



**“Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration - *Support to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe”***

June 2015 – May 2017

The project is financed by:





# Project objectives

- The project aims at **fostering regional cooperation** among **institutions and stakeholders** in the agriculture and food sector, as well as to **facilitation of the process of balanced territorial development** of the Western Balkan countries in the progression towards EU integration.
- The objective of the project is to **strengthen the networking and cooperation among the public institutions and stakeholders**, as well as with other relevant regional bodies in order to **accelerate the EU accession process** of the WB candidate and potential candidate countries in the field of agriculture and rural development.



# Specific project objectives

- **O1:** Political and policy dialogues related to agriculture and rural development among Western Balkan countries and relevant institutions and stakeholders are enhanced.
- **O2:** Cooperation in at least four cross-border rural areas of the Western Balkan (“Drina-Sava”, “Drina-Tara”, “Prespa” and “Sharra”) is strengthened with implementation of different projects with cross-border and regional relevance.
- **O3:** Performance of baseline analysis and strategic planning and programming of economic development in at least two additional cross-border regions is initiated.

# Expected project results related to specific project objectives

- **R1:** Joint documents on agriculture and rural development issues (statements, positions, declarations) of the participating Western Balkan countries are prepared based on the political and policy discussions organized by the SWG
- **R2:** Quality project proposals for economic development of rural cross-border areas are prepared and submitted for financing
- **R3:** Baseline analysis and strategic planning has been performed in at least two additional cross-border areas



# General approach

## ABDA

- Main focus on - capacity building to stakeholders and support to preparation of applications for calls for proposals
- Development of short value chains
- Grants will not be financed in the phase
- Analysis of situation in 3 more WB c-b areas

SRKRD  
SVMG



## **General approach**

### **Political and policy dialogue**

- Support to SWG core functions

# Achievements and results June 2<sup>nd</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015



## ***Facilitation of the process of economic development of rural cross - border areas***

- 10<sup>th</sup> meetings of stakeholder groups organized in all four areas





***Provision of support to stakeholders for preparation of project proposals for different calls with special emphasis on Calls within IPA II***

**3<sup>rd</sup> CBC Call SER-B&H**

1. Project: "Flood Defence System in Cross Border Area Serbia-B&H", € 966.465,00
2. Project: "Safe rivers - improvement of infrastructural and social capacities in the sphere of protection and prevention against floods", € 928.304,00
3. Project: "Quick and effective support against floods in Polimlje", € 794.000,00

**3<sup>rd</sup> CBC Call SER-MNE**

1. Project "Cherishing past-building future", € 250.000,00
2. Project "Opening New Tourism Corridors- Open Tour", € 300.150,00

***Provision of support to stakeholders for preparation of project proposals for different calls with special emphasis on Calls within IPA II***

- Sharra PMU provided technical and human support for the preparation on three applications under the USAID AGRO project in Kosovo\*
  - Applicant Agriculture Cooperative Natyra e Sharrit - Project : Increased processing capacities and expanding the range of dairy products;
  - Viticulture Association - Project: Improving technology and post-harvest treatment standards of table grapes and adding value throughout the entire value chain in the grape market;
  - Agro Red Gold - Raspberry Collection Canter “Zhupa”.

## ***Publicity activities related to open Calls for proposals***

- Information and application documents shared with SHG;
- Web-pages for Prespa and Drina-Sava regions under development;
- Continuous direct contact with all stakeholders regarding other open calls (national, local, calls from other donors, etc.) depending on the topic and territorial range;
- Meetings with donors (GIZ Programme in Albania).

## ***Organization of people-to-people actions***

- Raspberry Day 2015 was held on 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 in Recane, Municipality of Prizren, Kosovo\*. The event was organized by AgroRedGold from Kosovo\* and IRZ from Tetovo and CED from Tearce, Macedonia. The event promoted the raspberry production as prosperous form of small-scale business model suitable for the rural population of the region.



## Organization of people-to-people actions

- Wine and Cheese Festival was held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2015 in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia. The event was organized by the Department of Tourism and Local Economic Development of Municipality of Ohrid in cooperation with Agrinet from Albania.

