



**“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*”**

**Reporting period:**

**April 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 – September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

**22-23 September 2016, Kolašin, Montenegro**

# 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.

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# 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 develin **at least two additional cross-border regions is initiated**.
- opment

# 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

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## This presentation focuses on:

- ***Facilitation of the economic development in the targeted cross-border regions through continuous dialogue and cooperation among the stakeholders and support by the PMU's***
  - SHG meeting;
  - Support to organization of P2P event;
  - Support to preparation of quality project proposals on different open calls in the cross-border regions;
  - Increased visibility and exchange of information.
- ***Support to political and policy discussions on agriculture and rural development issues;***
- ***Update on the preparation of the baseline analysis and strategic planning in three additional cross-border regions;***
- ***Complementary activities facilitated by the ABD Approach***
- ***Future activities;***

## ***Facilitation of the economic development and cooperation in the cross - border areas (SHG Meetings)***

- 13<sup>th</sup> meetings of stakeholder groups in Prespa and Sharra (June 2016)





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## Main conclusions from the meetings:

- *ABD Grant Scheme within the LEIWW Programme will contribute to the improvement of the integrated economic development of Prespa and Sharra regions;*
- *PMU's should continue to support the preparation of applications for different calls for proposals and will provide possible partners for active IPA CBC programs and other open calls in the cross-border regions;*
- *Updated Operational Protocol and Rules of procedure of the Stakeholder Group was reviewed and the final document should be approved on the next SHG meeting;*

## **Facilitation of the economic development in the cross - border areas (People to People events)**

**Out of 21 P2P events, 10 were supported in this reporting period:**

- **“Honey Fair”**, 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2016, Jegunovce, Macedonia
- **“May day”** gathering in village Zaton, 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2016, Bijelo Polje, Montenegro
- **“II. Circle of friendship”** – International cycling marathon through Drina-Sava & Drina-Tara region 3-5 June, 2016 Brcko – Visegrad
- **“Tour de Galicica 2016”** – 18-19 June, 2016 in Resen, Macedonia
- **“Roses of Lipolist”**, 16-18 June 2016, Sabac, Serbia
- **“Divan je kićeni Srijem”**, 17-19 June 2016, Nijemci, Croatia
- **“Hajducke veceri 2016”**, 13-14 August, 2016 in Bogatic, Serbia
- **“Environmental actions in a scope of the International Drina Regatta Bajina Basta, Let’s raise environmental awareness”**, 22-24 July 2016 in Bajina Basta, Serbia
- **“9th International Lim Biathlon Priboj-Rudo-Setihovo”**, 18– 21 August, 2016 in Priboj, Serbia and Rudo-Setihovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **“5th International festival of plum fruit brandy and honey”**, 1 – 2 September 2016 in Ugljevik, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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RD



## ***Facilitation of the economic development in the cross - border areas (People to People events)***

### **Experiences and lessons learned**

- This actions are great possibility to promote all attractive elements of the cross-border regions;
- Motivates the Stakeholders;
- Strengthen the cooperation among the SHG members;
- Increases promotion and selling local products at the regional markets;
- Promotes the touristic potential of the region;
- Supports the establishment of cross-border contacts and partnerships;
- Contributes to exchange of knowledge and information;
- Increase sales and income of the local businesses;
- Contributes to regional environmental protection;
- Contributes to the regional economic development.

CROSS  
BORDER  
SHG

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

### **Support to preparation of quality project proposals on different open calls in the cross-border regions**

- **Till now 30 project proposals were prepared and submitted with the support of the PMU' staff (average 7-8 per region);**
- **2 (two) of the submitted project proposals are granted:**
  1. Project title: Development of raspberry production on the territory of Municipality of Visegrad with total value of 104.025,29 BAM (53.187 EUR)  
Applicant: Association of raspberry producers "Lastar", Visegrad
  2. Project title: Establishment of raspberry collection center in Zhupa with total value of 80.000 USD  
Applicant: Association of Raspberry cultivators and collectors of medical herbs Agro Red Gold
- **11 of the submitted projects are refused**
- **17 are still under evaluation process (most of them under IPA CBC Programmes and Transnational Programmes)**

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BORDER  
SVMG





## Increased visibility and exchange of information

[abda.seerural.org](http://abda.seerural.org)



Facebook page name	Web site
Cross-Border Region of "Prespa"	<a href="http://prespa.seerural.org">prespa.seerural.org</a>
Cross-Border Region of "Sharra"	<a href="http://sharra.seerural.org">sharra.seerural.org</a>
Cross-Border Region of "Drina-Sava"	<a href="http://drina-sava.seerural.org">drina-sava.seerural.org</a>
Cross-Border Region of "Drina-Tara"	<a href="http://drina-tara.seerural.org">drina-tara.seerural.org</a>

# ***Support to political and policy discussions on agriculture and rural development issues;***

## **Working meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine in South Eastern Europe**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Working meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine in South Eastern Europe was organized in the period 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May in Podgorica, Montenegro.

