

Results and experiences from the first call of ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

22-23 September 2016, Kolašin, Montenegro

Background

The ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme is follow-up of the ABD Grant Scheme implemented by SWG in 2014 and 2015 under the project “*Preparation for implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans – 2nd Phase*” funded by the European Union.

The overall objective of the project was to continue the process of building capacities and structures within the SWG and within selected regions as a preparation for the implementation of the forthcoming Area Based Development (ABD) programmes.

Pilot ABD Grant Scheme was implemented in the cross-border regions Drina-Tara and Drina-Sava focusing on income generation through partnership among operators in different value chains.

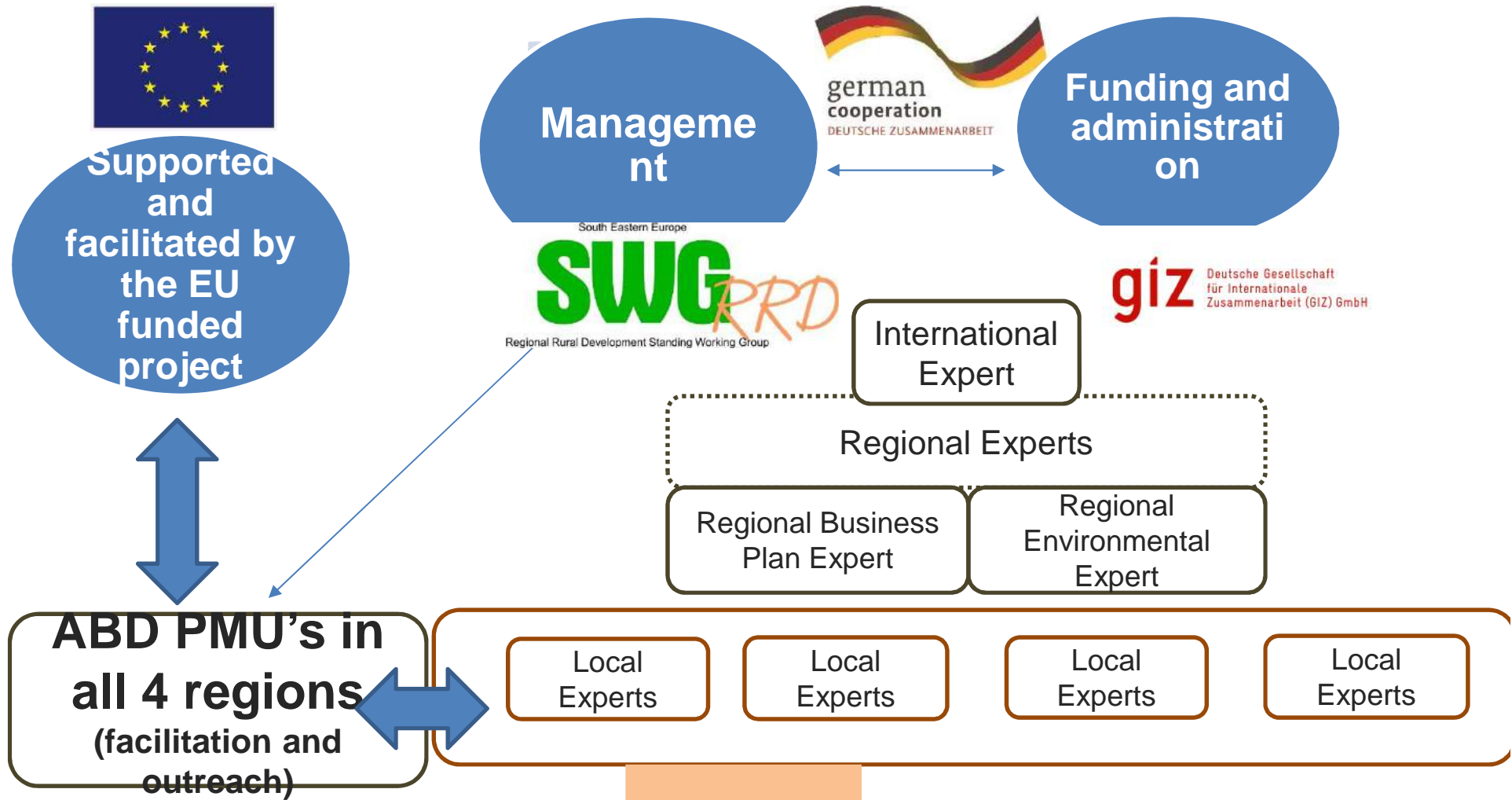
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1st call ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

