

## Cross-border region "Drina - Tara"

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

Minutes from the 17<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Group Meeting for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region



DRINA-TARA  
CROSS-BORDER REGION

Minutes from the 17<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Group Meeting for the  
cross-border region "Drina-Tara"

6 March 2018

Etno village "Vrhpolje", Municipality of Ljubovija, Serbia

**I. List of participants**

The Seventeenth Stakeholder Group Meeting for cross-border region "Drina-Tara" was attended by 53 participants, interested stakeholders from "Drina-Tara" region and SWG project team.

Annex1: List of participants

Annex 2: Presentation

**II. Programme**

**March 6th, 2018 (Tuesday)**

**Etno village "Vrhpolje", Ljubovija**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Welcome speech</b><br><i>Representative from the Municipality of Ljubovija</i><br><i>Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager</i>   |
| 10:20 – 10:35 | <b>Introduction to the programme</b><br><i>Danica Nesevic, SWG Regional Coordinator</i>  |
| 10:35 – 11:15 | <b>Activities 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"</b><br><i>Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager</i><br><i>Danica Nesevic, SWG Regional Coordinator</i>   |
| 11:15-11:45   | <b>Implemented and planned activities within the GIZ LEIWW TOPPING UP project "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe: Rural perspectives: qualification, reintegration and (self) employment"</b><br><i>Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional Manager</i><br><i>Danica Nesevic, SWG Regional Coordinator</i> |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | <b>Presentation of the LEADER study tour, Tirol</b><br><i>Jelena Kuzmanovic Salipur, Municipality of Rudo</i>  |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Tour the Ethno village „Vrhpolje“, Ljubovija<br><i>Nikola Knezevic, owner</i>  |
| 13:30         | <b>Departure</b>   |

## Minutes from the meeting:

The XVII Stakeholders' Group Meeting aimed at presentation of the new phase of the ABD 5 programme. The main objectives of the Seventeen Stakeholders Group Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March in the Ethno village "Vrhpolje", Municipality of Ljubovia, Serbia was to present and discuss on the following topics:

- 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;
- Informative session on the outcomes of the People to People Call for "Drina-Tara" cross-border region;
- Implemented and planned activities within the project "Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe: Rural perspectives: qualification, reintegration and (self) employment";
- Presentation of LEADER Study tour in Tirol.

## Official opening of the event

Participants of the meeting were greeted by Milisav Vicentic, Department of Agriculture of the Municipality of Ljubovija and Nikola Knezevic, the owner of the Ethno Village "Vrhpolje". The participants were also greeted by Aleksandar Damnjanović, SWG Regional Manager and Danica Nesevic, SWG Regional Coordinator, who moderated the meeting.

*SWG is working on different levels with the main goal of networking and regional cooperation, stated Aleksandar Damnjanovic, Regional Manager. Cross border region "Drina-Tara" is the first region established and defined as a priority one, and as far as activities are implemented, it achieved more results than in the other regions.*

*Municipalities from the "Drina-Tara" region are distant from the centres of their respective countries. With significant natural resources we have a common responsibility for using them. It is necessary to support the SWG mission for the purpose of regional cooperation and networking, said Milisav Vicentic.*

*Nikola Knezevic, the owner of the Ethno village "Vrhpolje" stated that his household is achieving around 3000 overnights per year, where the season lasts from April to September when they are fully booked. Tourism is an opportunity that needs to be developed in every part of the region. For tourism ones need to be prepared and devoted. We have devoted ourselves to make Azbukovica authentic as it was in 19th century, in our Ethno village every wooden board is over 100 years old. SWG as a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience, brings people together, gives hope and provides additional sources of financing emphasized Knezevic.*

## 1. **Activities under the European Union funded project “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”**

The project "Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas" will be implemented in the period December 15, 2017 till December 12, 2018. The following activities will be implemented:

- Organization of 3 Meetings of the Stakeholder Group (March, May, November);
- Support to "people-to-people" manifestations / activities;
- Organization of capacity building activities;
- Organization of 1 Study tour;
- Provide support to stakeholders in generation of ideas and preparation of project proposals on different calls for proposals, partner search and networking.

Open Call for support to "people-people" manifestations / activities was opened from 16 January to 16 February 2018 for the territory of the four cross-border regions "Drina-Tara", "Drina-Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra". The main criteria for selecting of manifestations according to the Manual are:

- Economic aspect and sustainability;
- Partnership;
- Environmental aspect of the event/manifestation/action;
- Expected results.
- Budget and cost - efficiency.

In total 74 applications were registered, out which:

- 23 approved for financing;
- 28 on the reserve list;
- 23 non-eligible for financing.

In the cross-border region "Drina-Tara", 35 applications were submitted out which 10 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 10 from Montenegro and 15 from Serbia. Total amount of funds required is EUR 67,261.10. The Evaluation Commission Meeting was held in the period from 22-23.02. 2018. The results of the Open Call are as follows:

- 24 applications exceeding 50 points were deemed eligible for financing;
- 8 applications with 50 or less points are considered unacceptable for financing;
- 3 applications outside of the region are considered not eligible for financing.

