



## Cross-border region "Drina - Sava"

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

Minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Group Meeting for "Drina-Sava" cross-border region



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Minutes from the 12th Stakeholders' Group Meeting for the cross-border region of

"Drina-Sava"

29. October 2015.

Ugljevik, Bosnia and Herzegovina

## I. List of participants

The Twelfth Stakeholders' Group Meeting for "Drina-Sava" cross-border region was attended by 48 participants, representatives of public utility companies from the region, GIZ representatives for Solid Waste Management Project and LEIWWWE Programme and SWG project team.

Annex 1: List of participants

## II. Agenda

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|---------------|---|
| 08:30 – 08:40 | Official Opening of the Meeting and Introduction to the Program<br><i>Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanović, SWG Regional Manager</i><br><i>Mr. Nedžib Atić, Representative of Municipality Ugljevik and Vice president of the SHG "Drina-Sava"</i><br><i>Mr. Đoko Simić, President of the Assembly of Municipality Ugljevik</i> |
| 08:40 – 09:30 | Update on the ABDA program and operational activities<br><i>Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanović, SWG Regional Manager</i>  |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Update on the Solid waste management in SEE project activities<br><i>Ms. Ana Petrovska SWG/REC Int.expert</i>   |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Outline of the Method for Assessing Environmental and Economic Impacts<br><i>Mr. Predrag Markovic, SWG/REC Int.expert</i>   |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Baseline Analysis and Impact Assessment   |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Conducting of assessment of regional cross-border impact of solid waste management in rural areas and stakeholder participation   |
| 14:30 – 17:30 | Rural development via water and forest management in SEE  |

- Identifying and evaluating priorities for the 4 cross-border pilot regions, that could be included in the project strategy;
- Assessment, verification and prioritization of the feasibility of measures for integrated forest and water resources management;
- Assessment, verification and prioritization of the feasibility of measures for income generation by sustainable use of natural resources in the pilot regions, with a focus on economic activities of women within at least one of the measures.
- Defining baseline and target values for identified measures, as well as relevant sources of verification;
- Identifying needs and strategies for capacity development in the cross-border pilot regions.

*Ms. Elena Gavrilova, GIZ representative*

*Mr. Thomas Wehinger, GIZ representative*

### **III. Minutes of the meeting**

The 12th SHG meeting aimed at discussion about general achievements related to the implementation of ABDA in the Western Balkan countries, on going activities and future perspective, as well as presentation of two GIZ programmes.

The specific objectives of the Twelfth Stakeholders' Group Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October in Hotel "Comsar Energetik" in Ugljevik was to present the overall results of Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) program in the previous phase and ongoing and planned activities, project activities on Solid Waste Management Project implemented by GIZ and perspective for implementation of GIZ project for Rural development via water and forest management in SEE.

#### **Topics during the meeting:**

1. Update on the ABDA program and operational activities
2. Update on the Solid Waste management in SEE project activities
3. Rural development via water and forest management in SEE.

#### **Official opening**

The meeting was opened and the participants were welcomed by Mr. Nedžib Atić, Representative of Municipality Ugljevik and Vice president of the SHG "Drina-Sava, Mr. Đoko Simić, President of the Assembly of Municipality Ugljevik and by Mr. Aleksandar

Damnjanović, SWG Regional Manager how gave a short review on the activities that were implemented by the Drina-Sava stakeholder group.

### **1. Update on the ABDA program and operational activities**

Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager introduced the participants of the meeting about the SWG and its work. The “**SWG**” stands for **Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe**. It is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisted of governmental institutions responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective countries and territories. It is a platform for networking and regional co-operation among the SEE countries and territories in the field of agriculture and rural development. Its managing and coordinative body is the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, based in Skopje, Macedonia. SWG covers the area of four cross border regions: “Drina-Sava”, “Drina-Tara”, “Sharra” and “Prespa”. Four Project Management Offices for cross-border regions are establish and functional as well as Regional Office in Belgrade.

Integrated economic development implementing **Area Based Development** aims to support networking of local population, entrepreneurs, crafts, small farmers, service providers in tourism and other subjects in rural cross border regions, organizing joint working groups, sharing of resources and joint presentation. The focus is on:

- Improvement of competitiveness through small investments, introduction of new production processes that lead to improvement of existing and creation of new products/services.
- Promotion of regions and its resources through unique integrated tourist products and branding.

