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а) Шарски регион - Туристички водичи
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Setting your foot to any spot of the Sharra region will be enough to realise its beauty, but it will be a pity to miss the opportunity to get familiar with this charming area known for its glorious mountains, clear waters, huge pastures, diverse cultures and delicious food.

The magnificent mountainous landscapes of dense forests, spacey pastures, fast rivers and glacial lakes are complemented with charming towns and cute villages full trails of different cultural and historical influences.

This undiscovered gem will be best discovered if you take some of the trails, routes and tours that will take you to the well-known places of this region, but to the hidden ones as well. This brochure will help you discover the Sharra region and provide the information about routes that can be individually taken by any visitor, and thematic tours organised for the visitors and tourists.
1. One-day trails - difficulty: easy - medium:
• Trail to Mountain hut Ljuboten
• Trail to the Belovishki Waterfall
• Trail to the picnic area Tri vode
• Trail to Brezjanski Kule

1.1. Trail to Ljuboten Mountain Hut
One of the trails starts at the info board in the village Staro Selo, goes through the forest belt and ends at mountain hut Ljuboten. According to the difficulty, this is an easy - medium trail suitable for all ages and groups of visitors, especially families. During the summer days, when the trail can also be used by the cyclists, every visitor will feel the shadow of the oak trees, while in winter you can make the first snow treads along the trail and taste the delicious tea prepared in the mountain hut. Hikers can use this opportunity to climb the very mountain peak.
• Specific points: village Staro Selo 900 meters a.m.s.l.
- Mountain Hut Ljuboten 1630 metres a.m.s.l.
• Length: 7 km
• Duration: 2.30 h
  fully marked trail / available drinking water in the village and the mountain hut.

1.2. Trail to the Belovishki Waterfall
The trail starts at the info board placed in the village Belovishte. It is an easy mountain trail with an exciting finish because at its end you reach a cliff that requires certain attention to pass and which reveals magnificent view over the waterfall. Recommended period to take the trail is April and May when the vegetation is not as lush and when the waterfall has the full water potential.

• Specific points: village Belovishte 750 metres a.m.s.l. - Belovishki Waterfall 1300 metres a.m.s.l.
• Length: 3 km
• Duration: 2.30 h
Additional Information: This marked trail passes through forest terrain. There is drinking water in the first part of the trail.
1.3. Trail to the picnic area Tri vode (Three Waters)
Marked trail that starts from the infoboard placed in village Tearce and goes to the picnic area Tri vode through the village Brezno and gets back to the village Leshok. By its difficulty it is an easy trail suitable for visitors of all ages, especially for families. A part of the trail can also be used by cyclists.

The picnic area, which is a camping centre, is a wonderful place for climbers and a great starting point to multiple destinations such as: Bistrica, Ezerski vrš, Chaushica, Crn vrš, and Kuchbaba.

- Specific points: village Tearce 550 metres a.m.s.l. - village Brezno 970 metres a.m.s.l. - Tri vode 1340 meters a.m.s.l. - village Leshok 610 metres a.m.s.l.
- Total length: 16 km
- Duration: 5.00 h

Additional Information: This is a marked trail that leads through the forest area. Drinking water is available at numerous specific points.

1.4. Trail to Brezjanski Kule
The picnic area Tri vode is the starting point you can reach by jeep, and from here the trail goes to Brezjanski Kule which is situated 700 metres above this picnic area. Brezjanski Kule is a wonderful lookout point from which you can observe the beautiful landscape consisting of the lower part of the Polog Valley, rocky part of the Shara Mountain and the valley of the River Bistrica.

- Specific points: Tri Vode 1340 metres a.m.s.l. - Brezjanski Kule 1949 metres a.m.s.l.
- Length: 5 km
- Duration: 2.00 h

Additional Information: The trail runs along the forest and reaches the pastures in its upper part. Drinking water is available at the starting point.
2. One-day trails - difficulty: medium - hard:

- Trail to the mountain peak Ljuboten
- Trail to the mountain peak Livadica
  - Trail to Dobroshki Lakes
- Trail to the springs of the Bistrica River

2.1 Trail to the mountain peak Ljuboten

This is a fully marked trail that starts at the info board placed in the village Staro Selo or at the Mountain hut Ljuboten. The mountain lodge can be reached also with specialized terrain vehicle. This is an attractive medium-hard trail which at its peak part opens a wonderful view towards the western side of the Shara Mountain, Livadichko Lake, Polog Valley and a part of Kosovo* (from Urosevac to Shtrpce).

