



Cross-border region "Drina - Tara"

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

Minutes from the 14th Stakeholders Group Meeting for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region



The project is financed by:



Minutes from the 14th Stakeholders Group Meeting for the
Cross-border region "Drina-Tara"
14 December 2016
Rudo, B&H

I. List of participants

The Fourteen Stakeholder Group Meeting for cross-border region "Drina-Tara" was attended by 29 participants, Mayor of the Municipality of Rudo, Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Rudo, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Srpska, interested stakeholders from "Drina-Tara" region, media and SWG project team.

Annex1: List of participants

Annex 2: Presentation

II. Programme

December 14th, 2016 (Wednesday)

Hotel "Comsar", Rudo, Republic of Srpska, B&H

10:00 - 10:30	Arrival of the participants and welcome gathering
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome speech <i>Mr. Rato Rajak, Mayor of the Municipality of Rudo,</i> <i>Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanović, Regional Manager</i>
10:40 – 10:45	<i>Introduction to the programme</i> <i>Mrs. Danica Nešević, Coordinator</i>
10:45 – 11:30	ABD Grant scheme within the Project "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)" <i>Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanović, Regional Manager</i>
11:30 – 11:50	Implemented and planned activities within the EU Project "Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration" <i>Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanović, Regional Manager</i> <i>Mrs. Danica Nešević, Coordinator</i>
11:50 – 12:20	Coffee brake
12:20 – 13:30	Example of good practice Cooperatives „Uvac-Rudo“ p.o Rudo



Mr. Nenad Ljubojević, Director Cooperatives "Uvac-Rudo" p.o. Rudo

13:00 – 13:15	Conclusions and future activities
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch brake
14:15 – 15:30	Facultative visit to Cooperatives „Uvac-Rudo“

Minutes from the meeting:

The 14th SHG meeting aimed at discussion about implementation of GIZ LEIWW programm and general achievements related to the implementation of ABDA 4 in the Western Balkan countries, ongoing activities and future perspective.

The main objectives of the Fourteen Stakeholders Group Meeting held on 14th December in Hotel "Comsar" in Rudo, B&H was to present outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project; ongoing, realized and planned activities within EU project: "Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration", and presentation of work of Cooperatives "Uvac-Rudo" as example of good practice in the Cross border region of "Drina-Tara".

Topics during the meeting:

- Outcomes of the First call of the ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW project;
- Overview of the general activities related to the implementation of ABDA and future activities in the "Drina-Tara" region;
- Presentation of successful story -Grant beneficiary Cooperatives "Uvac-Rudo", Rudo
- Facultative visit to Cooperatives "Uvac-Rudo", Rudo.

Official opening of the event

The meeting was opened and welcomed by Mr. Rato Rajak, Mayor of the Municipality of Rudo. He stated that SWG provided grate support for the Municipality of Rudo in previous period, which is very important for sustainable development of agricultural sector. Meeting was as well attended by Mrs Milanka Malovic, representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Srpska. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager and Danica Nesevic, Regional Coordinator who were the moderators of the meeting.

1. ABD Grant Scheme within the project: "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)"

The First Call for ABD Grant scheme within the project "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management" (LEIWW) is implemented by the Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development (SWG) in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for

Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ). ABD Grant Scheme is supported and facilitated by the European Union funded project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration” implemented by the SWG.

The Grant scheme is designed to support small projects in the cross-border regions “Drina-Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” related to income generation by promoting sustainable use of natural resources, improvement of production processes, technology and quality of products and services through integrated water and forest resources management. Special attention is devoted to the economic activities of women and young people in the cross-border areas.

During the Meeting were presented objectives of the Grant Call, area of implementation, financial framework, type and dynamic of financing, and List of projects approved for financing in the cross border region of “Drina-Tara”. In the Cross border region of “Drina-Tara”, **8 project** are approved for financing where **17 Contracts** were signed in total amount of up to **EUR 138.150,38**. Additional four projects are positively assessed (10 potential Grant beneficiaries) which are on the waiting list till February 2017 for potential grants approval.

Present Grant beneficiaries shared their experiences and explained purpose of their initiatives and investment.

