



Results from the ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

13th September 2017, Zagreb, Croatia

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RRD

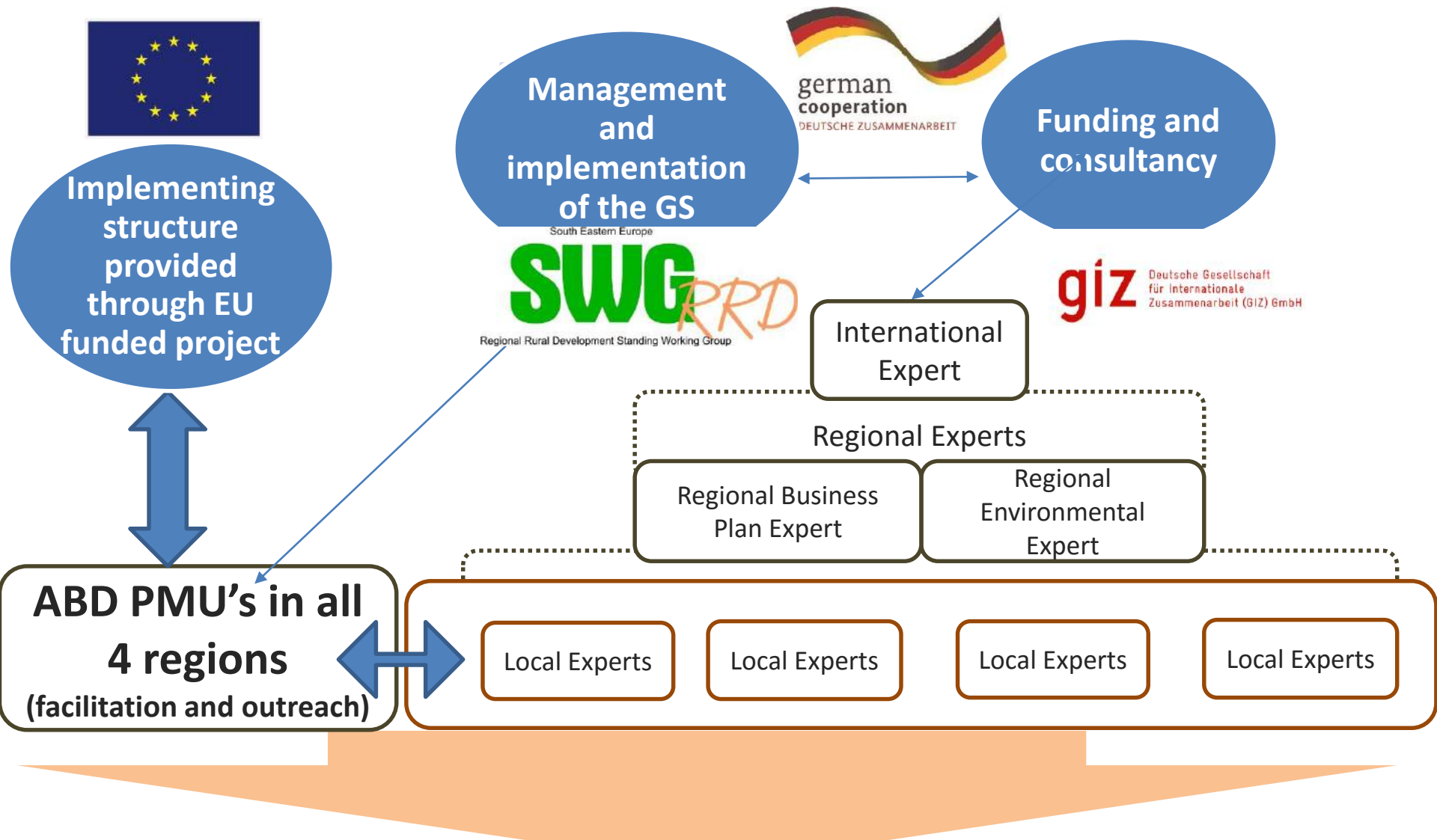
ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

The ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme was designed to support small projects in the cross-border regions “Drina-Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” related to income generation by improvement of production processes, technology and quality of products and services in “green” value chains (tourism, agriculture, etc), through sustainable use of natural resources.

Special intention is given to the potential grant applicants such as **women** and **young** people (below 40 years of age).