- Specific points: Mountain hut Ljuboten 1630 metres a.m.s.l. - Mountain peak Ljuboten 2499 meters a.m.s.l.
- Length: 4 km
- Duration: 2.30 h

Additional Information: This is a marked trail that goes through pastures and rocky terrain. Drinking water is available only at the starting point.
2.2 Trail to the mountain peak Livadica
This unmarked trail is extremely interesting and attractive for visitors who enjoy long and adventurous hikes. It starts from the picnic area Petachko Vodiche, goes through the forest area, leads to the rocky ridge of Livadica, passes through the meadow sheepfolds and leads to the peak of Livadica which is named after the long and wide pastures in this area.

• Specific points: Petachko Vodiche 950 metres a.m.s.l. - Mountain peak Livadica 2480 metres a.m.s.l.
• Length: 12 km
• Duration: 4.30 h

Additional Information: This is an unmarked trail that leads through the forest and pastures area. There is drinking water available all along the trail.

2.3 Trails to Dobroshki Lakes
This is an unmarked, medium - hard trail. There is a paved road to the village Jeloshnik, from which a dirt road continues along the sheepfolds of Jeloshnichki Bachila to the peak Dobroshki Vrv and takes an hour and a half of walking. The peak offers a magnificent view of Ljuboten, Piribeg, Ezerski Vrv, Chaushica, Bistrica, up to Crn Vrv. The trail descends towards the lake Gorno Dobroshko Ezero, which is smaller but more abundant with water than lake Dolno Dobroshko Ezero. From there, in 30 minutes climbing, the peak Ezerski Vrv (wild rocky peak, surrounded by large silicate rocks and blocks) is reached. This peak offers provides a memorable view of Piribreg and the wonderful lake Jazhichko Ezero and Chaushica.
• Specific points: village Jeloshnik 890 metres a.m.s.l. – Dobroshki Vrv 2355 metres a.m.s.l. – lakes Dobroshki Ezera 2325 metres a.m.s.l. – Ezerski Vrv 2580 metres a.m.s.l.
• Total length: 10 km
• Total time: 5.30 h

Additional Information: This is an unmarked trail. Starting from the village Jeloshnik to the end of the forest, there is a dirt road leading to a pasture terrain, following a slope that leads to Dobroshki Vrv, Dobroshki Ezera and Ezerski Vrv. There is drinking water in the forest and at the springs above lakes Dobroshki Ezera.

2.4 Trail to the springs of the Bistrica River
The unmarked trail that passes through the third biggest river valley of Sharra Mountain along the river Bistrica starts from the picnic area Tri vode. This scenic trail runs along the canyon of the Bistrica River in Tearce area, between Caushica and Suva Dupka, and ends with Crn vrv. The first part of the trail goes through the forest area, then continues along the rocky part and reaches out to
The hiking continues to the springs of the River Bistrica from where the trail climbs up the Sharra Mountain. From this point you can climb Causica, Crn vrv and Bistrica.

- Specific points: Tri vode 1340 metres a.m.s.l. - Springs of the Bistrica River 2320 metres a.m.s.l. - Bistrica peak 2580 metres a.m.s.l.
- Length: 13 km
- Duration: 4.30 h

**Additional Information:** This unmarked trail leads through the forest and pastures area. There is drinking water all along the trail.

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+389 44 333 226
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info@sharplanina.com.mk
Jovan Bozinowski
3. Trail to Gjallica peak
The trail to the highest mountain peak Gjallica starts at the town of Kukes and
turns to the mountain in Kolejsan, on the road from Kukes to Peshkopi. Starting
from Kolejsan at 700 m.a.s.l toward the Bicaj village, by the place called Stanet,
(Shepherds huts - a place where shepherds and their flocks live during summer
months) at 1726 m.a.s.l, the trail goes through the area rich with drinkable
water and springs surrounded with beautiful pine forest tress. The trail
provides the view of valley that divides Gjalica and Shar/Sharri Mountain range
and gives you the feeling of being on the top of one of the most impressive
mountain ranges in the Balkans. The views from Gjallica peak are extraordinary,
and when the weather allows it is possible to see the peaks of the Shar/Sharri
Mountain, Korabi Mountain and many peaks of Prokletije, also known as
Albanian Alps.