The 1st ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme is 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), promoting sustainable use of natural resources and integrated water and forest resources management.

Special attention is devoted to the economic activities of women and young people in the cross-border areas.

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

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The SWG ABD staff along with the engaged international expert for overall supervisory of the ABD Grant Scheme and regional experts on business plan and environment have worked on update of eligibility criteria, application procedures, guidelines for applicants and template documents for applicants according to the objectives of the ABD Strategic documents and LEIWW Programme.

Promotion and facilitation of the ABD Grant Scheme in the cross-border regions “Drina-Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” was done by the ABD PMU’s within the ongoing European Union funded project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”

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The finalized documents were presented on the **specific coaching and training session** for engaged local experts and ABD team in the cross-border regions Prespa, Sharra, Drina-Tara and Drina-Sava which was **organized in the period 16-17 May 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia.**

The first ABD Grant Scheme call within LEIWW Programme was opened on 27th May 2016 and the closing date was on 06th July 2016. (41 day)

Proper visibility and outreach was insured with announcements in national/regional media (newspapers, TV, etc.). **Ten (10) info days and additional capacity building activities** for the potential applicants were organized during the SHG meetings covering each country of the specific

SHG

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The informative sessions were organized according to following schedule:

Drina-Tara cross-border region:

- 01.06.2016, Municipality of Gorazde, Business Center
- 02.06.2016, Municipality of Pljevlja, Hall in City Council
- 03.06.2016, City of Uzice, Large Hall of City Council

Drina-Sava cross-border region:

- 06.06.2016, Bijeljina, Hall at City Administration building
- 07.06.2016, Sremska Mitrovica, Hall at City House

Prespa cross-border region:

- 01.06.2016, Municipality of Resen, Large Municipal hall,
- 03.06.2016, Directorate for agriculture in Korca

Sharra cross-border region:

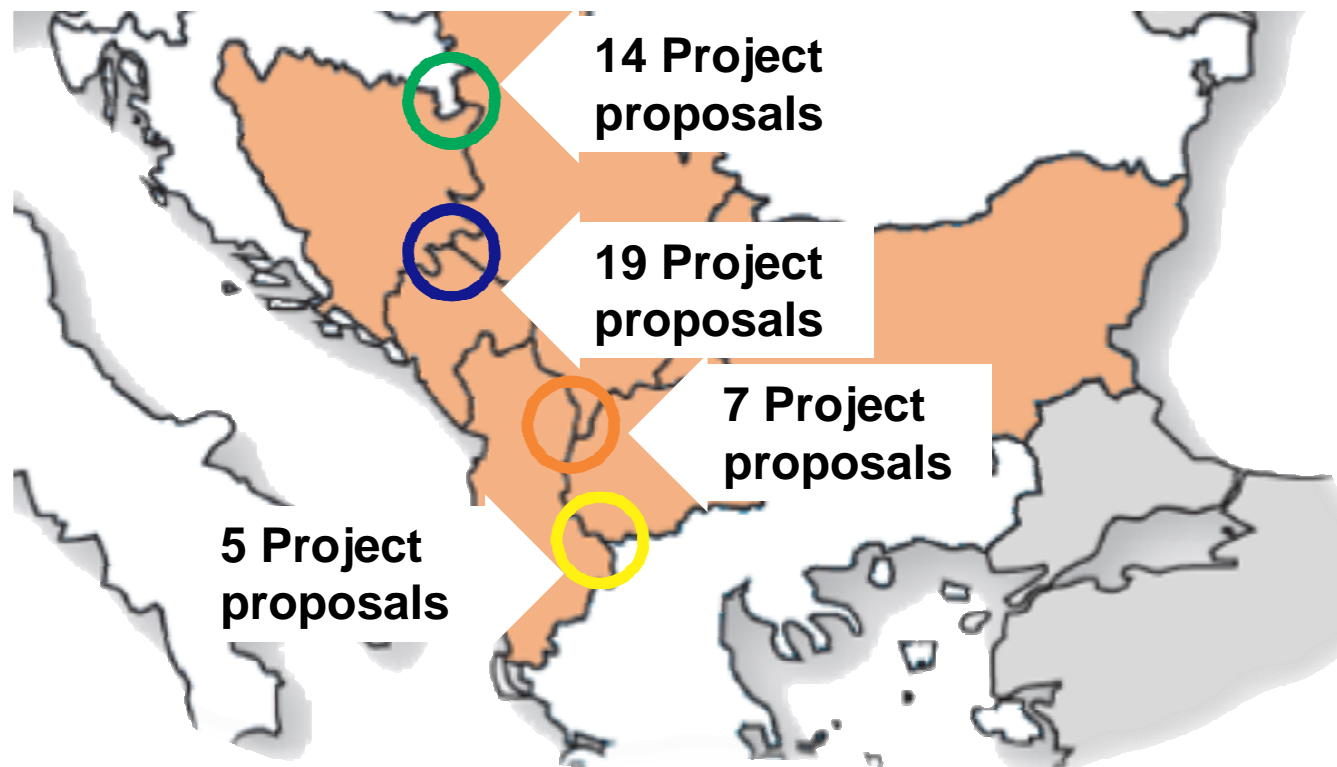
- 30.05.2016, Municipality of Jegunovce, municipal building
- 31.05.2016, Municipality of Prizren, municipal hall, 3rd floor
- 01.06.2016, Kukes Regional Council, meeting hall, 4th floor

Info Days



ABD Grant Scheme within LEIWW Programme

≈300.000EUR for all 4 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)

Project proposals received	45
Number of applicants	72
Number of partnerships	19

*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 proposals

	Drina - Sava	Drina - Tara	Sharra Prespa	Total	Average	
Number of applications	14	19	7	45	11 - 12	
Number of applicants	17	37	11	72	18	
Number of partnerships	5	10	3	19	4 - 5	
Total amount of investment requested in [EUR] for all applicants	129.087	253.237	77.933	498.285	124.571	
Average amount of investment requested [EUR] per individual applicants	8.033	5.265	6.965	7.382	/	6.911
Average amount of investment requested [EUR] per partnership	12.964	19.790	19.012	8.500	/	15.067

Evaluation Process

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

Analysis 2 – 3 step evaluation process done by SWG Delegates, 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

Final Decision – refusal or approval
(process done in SWG HQ)

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Evaluation Process till now

Analysis 1 – After completion of Analysis 1, 31 applications have progressed into Analysis 2
Only 6 applications were fully completed and no supplement documents or information were required.

Analysis 2 – ON-GOING

On Spot control – ON-GOING and expected to be completed till end of September

Final Decision – Expected to be completed till end of September

Contracting – Expected to be completed first half of October

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Future activities

Implementation, final on spot control and final payment – **upon finalization of contractual obligations but not later than February 2017**

Possible 2nd ABD Grant Scheme call within LEIWW Programme for Prespa and Sharra cross-border regions

- **to be opened mid of October and closed end of November**
- **Evaluation process and contracting to be done by end of January 2017**
- **Implementation and final payment by April 2017**

Types of projects that could be supported under the ABD Grant Scheme

- 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):

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