As well the Regional Manager presented the general achievements related to the implementation of ABDA grant scheme investment in the previous phase in the cross border regions “Drina-Tara” and Drina-Sava”:

- 9 cross border partnership projects were granted with 28 partners
- Total investment of all 9 projects =259.386, 3 € (55% contributed by the European Union and 45% contributed by beneficiaries)
- 7 new products are launched
- 7 beneficiaries have improved and modernized their production processes introducing new technology
- 6 projects have improved the tourist products and services in the regions
- 4 innovative services and products are developed
- 4 tourism facilities are reconstructed
- 3 new products are expected as a result from the investment
- 17 people were additionally engaged as seasonal workforce due to the investment
- 6 additional employments as result of the investments
- Additional employments are expected in the upcoming years due to the investments.

## Annex 2: ABDA presentation

### 2. Solid Waste management in SEE - project activities

Ms. Ana Petrovska presented the project “Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas of South Eastern Europe” which is in the implementation phase by “Network of Associations of Local Authorities in SEE” (**NALAS**) and the “Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE” (**SWG**) founded under the GIZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Modernization of Municipal Services (ORF MMS) and the Government of Switzerland.

The project aims to improve the conceptual and organizational framework conditions for Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) in cross-border rural and coastal areas in SEE with the specific goal to assess and develop schemes (models) for integrated management of solid waste that are environmentally effective and economically affordable in order to reduce adverse environmental and economic impacts of solid waste miss-management and support the ecological and socio-economic development of the cross-border rural and coastal areas in the SEE countries.

The project will support the local authorities and stakeholders in establishing a dialogue platform for assessing and developing effective management schemes for integrated solid waste management in the regional cross-border rural and coastal areas. In order to attain policy and operational means which are best and meet the social, economic and environmental conditions of the involved municipalities and countries.

The project will result with:

- Development of a Method for assessment of cross border adverse environmental and economic (tourism) impacts,
- Assessment of regional cross border impact of Solid Waste Management in rural areas (Report),
- Two Dialog Platform session (input to the model and draft ISWM models for the pilot regions),
- ISWM model in the cross-border rural and coastal areas,
- Report on best practices from EU member states for ISWM in rural areas,
- Joint Workshop on measures and policy recommendations,
- Drafting project fiches from the developed and agreed models and
- Final project conference.

Ms. Ana Petrovska and Mr. Predrag Markovic, SWG international experts conducted small workshop on assessment of regional cross-border impacts of solid waste management in rural areas. The aim of the workshop was to give the input for development of schemes (models) necessary for changing the legislative and strategies in the sphere of solid waste management and to create instrument that will be helpful for municipalities. The methodology is dealing with source of problems, assessment of impact of illegal dump sites, as well as development of project ideas for potential donor funds.

Outline of the method for assessing environmental and economic impacts will be performed in following steps:

1. Baseline Analysis: Waste Generation and Composition and Waste Management Practices; Environmental Hotspots and Pollution Agents and Migration Paths & Migration Drivers.
2. Impact Assessment: Priority Waste Streams; Assessment of Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts on National Scale and Assessment of Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts on Regional Scale (Transboundary Context)
3. Mitigation Measures / Conclusions - ISWM Model

Experts presented the collected information on each municipality and members of the stakeholder group and representatives of the Public Utility discussed on the wastes management charges, charging methods, payment effectiveness, recycling methods etc. During the discussion representatives from the private sector and NGO sector confronted the Public Utility and problems in the sectors were identified during the meeting:

- Illegal dumping by population, tourists, industrial and construction companies
- Valuable recyclables and hazardous waste not segregated and dumped
- Lack of containers and trucks for disposal
- Lack of synchronized cooperation between municipal officials, public utility companies, private sector and inhabitants
- Lack of communal police

Conclusions:

- To identify commercial waste flows that affect the cross-border region
- To establish the best charging method for waste generation
- To analyses ecological hot spots
- Legal frameworks needed to be exchange and contracts between private sector and public utility need to be signed
- Development of organizational schemes of waste collection in rural areas
- Transfer of waste – to foresee the building of stationary and mobile transfer stations
- Mapping and evaluation of economic and environmental impacts of landfills
- Education of local population in order to raise awareness on waste is necessary
- The members of the stakeholder group expressed their willingness to submit all needed information to the experts