- Specific points: Bicaj village Stanet 1726 m.a.s.l and Gjeravica peak 2489
  m.a.s.l
- Length: 3.9 km
- Duration: 2h
4. Shkalla e Keqe (the Bad Stairs) Canyon trail
This hiking trail takes about 3 hours’ walk from the village of Bicaj. Apart from the possibility to walk for 3 hours, there is an option of taking a mini-bus or taxi that will take you from Kukës to Bicaj village which is about a 45-minute drive from the town and pick you up later.

Shkalla e Keqe Canyon is a unique natural monument 1000 m deep and as narrow as 3 metres, with the springs of water, also known for the legend of miracle water which attracts people from all over the country and region who visit the place for the health issues.

Contact information:
Regional council County of Kukes
Tourism Department
+355696009718
+355696009717
arjola.domi@kqk.gov.al
5. Hiking trail to Ljuboten peak and Livadhi/Livadichko Lake

Ljuboten peak at an elevation of 2499 above sea level is the highest peak of the Sharra region but not the highest in the entire Sharra Mountain chain. Mountaineers come from over the Europe to climb this peak; it makes an excellent trail with its untouched nature.

On the way to the mountain trail to Ljuboten peak, before you reach the peak, the glacial Lake of Livadichko/Livadhi lies at 2210 m.a.s.l. This wonderful place for relaxing is famous for its depth, unusual for a mountain lake, 7.30 m being the maximum depth. It is probably the most beautiful and popular lake in the entire Shar/Sharri Mountains and is a big tourist attraction.
The trail is medium-hard and physically challenging, but definitely worth hiking. You will realise this at the top of the peak, from where you can see two countries at the same time. In winter, when there is often more than one meter of snow covering most of the mountain, the views from the summit are fantastic.

6. Guri i Prevallës/Pavlov Kamen (Rock peak) trail - Prevalla
Prevalla Rock peak rises above the southern side of the tourist centre and village Prevalla, reaching an altitude of 1991 metres. The maps mark the peak as Guri i Prevallës in Albanian, or Pavlov Kamen in Serbian. Prevalla Rock is easily noticeable from the beginning of Zhupa Valley. The peak is the starting point of the river Bistrica’s pass, which is connected to the ridge of Bistra 2 Peak. One of the sides of this peak separates Prizren’s Bistrica River from the Lepenci River. The pass between Prevalla Rock to the root of Bistra 2 Peak is reached in 25 minutes.
7. Guri i Çarë, Rascepti Kamen (the Creviced Rock) peak – Prevalla
Creviced Rock is the nearest peak to Prevalla tourist village, located southwest from it. It is an attractive peak, especially when seen from Prevalla, from where it looks pyramid-shaped. It has an extensive northern slope, which is ideal for skiing. The peak is also connected with Konjushka peak and one can see Prevalla from the top.

The name of the peak in the local languages is Guri i Çarë, Rascepti Kamen, which literally means Creviced Rock. The origin of the peak’s name comes from a group of creviced rocks located 100 m away from the peak, which are noticeable from Prevalla. On a side note, the peak is home to the biggest herds of chamois. This peak is located at the territory of Kosovo* and in the old maps its altitude is noted as 2471 m.a.s.l.

8. Hiking trail Guri i zi and Sytë e Malit (Black Stone and Mountain Eyes) - Dragash
This trail brings you to two of the most recognizable landmarks in the area, the Black Stone (Guri i zi) and the Mountain Eyes (Sytë e Malit), two glacial lakes near the border of Macedonia. When viewed from the border above, the two lakes look like eyes peering out of the mountains towards the sky.
Starting in the village of Zaplluxhe/Zapluzhje the path is well defined and easy to follow all the way up. However, it is also long and you have the possibility of driving a 4-wheel-drive vehicle all the way as there is a paved road that reaches the top.

