border region of “Sharra”, 4 (four) applications were submitted. After the evaluation process only 1 (one) application succeeded with the necessary points for financial support. Meanwhile, because of insufficient funds, 1 (one) project application that succeed the evaluation process with the necessary points was put on the waiting list for future possible support.
- The Stakeholder group delivered several proposals: to have joint cross-border prioritized workshops for pre-applications in cross-border region “Sharra”, and also, participation in pre-financing from SWG for P2P application instead of 50% should be 70% before starts of the event. Once again it was stressed the need, that applicants for future open calls for P2P and other projects should have support from professional project writer or to have basic trainings how to apply in projects and how to write project proposal;
- Project Management Unit Sharra (PMU) and SWG will support the cluster initiatives in the region established in the main priorities for the development of the cross-border region of Sharra such as agriculture and tourism and will try to find additional funds for the financial support of future activities of two working groups initiatives. The establishment of the working groups will increase the wider cross-border cooperation by including new stakeholders in Sharra stakeholder group and will also create opportunities to further develop the integrated economic development of the region;
- Grant scheme implemented by SWG was a good opportunity to improve the business conditions and the integrated economic development of the Sharra region. Also, it was emphasized that during this project implementation phase a lot of positive results have been achieved, including the participation of new stakeholders from important sectors, as well as increasing the cooperation between the stakeholders and sustainability of the stakeholder group. In addition, it was suggested that in the future the business sector participation should be increased and included to actively participate in the stakeholder group.



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