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Support to potential applicants: Individual businesses, cooperatives, local value chains, CSO, Municipalities in the cross-border regions by **preparation of quality project proposals and business plans/strategies in line with the objectives of the ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme**

ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

ABD GS package was prepared by the **SWG team** and updated in close collaboration with the **international and regional experts provided by GIZ**. The application package contains:

- ***Guideline for applicants;***
- ***Application form;***
- ***Business strategy form;***
- ***Partnership statements;***
- ***List of eligible and ineligible costs;***
- ***Contact list of experts for hand-on support;***
- ***Manual of procedures with accompanying annexes.***

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Main features of the evaluation and selection process of the applications

Analysis 1 – *Administrative check, checking the timeliness, completeness of application (process done in SWG PMU's)*

Analysis 2 – 3 step evaluation process done by nominated representatives from the ministries and external experts

- *Evaluation of relevance, evaluation of gender, partnership and other criteria*
- *Evaluation of Business plan/strategy*
- *Evaluation of environmental criteria*

(Supplement documents/explanations could be requested after Analysis 1 and 2)

On Spot control – *verification of factual situation (prior to signing the contract and after investment/project is finished)*

Final Decision – *refusal or approval - SWG*

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ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

The first call was opened in May-July 2016 and the second (only for Prespa and Sharra) was opened in October - December 2016.

Proper visibility and outreach was ensured with announcements on national/regional media (newspapers, TV, etc.).

20 info days and additional capacity building activities for the potential applicants were organized during the SHG meetings and field visits, covering each country of the cross-border regions.

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Info Days



ABD Grant Scheme

≈ 300.000EUR

available for 1st call

≈ 212.000 EUR

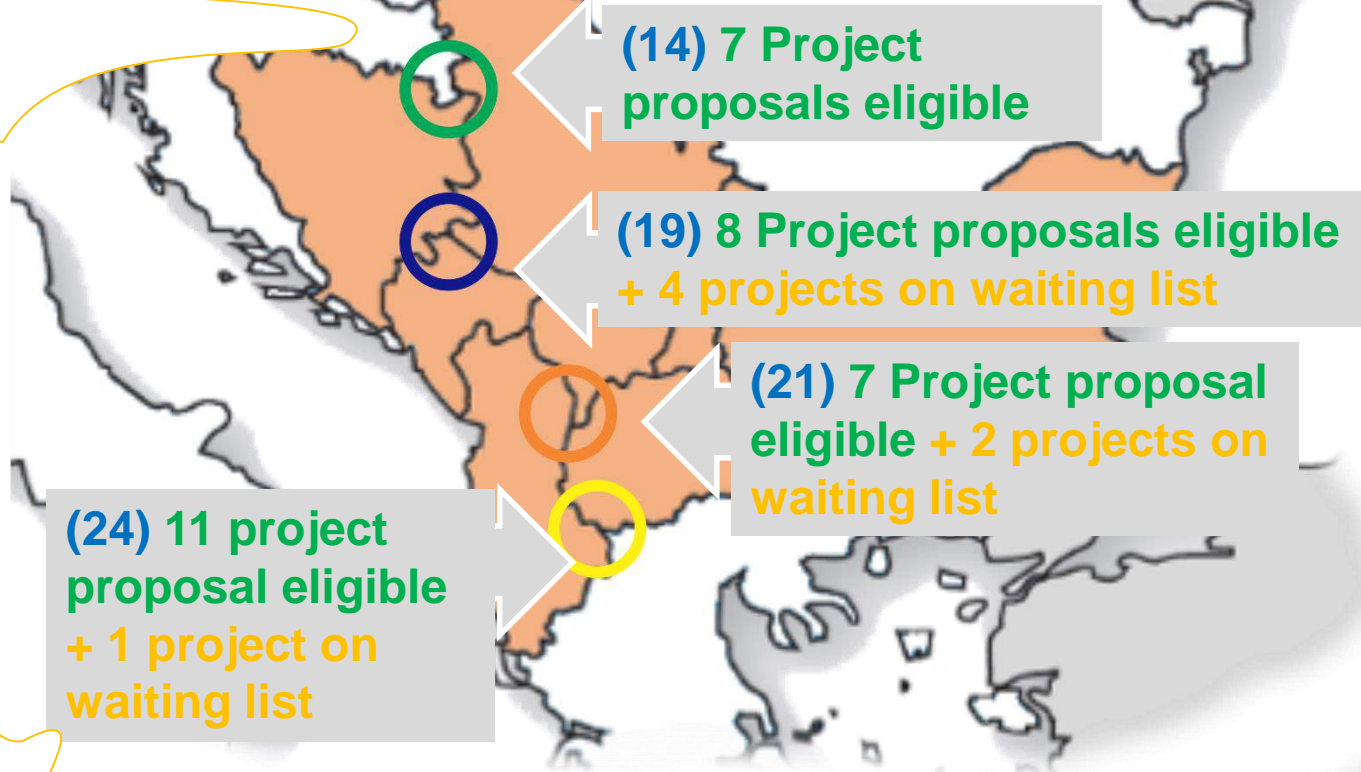
contracted in
all 4 regions

≈ 120.000EUR

available for 2nd call

≈ 122.000 EUR

contracted in
Prespa and Sharra



ABDA cross-border regions

“Drina – Tara”