Starting point: Entrance to the village of Zaplluxhe/Zaplužje  
Starting elevation: 1162 metres  
Top elevation: 2455 metres  
Length: 5.75 km to Black Stone; 9.9 km to Mountain Eyes View Point

9. Opoja cycling route
This is an easy cycling route along picturesque country roads that brings the visitor through a number of charming villages in the Opoja Valley. This is a great way to experience the mountains of Dragash/Dragash without having to actually hike. Spend a relaxing day cycling, exploring the villages, picnicking or eating with the locals with the help of this route.

Starting and ending point: village of Bello-brad/ Belobrod  
Starting elevation: 1003 metres  
Top elevation: 1134 metres  
Length: 11.5 km  
Duration: 2 hours  
Additional information: Most of the route is easy. There is only one area between Blaç/Bljać and Zgatar that is not paved.

10. Brod to Shutman Lake Trail
This is one of the best known hikes in the Brod region with a quite damaged path, but with stunning views through the Brod Gorge and into the southern gently sloping alpine fields where Lake Shutman/Sutman lies. The lake is one of the largest mountain lakes in the Shar/Sharri Mountains, with the maximum length of 160 m, maximum width of 100 m, and the depth of 1.10 m. This hike can also be combined with two other hikes in the region - Mountain Vraca or the Three Peaks Hike, which begin and end at Lake Shutman/Sutman. The lake also provides a nice place to camp for those wishing to explore more of the southern area of Dragash.

Starting and ending point: Arxhena Hotel, village Brod, Dragash  
Starting elevation: 1384 metres
Top elevation: 2120 metres
Length: 8.82 km
Duration: 6 – 7 Hours round-trip along the same path
Additional information: The trail is easy.
There are very few sharp parts to this hike.
Contact information:
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Boulevard Zahir Pajaziti p.n. 10 000, Prishtinë
+381 (0) 220 201
+377 (0) 44 256 652
info@ks-tourismgroup.com
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4. Tourism Association Southern Region of Kosovo
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The trail described below are the basis for the tours that are regularly organised in the region. However, these trails can also be explored individually.

1. One-day tours
   • Trail of the wild (horse) chestnut in the village Brezno
     • Trail - Studenec, village Varvara
     • Trail - Petachko Vodiche, village Belovishte

1.1 Trail of the wild (horse) chestnut in the village Brezno
This trail is recreational and goes through the biggest wild (horse) chestnut natural colony on Shar/Sharri mountain rising by the right side and lower stream flow of river Bistrica between the villages Brezno and Tearce.

The trail starts from the info board placed in front of the municipal building in village Tearce and leads to village Brezno. Apart from the wild chestnut, the admirers of the nature and its flora can explore huge variety of endemic plants, depending on the season. After the arrival in village Brezno the traveler can visit traditional Macedonian rural household and also to familiarize with traditional Macedonian architecture. Village Brezno has a number of such traditional buildings and pleasant places for picnic.
   • Specific points: village Tearce 550 metres a.m.s.l. - village Brezno 970 metres a.m.s.l.
   • Total length: 4 km
   • Duration: 1:30 h
Additional Information: This is a marked trail that leads through forest area and drinking water is available at several specific points.
1.2 Trail to Studenec from village Varvara
This marked hiking trail that starts from the village Varvara, near the church of St. Paraskeva (Petka) and its info board which shows most of the hiking trails that depart from this village. This trail is easy and very pleasant to hike during the summer. It is suitable for all visitors especially for families with small children who can move freely along the trail. This circular trail that ends at its starting point can be used by cyclists.

Near the starting and ending point if the trail there is a picnic spot Studenec where after the walk, especially in summer, you can enjoy the deep shade and quench your thirst with cold water. Some legends say that this is healing water. After this brake visitors can go to the village Leshok and the Monastery complex - Church of St. Athanasius and Church of the Holy Mother of God dating from the 13th century.

- Specific points: village Varvara 815 metres a.m.s.l. - Studenec 800 metres a.m.s.l.
- Length: 1.5 km
- Duration: 1:30 h
Additional Information: This is a marked circular trail that runs along the forest area.