Annex 3: List of approved projects from CBR “Drina-Tara”

2. Implemented and planned activities within the framework of the EU project: “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”

Till the end of forth phase of implementation of Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) within people to people activities two regional events will be supported:

- Fair of Traditional dry- cured ham – prosciutto “Prsutijada 2017” in the village Macka, February;
- Third Fair of local products in Rudo, March

Till now in CBR “Drina-Tara” through ABD 4 are supported 7 regional events, where within LEIWW are supported 4 events. During February and March, SWG in cooperation with FAO will organized workshops for interested stakeholders. As well SWG will prepare proposal for trainings in coordination with Sirogojno Co. for organization of thematic workshops for raspberry producers.

3. Presentation of successful story- Cooperatives “Uvac-Rudo”

Mr. Nenad Ljubojevic, Director of Cooperatives “Uvac-Rudo” (hereinafter Cooperatives), Grant beneficiary from two ABD Grant schemes presented process of establishment of Cooperatives in Rudo, its functioning, purpose, need for integration of agricultural producers and future plans. In Rudo, cooperation is old for 100 years, where first Serbian Cooperation was established in 1907 in Strpci. Cooperatives was established in 2012 with the aim to solve problems of raspberry producers on the territory of Municipality of Rudo in provision of purchasing of raspberries and to diminish disloyal competition.

Raspberry production in Rudo is the most profitable agricultural sector, which rely on available resources and the minimum investment in the short period of time, providing opportunities for development of conditions for self-employment, especially socially excluded groups in rural areas. The interest of Municipality of Rudo is to gain better results and more profit for local population. The need for joint cooperation of agricultural producers are based on 3 c principle: continuity, quality, capacity.

From humble beginnings nowadays Cooperatives count 165 members. Cooperatives in Private Public Partnership with Municipality of Rudo which provided initial operational capital and constant support and the Association of raspberry producers from Rudo was developed Model of program management to support the development of raspberry and raspberry producers, which reached the growth with safe and stable placement price (raspberry production in Rudo 2014 -145 t; 2015 - 195-t; 2016- 253 t).

Cooperatives membership fees is 20.00 BAM, but Nenad Ljubojevic stated that based on experience that this model is not efficient because they have plenty of members who doesn't attend meeting and participate in decision making process which creates problems in organizing and functioning.

With support from Municipality of Rudo, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Srsпка and donor programs like SWG ABD programme Cooperatives upgrade its facility and equipment capacities. In joint cooperation with Municipality of Rudo, Cooperatives and raspberry producers are active in applying on different Open Calls for projects proposals based on real needs on the field.

Besides upgrading technical capacities education of agricultural producers is also one of the main objective. Cooperatives is offering package of educational workshops and services. Through establishment of Pharmacy, producer can get fertilizer, planting material, irrigation system which they can pay after the gathering the crops.

Cooperative is completely market oriented where all quantity of raspberries are exported in Serbia to partner Sirogojno Co. Prize that they get from the Sirogojno Co is the same as the prize that offer other cold storage facilities in municipalities of Pozega and Ivanjca. This indicate that quality of their product is on the same level as from producers in Serbia. Cooperatives also have their own raspberry nursery and this year they exported 26 000 seedlings to Municipality of Lucani in Serbia.

After presentation was organized facultative visit to Cooperatives. Municipality of Visegrad is interested in establishment of Cooperatives in Visegrad, which was welcomed by members of Cooperatives from Rudo and they are willing to provide them with all necessary support. Mirko Mijuskovic, from Cooperatives stated that their aim is joint regional cooperation and branding of raspberry from Lim River and Drina river area.



Future plans:

- Regional cooperation and networking for development of raspberry production
- Added value -processing and packaging of raspberries and plum with introduction of Global gap and HACCP standards for exporting to EU
- Creation of pre-condition for production of high-quality final raspberry and plum products and branding
- Inclusion of vulnerable labor force especially women in higher level of processing.

Conclusions from the meeting:

- In the First Call for ABD Grant scheme within LEIWWWE programme in the cross border region of "Drina-Tara" 8 project are approved for finance where 17 Contracts are signed;
- 2 more regional events will be supported till the end of ABDA 4;
- Organization of Capacity building in February-March

Prepared by:

Danica Nesevic

Coordinator for CBR "Drina-Tara"