During the meeting discussions was focused on different topics such as:

- traceability in wine quality;
- Control procedures in the SWG member institutions;
- the possibility of mutual harmonization of legislation/procedures on export/import of wine products between SWG members based on EU procedures (V.I.1. document); and
- autochthonous and new created varieties of vine and possibility for their promotion and recognition in the region.



# ABDA baseline analysis and strategic planning in final stage of preparation in the three additional cross-border regions



## 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)

### “Prokletije”

(Albania, Kosovo\* and Montenegro)

### “Pcinja”

(Macedonia, Bulgaria and Serbia)

### “Neretva”

(Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> SHG meetings organized in “Pcinja”, -  
“Prokletije - Bjeshkët e Nemuna” and “Neretva -  
Krs” cross-border regions**



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SRD



## ***ABDA baseline analysis and strategic planning in final stage of preparation in the three additional cross-border regions***

Meeting	Topic	Timeframe
<b>First Introductory Meeting:</b>	<b>Discuss the overall process</b> and present draft baseline analysis. Filling gaps. Fine tuning. SWOT analysis.	Organized in March, 2016
<b>Second Meeting:</b>	<b>Elaborate cross-border development strategy in accordance with the principles for ABD: critical needs, priority interventions at local level and at higher levels etc.</b>	Organized in April, 2016
<b>Third Meeting:</b>	<b>Presentation of the first outline</b> of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan and discussions over possible projects.	Organized in May, 2016
<b>Fourth Meeting:</b>	Presentation of the Final Strategic Framework and Action Plan. Fine tuning of the document. Budgeting and responsibilities. Writing project summaries.	September and October, 2016

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## ***Complementary actions facilitated by the ABD Approach***

**“Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas of South Eastern European region”**

**“Strengthening regional capacities for rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe - LEIWW“**

**The ABD staff has been involved in part of the activities facilitating the implementation and ensuring that the ABD approach is applied.**

**SWG  
RDR**



## ***Complementary actions facilitated by the ABD Approach***

### **“Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas of South Eastern European region”**

- The prepared Policy Recommendations and proposed Models on Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) for Drina-Tara-Sava and Sharra cross-border regions will foster the EU approximation process of future policy development and implementation;
- The Conclusions from the Bilateral meeting of Ministers responsible for Environmental Protection from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, held on 30 – 31 May, 2016 in Visegrad, Bosnia and Herzegovina, are taking into consideration the successful results achieved in the context of Area Based Development approach in selected pilot regions in South-East Europe. Also the Ministers highly acknowledged this initiative and activities undertaken which are contributing to fostering sustainable socio-economic development and environmental protection of cross-border rural areas.
- Facilitated at least 15 cleaning actions and equipment for solid waste management is procured and donated to the stakeholders in Drina-Tara, Drina-Sava and Sharra cross-border regions;
- ISWM models and project fiches were developed for the 3 targeted regions and could be further used to attract donor funding in these areas.

DRINA  
TARA  
SAVA  
SHARRA

## ***Complementary actions facilitated by the ABD Approach***

**“Strengthening regional capacities for rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe - LEIWW“**

- Under this project one component is dedicated to income generation from the sustainable use of natural resources which is fostered via implementation of the Area Based Development approach in the Drina-Tara, Drina-Sava, Prespa and Sharra cross-border regions;
- For that purpose, ABD Grant Scheme was implemented, focused on income generation by improvement of production processes, technology and quality of products and services in “green” value chains (tourism, agriculture, etc), promoting sustainable use of natural resources and integrated water and forest resources management;
- The overall indicative amount available under ABD Grant Scheme is estimated on cca. 300.000 EUR.
- The ABD staff also supported and facilitated the organization of seven P2P Actions – regional trade fairs and events promoting tradition and cultural heritage, environment protection and tourism and gastronomy in the targeted cross-border regions;

DRINA  
TARA  
PRESPA  
SHARRA  
SWG

## ***Future activities within the project*** ***(period till the next SWG Assembly)***

- Organization of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings of stakeholder groups in Prespa, Sharra and Drina – Tara and 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> SHG meeting in Drina - Sava;
- Organization of additional 10 P2P events in all four regions;
- Continuous support to the Stakeholders for preparation of project proposals on open calls in framework of IPA CBC and other calls;
- Finalization of the preparation of baseline analysis and strategic planning in “Pcinja”, “Neretva - Krs” and Bjeshkët e Nemuna - Prokletije” cross-border regions;
- Organization of follow-up activities and cooperation exercises in the new cross-border regions;
- Selection and implementation of projects under the ABDA Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme;
- Preparations for the Agriculture Policy Forum 2016;
- Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting;
- Organization on different Working Group meetings;



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