1.3 Trail to Petachko Vodiche from village Belovishte
At the lower part of the Shara Mountain between the villages Belovishte and Vratnica, just next to River Belovishka, at 900 metres above sea level there is the picnic spot Petachko Vodiche, place that is especially cood during summer days and warm and cozy during winter.

The trail starts in the center of the village Belovishte, goes through the picnic area and passes along River Belovishka. Cozy and and very easy trail is suitable for visitors of all ages. Along the river there are several fish restaurants built in traditional style and every visitor can taste the homemade rakija (type of brandy mostly made from grape or plums), the traditional appetizers made from fresh vegetables and homegrown river trout with homemade white or red wine.
• Specific points: village Belovishte 750 metres a.m.s.l. - Petachko Vodiche 900 metres a.m.s.l.
• Length: 1 km
• Duration: 30 min
Additional Information: This is the recreational open trail.
Two-day tours with specific theme

2.1 Visit to the oldest mountain hut in Macedonia - Ljuboten
At the height of 1630 metres, just above the beech forest and under the predominant peak of Sharra Mountain - Ljuboten, rises the the oldest mountain hut in Macedonia called Ljuboten. It was built back in 1931 and is considered as a museum of the mountaineering history and mountain tourism in Macedonia.

This is a trail and walking tour is designed for pleasure, hiking, mountaineering and tasting of traditional domestic products in the mountain hut, a place that brings the warmth of the past.
The visitors can reach the hut with jeep transport and start hiking from this spot. This trail is an attractive medium difficult and it opens a wonderful view towards the western part of the Shara Mountain, Livadichko Lake, Polog valley and part of Kosovo (from Urosevac to Shtrpce), especially at its peak part.

- Specific points: Mountain hut Ljuboten 1630 metres a.m.s.l. - Mountain peak Ljuboten 2499 metres a.m.s.l.
- Length: 4 km
- Duration: 2:30 h

Additional Information: This is a marked trail that goes through pastures and rocky terrain. Drinking water is available only at the starting point.

If the visitors opt for staying in the hut for the night, they can have a full second day. They can take the most exciting track because it passes through three different mountain relief landscapes. It is a medium hard hiking trail that starts from the mountain hut Ljuboten and traverses the biggest rocky talus in Macedonia, above the peak of Ljuboten, passing through the specific rock Kozja Stena. It continues to the top ridge of Shar/Sharri Mountain and from there it descends to Livadicko Lake.

- Specific points: Kozja Stena 2100 meters a.m.s.l. – Livadichko Lake 2210 metres a.m.s.l.
- Total length: 7 km
- Total time: 4 h

Additional Information: This hiking trail passes through pastures and rocky terrain. There is water at Kozja Stena and the springs above Livadichko Lake.

The two-day tour with overnight stay at the oldest mountain hut in Macedonia can be fully experienced when visitors taste traditional dishes freshly prepared by the hands of the hosts at the hut. They can choose among the traditional homemade pies, stews and soups, roasted meat, salads, other traditional meals cooked in clay pottery and desserts from forest berries. Certainly the domestic brandy (rakija) and wine will complete the experience.

2.1. Ljuboten Mountain Hut Trail

One of the trails starts at the info board in the village Staro Selo, goes through the forest belt and ends at mountain hut Ljuboten. According to the difficulty, this is an easy - medium trail suitable for all ages and groups of visitors, especially families. During the summer days, when the trail can also be used by
the cyclists, every visitor will feel the shadow of the oak trees, while in winter you can make the first snow treads along the trail and taste the delicious tea prepared in the mountain hut. Hikers can use this opportunity to climb the very mountain peak.

- Specific points: village Staro Selo 900 metres a.m.s.l. - Mountain Hut Luboten 1630 metres a.m.s.l.
- Length: 7 km
- Duration: 2.30 h

Additional Information: This is a fully marked trail with drinking water available in the village and the mountain hut.

Contact information:
Mountaineering Club Ljuboten
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+389 44 333 226
contact@sharamountainguide.com.mk
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Jovan Bozinoski
3. Fierza Lake tour, ferry trip
Fierza Lake, with its rare natural beauty, is one of the largest artificial lakes in Albania. The lake is around 80 km long and covers the area of 73 ha.