(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro)

“Drina – Sava”

(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia)

“Sharra”

(Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo*)

“Prespa”

(Albania and Macedonia)

Project proposals

(78) 33

Applicants

(113) 45

Partnerships

(24) 8

(with 18 applicants)

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Overview of the project applications (both calls)

	Drina - Sava	Drina - Tara	Sharra	Prespa	Total	Average
Number of applications	14	19	21	24	78	19-20
Number of applicants	19	37	27	30	113	27-28
Number of partnerships projects	5	10	5	4	24	6
Total amount of the investments [EUR] as per proposals	129.087	253.237	248.800	233.969	865.093	216.273
Average amount of investment [EUR] as per individual applicants	8.033	5.265	7.565	7.778	/	7.160
Average amount of investment requested [EUR] per partnership	12.964	19.790	16.695	17.657	/	16.777
No. women applicants	7	5	3	9	24	6
No. of young applicants	6	7	5	8	26	6-7
No. of env. friendly projects	8	5	11	11	35	7

Overview of contracted projects (both calls)

	Drina - Sava	Drina - Tara	Sharra	Prespa	Total	Average
Number of applications	7	8	7	11	33	8-9
Number of applicants	8	9	6	11	45	11-12
Number of partnerships projects	1	5	2	1	9	2-3
Total eligible costs of the investments [EUR] 75%	62.914	138.100	61.293	64.279	334.718	83.679
Estimated amount of entire project [EUR]	97.573	226.897	84.447	82.521	491.438	122.859
No. women applicants	4	3	1	4	12	3
No. of young applicants	2	4	3	2	11	3-4
No. of env. friendly projects	5	4	6	10	25	4-5
Amount of projects on waiting list [EUR]	/	64.756	18.744	6.450	89.950	/

Overview of all contracted project – per country

Country	No. of applicants	Total value of grants in EUR
Albania	4	29.297,50
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	64.604,47
Kosovo*	6	41.169,38
Macedonia	10	63.236,43
Montenegro	2	11.078,93
Serbia	15	125.331,79

Contracting

3 Contract signing ceremonies were organized (1 joint for Drina – Tara and Drina – Sava, 1 for Prespa and 1 for Sharra) covered by national and regional media.



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Types of implemented projects

- Investments in reconstruction and improvement of touristic capacities and services;
- Investments in improvement of primary agricultural production process and marketing;
- Investments in improvement of processing of agricultural and other food and forest products;
- Investments in utilization of renewable sources of energy (sun, water, biomass, thermal energy) and energy efficiency improvements;
- Investments taking into consideration sustainable use of natural resources (forests and water);

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Implementation till now

FIRST CALL:

- 13 completed projects by 23 applicants – total grants paid 179.091,49 EUR;
- 4 canceled projects by 4 applicants;

SECOND CALL:

- 3 completed projects by 3 applicants – total grants paid 15.999,6 EUR;
- 11 on-going projects by 12 applicants – checking of reports and final on-spot control to be performed in September;
- 2 projects canceled by 3 applicants;

Reasons for project cancelation: private reasons, problems in obtaining bank loans, inability to implement the project in the agreed timeframe.

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Assessment of the economic and the social impact of the implemented ABD Grant Scheme

Comprehensive report prepared by external expert in June 2017. Main findings and conclusions:

- While the ABD grant was supposed to amount to at most of 75% of the total eligible investment, it managed to mobilise more funds: almost 35% of all investments were own funds by the applicants.
- The invested amounts represent only small portion of the revenues, 7,5% and the pre-tax profits are much higher than the investment.
- The aid activity seems to be suited for the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor. The activities and outputs of the programme are consistent with the overall goal and with the intended impacts and effects.

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Assessment of the economic and the social impact of the implemented ABD Grant Scheme

- There was a robust technical assistance in place, both for the preparation of the applications and for their selection. This should have effects in preparation of relevant public authorities for IPARD and other EU projects activities.
- The efficiency seems to be well managed. The ABD Grant Scheme provide relatively small grants to rather large number of applicants in a rather broad geographical area.
- It is foreseen that the results of the investments conducted will remain after the donor funds are ceased.

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