Annex 3: Workshop on Assessment of regional cross-border impacts of solid waste management in rural and coastal areas

### 3. Rural development via water and forest management in SEE

Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager presented the conclusions of working group for integrated economic development during the Agricultural Policy Forum (APF 2015). In the working group experts, representatives of SWG, GIZ and ABD team members discussed about the possibility of linking the ABDA and LEIWW program and they concluded:

- The future actions targeting rural cross-border areas, should build on the measures defined with ABDA programming documents.
- Possible future grants scheme should focus on sustainable economic with special focus on the sustainable use of natural resources
- Coordination of local and national authorities in the programming process of the rural development is of a crucial importance.
- Commitment supported with financial contribution by the WB Governments will boost the sustainable economic development of rural cross-border areas.

The working group presents on the APF 2015 priorities for development of the cross-border regions, the defined measures and sub measures developed under the ABDA Program for economic development of the cross-border region “Drina-Sava” (2014-2020), as well as the experiences related to implementation of the grant scheme on integrated economic development were shared.

<b>Measure 1: Sustainable rural economy development</b>
Sub Measure 1.1: Rural economy development through joint regional initiatives for development of integrated offer of products and services
Sub Measure 1.2: Increasing employment and the competitiveness of the region through strengthening value chains and capacity building
Sub Measure 1.3: Support to individual investments in businesses development within the regional initiatives
<b>Measure 2: Rural economy environment improvements</b>
Sub-Measure 2.1: Protection of environment and management of natural resources

#### ***“Drina-Sava” Programme measures***

The group also discussed the possibility how the GIZ Technical Cooperation measure on Rural Development by integrated forest and water resource management would support the implementation of the ABD priorities in the WB rural cross-border regions. During the discussion following possible general type of actions for the “Drina-Sava” region within the LEIWW Grant Scheme have been discussed:

- Tourism development based on sustainable natural resources (1.1 1.3)
- Ecologically friendly production of agricultural products (1.1 1.2)
- Ago-forestry development (1.1 2.1)
- Green value chains development (1.2 1.3 2.1)
- Eco engineering services within small communities (2.1)
- Secondary forest products processing (1.2 2.1)
- Use of renewable energy (1.3 2.1)
- Responsible use of water in rural economy (1.1 1.3 2.1)

Ms. Elena Gavrilova, GIZ representative shortly introduced the LEIWW Programme “Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South-East-Europe” - (LEIWW) which could be implemented in the region. This is a three years period programme (2015-2017) which targets 6 countries in SEE. It aims to build capacities for rural development, sustainable forest and water resource management. Field of activities: regional cooperation; national policy; Income generation based on the use of natural resources in the cross-border regions.

Mr. Thomas Wehinger, GIZ consultant pointed out that GIZ and SWG are in the negotiation phase for the presented LEIWW programme, by the end of the year the results of the negotiation and information if the project will be implemented in the ABDA regions will be announced. This Programme envisages potential possible grant scheme implementation with soft measures. During the plenary session which was moderated by Mr. Thomas Wehinger, stakeholders discussed about their experience on so far implemented People to People actions and results of the ABDA grant scheme which were supported under the SWG ABDA programme. The stakeholder group proposed following actions regarding the possible grant scheme:

- Ecological plants and collecting medicinal plants
- protection of the biosphere Drina-Sava and ecosystem services
- use of renewable energy
- establishment of economic advisory services
- connecting tourist facilities/ production facilities and organic production and creating small value chains
- branding of the region through creating joint standards
- creating of joint tourism package (accommodation, hiking and biking trails etc) + Apps and maps
- forming of clusters





- Women's Entrepreneurship in rural areas

Annex 4: Agricultural Policy Forum 2015\_Pravets Agenda

Annex 5: GIZ LEIWW Project

### **Conclusions from the meeting:**

- Municipalities, Public utility companies, representatives of the non-governmental and private sector expressed their interest to deliver developed plans and strategies regarding Solid Waste Management
- Possible implementation of grant scheme investment within the Project "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe" (LEIWW)
- SWG Project Management Units provided technical assistance in preparation and development of project proposals with an emphasis on CBC program
- PMU as a Secretariat of SHG will facilitate the process of development of project proposals (emphasis on IPA II)

Prepared by:

Mirela Causevic, Coordinator for the "Drina-Sava" cross border region