The lake is tightly connected with the history of an old town of Kukës which was flooded in the 1976 due to the construction of the Fierza Hydroelectric Power Station’s reservoir. The union of the two Drini/Drim (White and Black) rivers has given a nice shape of a peninsula to Fierza Lake which offers a picturesque view in every season. Old Kukes underneath Lake Fierze can sometimes be seen when hiking to higher grounds. It is a habitat for 13 fish varieties, molluscs, crabs and amphibians, and the banks of this lake are now a popular place for locals and visitors for fishing, swimming and sunbathing during the warmer months of the year, including the wide camping areas at the shore.

The Ferry trip to Fierza lake is organized from the Gjallica Hotel, as a part of tourist offer of Kukes region.

Contact information:
Hotel Gjallica,
Rruga Dituria, Kukës, Albania
+355 24 222 527
4. Thematic tours of Prizren, Brezovica and Prevalla tourist Village

Prizren, a historic city of Kosovo*, is a city of mosques and monasteries dating back to the 14th century. It is the best preserved old town in the country by far, and is often referred to as the cultural capital of Kosovo*. Almost all historical and cultural buildings are positioned within a walking distance (10 to 30 minutes) from the town center Shadervan/Central Square. The city’s long tradition of religious and ethnic tolerance is visible by the close proximity of Catholic and Orthodox churches, mosques and tekkes, many of them hundreds of years old.

The area around Prizren, particularly to the east and southwest, is also scenic. Heading east from the town toward the Prevalla tourist village 28 km from Prizren, there are numerous restaurants following the river along this route through Zhupa Valley, which is one of the charming tourist destination. The mountainous terrain, amazing landscape and fresh air make it a fantastic area for hiking, skiing and unwinding. Moreover, Lepenci River derives in this territory, which makes it even more attractive and interesting for the visitors. The final destination for the tours is Brezovica Ski resort, 15 km from Prevalla.

Brezovica is one of the promising ski resorts in Balkans, which is characterized with attractions and the most desirable location for winter tourism. The structure of the snow and terrain allow for a spectrum of skiing options: from regular slopes for beginners up to high speed slopes for extreme skiing.
Day 1.
Arrival at Prizren Tourism Center
Accommodation in private houses, hostel or hotel
(depending on the preferences)
Traditional dinner in the Shadervan Square

Day 2.
Traditional breakfast in accommodation facilities
Walking guided tour around Prizren (visiting 15 historical monuments and museums)
Traditional lunch with the host organization
Visiting local producers and artists
Tour of the Prevalla tourist village
Short break at the accommodation facility and preparation for dinner
Joint dinner outdoors by the fire with tasting local products (the Sharra Mountain cheese, the Sharra Mountain lamb, homemade brandy)

Day 3.
Tour to Brezovica Ski Resort
Going to the Brezovica ski center with the possibility to rent skiing equipment, motor sledges, riding in a snowcat and a lot more activities as desired
Lunch in restaurants and motels located in the Sharra Mountain
Continuation of sojourn in the ski center, spare time for various winter activities
Departure
Contact information

1. Mountaineering Club Ljuboten
(for all routes and tours at the territory of Macedonia)
+389 (0) 75 64 93 93
+389 44 333 226
contact@sharamountainguide.com.mk
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Jovan Bozinoski

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The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG RRD) is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisting of members from governmental institutions in South Eastern Europe (SEE) responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective member countries and territories. The SWG is a platform for networking and regional cooperation in SEE in the field of agriculture and rural development.

The SWG is carrying out the project Preparation for implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans - 2nd phase which works on building the capacities and structures within the SWG and selected regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming ABD programmes. The project's objective is the contribution to sustainable economic growth of the target regions: Drina- Sava (cross-border region between B&H, HR, SRB), Drina- Tara (cross-border region between B&H, SRB, MNE), Prespa (cross-border region between ALB and MK) and Sharra (cross-border region between ALB, MK and KOS*) by strengthening the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, the private sector and NGOs in the fields of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities. The project will create framework conditions within the SWG as organization and the SWG member countries for implementation of the area based development approach and in that way contribute to the sustainable growth of the rural cross-border areas of the SEE region.

This document has been prepared and published with the aim to present the region and its attractions, thus contributing to attracting visitors to the Sharra cross-border area.

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*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

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