Through the project in the cross-border region "Drina-Tara", 9 applications with 75 and more points will be financially supported in the total estimated amount of up to EUR 20,000.00. Applications forms from the number 10-24 with 50 or more points are on the reserve support list (if additional sources of financing will be provided) and application forms from the number 25-35, under 50 points are considered as not eligible for support. All applicants will receive information on the results of the Open call via e-mail. For the approved project proposals, the applicants need to submit corrected budget (where required) and a final application in English language (see Attachment 2: Presentation).

## 2. Project “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe: Rural perspectives: qualification, reintegration and (self) employment”

Within the project "Rural Development through Integrated Forest and Water Resources Management in South East Europe: Perspectives of Rural Development: Qualification, Reintegration and (Self) Employment" the following activities were implemented:

Three projects (with 6 beneficiaries) were additionally supported under the ABD Grant Scheme in the amount of EUR 41,227.92 excl. VAT.

- **Project "Production of Raspberry Plants"**
  - Malina doo, Bratunac, B&H
  
- **Project "NATURAKTIV- Active vacation in protected areas of nature"**
  - Mountaineering Club Kamena Gora, Prijepolje, Serbia
  - Association Jadovnik, Prijepolje, Serbia
  - Association for Research and Protection of Karst, Bijelo Polje, Montenegro
  
- **Project "Promotion of Value Chain in Organic Cereal Production"**
  - AH Željko Macanovic, Pljevlja, Montenegro
  - AH Aleksandar Laketić, Pljevlja, Montenegro

Two regional P2P manifestations were supported:

- ✓ XVI Days of Pljevlja cheese, Pljevlja
- ✓ XII "Ethno Fair" in Belgrade

Five trainings were organized within the capacity building measures:

- ✓ Capacity building workshop “How to achieve successful association and business linking of actors in rural tourism” for the participants from cross border region “Drina-Tara”, RDA Zlatibor (56 participants)
- ✓ Capacity building workshop “Adjusting raspberry production to climate changes and economic aspects of raspberry production” for participants from the cross-border region Drina-Tara, Bijelo Polje (66 participants)
- ✓ Capacity building entitled “Basic biology principles of bee colonies for more efficient productivity” and “Varroosis and viruses - devastating combination for the bee’s community” for participants from the cross-border region “Drina-Tara”, Visegrad (79 participants)
- ✓ Culinary workshop “An innovative approach in rural tourism - Traditional food in a new and authentic way” for participants from the cross-border regions “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” (23 participants) Kosjeric, Serbia

### **Planned activities in the cross-border region “Drina – Tara”:**

- Assessment of the potentials for diversification of economic activities in rural cross-border areas through the development of small value chains (access through sustainable use of natural resources through ABD approach)
- Supporting people-people events / activities
- Organization of training

### **3. Presentation of LEADER Study tour in Tirol**

SWG in cooperation with GIZ, organized a study tour/exposure visit in order to introduce them with the successful examples of LAGs and LEADER in the area of Austria and Italy in a period from 14–19 May, 2017. The objective of the visit was transfer of Austrian and Italian experience regarding the implementation of the LEADER approach, institutional setup, coordination among the relevant authorities, link between the civil and public sector etc. The study tour promoted successful models of mutual understanding and cooperation among the stakeholders, regional actions implemented in function and project visits related to LEADER in the area. Participants could get acquainted with projects financed through LEADER program in the sphere of infrastructure, culture and historical heritage, environmental protection, gastronomy, support to small businesses, municipal infrastructure. As well participant could see presentations of cooperation among Austria and Italy on different EU Transnational Projects (EUROREG i INTERREG).

*“The Austrian hosts presented their strategic approach to each project and their fight for single local community. This was great opportunity to learn something new. I didn’t have previous knowledge about LEADER programme, but I have chance to learn about this approach during the Study tour and to gain some ideas which might be applicable in my local community” stated Jelena Kuzmanovic Salipur from Municipality of Rudo, B&H.*

#### Annex 3: Presentation LEADER Study tour

Following the presentation, a discussion was held on the implementation of the LEADER approach in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. Bosnia and Herzegovina premature with the LEADER approach, because the relevant Strategy has not been designed yet (the Strategy for Rural Development is combination of the Strategy for Agriculture Development, Republic of Srpska and the Strategy of Federation of B&H), stated Zeljana Pjevalica, Women Association “Priroda”, Bratunac. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia is in the phase of implementation of the LEADER approach for the Raska, Moravica and Zlatibor Districts. This is an invitation to start with establishment of LAGs (Local Action Groups) where the main actors will be associations in the cooperation with the public and private sector. The SWG Regional Manager pointed out that the stakeholder’s groups within the regions can be compared to the cross-border LAGs. For each region, a Strategic document is defined, which is an umbrella document and contains information derived from the local strategies. Good examples of operational LAGs can be seen in our close surrounding, for example in Croatia, where the LAG Bosutski niz is functional. The discussion gave the idea to organize possible trainings on the LEADER approach or to organize study tour.

## Conclusions from the Meeting:

1. Within the Open Call for “people to people” events in the cross-border region “Drina-Tara” the results are as follows:
  - Applications from the number 1-9 with 75 and more points will be financially supported;
  - Applications from the number 10-24 with 50 and more points are on the reserve list (if additional sources of financing are provided)
  - Applications from the number 25-35, below 50 points are considered unacceptable for support;
2. To send suggestions for trainings that could be supported.

Prepared by:  
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Regional Coordinator for CBR “Drina-Tara”