

Minutes of the 5th Stakeholders' Group meeting for the cross-border region of Drina-Sava

Location: Center for Professional Development, Sabac, Serbia

Date: October 8th, 2013

Time: 09:30 – 17:45

Attendees:

The list of participants in Appendix No. 1

Program of the meeting:

- Information on the current state of the concept of Area Based Development (ABD) Approach
- Presentation and discussion of the DRAFT Programming Documents for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"
- Presentation and discussion of the completed concepts for the Project Proposals for the cross border region of "Drina-Sava"
- Discussion of the concepts for the future Project Proposals for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"
- Presentation and discussion of the Operation Protocol and Rules of Procedure for the SHG for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"

- Technical discussions with members of the Stakeholder Groups (SHG):
 - Programming Document for economic development of the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"
 - Completed concepts for the Project Proposals for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"
 - Concepts for the future Project Proposals for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"

Information on the current state of the concept of Area Based Development (ABD) Approach

Irena Dzimrevska, Head of Operations SWG informed the present member of the stakeholder group (SHG) of the cross border region „Drina-Sava“ on the current state of the concept of Area Based Development and pointed out that the aim of further work on capacity building and structures within the SWG and "Drina-Tara ", " Drina-Sava "Prespa" and "Sharra" cross border areas, in order to be able to carry out upcoming programs relating to territorial and regional cooperation.

Specific objectives derived from the general objectives are:

- Contribute to sustainable economic growth of a particular region by facilitating the preparatory activities for implementation of identified economic development actions.
- Strengthen cooperation of public administrations, private sector and NGOs in the field of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities.

While the main principles are: transparency, participation/involvement of SHG, "Know-how", and transfer knowledge to new members, management and flexibility.

The current activities of ABD were presented, Establishment of Project Management Units, Memorandum of Understanding for regional cooperation between SWG and participating municipalities signed by Mayors, establishment of the Regional SWG Office in Belgrade is an ongoing process, technical Assistant is engaged. The second activate is Consolidation of Stakeholder Groups. In the final stage is the appointment Official nomination of members of the SHG by Mayors, Presidents of NGO, CEO of business entities, Capacity building of the members of the SHG trough project cycle management, project proposal writing, strategic planning, communication in organization, and will continue in the coming period.

In the final stage of analysis are the existing strategic framework, and the process of preparing programming documents for cross-border economic development of the region. Next steps are the completion of the process of establishing a Project Management Unit (PMU), the finalization of the strategic framework, the completion of the process of program documents, and presentation of project proposals to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Western Balkan countries, the European Commission and other potential donors.

Conclusion: The group of stakeholders (SHG) should be expanding with representatives of the business sector, and start with specific activities.

Presentation and discussion of the DRAFT Programming Documents for the cross-border region of „Drina-Sava“

Suzana Dordevic Milosevic, Programming expert presented the draft program document for cross-border region "Drina-Sava". Engaged expert analysis and selected the region that can be exploited for economic development has been established and defined measures for the same.

Proposed measures:

- Common databases and knowledge on natural and cultural heritage;
- Promotion of the common values of the region;
- Local initiatives green river connects people, traditions and roots;
- Strengthening social capital through the development of an efficient system of technology transfer;
- "Soft" infrastructure development;
- Ability to create and retain value chain.

Activities that would result from these measures would be:

- Development of a database;
- Promotion;
- Development of local initiatives, Green River;
- The establishment of information systems, virtual business services and counseling centers, chambers of commerce, networking, training, seminars, study tours, increasing the efficiency of existing logistic systems for business development;
- Investments for the development of complementary economic activities.

It is necessary to adopt measures for SWG mandate: As part of the measures one it is necessary to reduce the study visits, improve the tourist product and develop joint tourism product, organize training policy intended target of the project that could be applied, define the value chain that has a greater dimension. On the other hand in the second measure it is necessary to provide the advocacy of regional cooperation RRD, provide information about other sources and donors, "main stream" other sectors to focus on rural development in order to support and invest in rural development, under Measure 3 it is necessary to provide technical assistance. The final compilation of the Regional

Programming Documents application in 2 +2 +3 years (first two years of the pilot program up to 4 priority projects).

Conclusion: Draft Programming Documents for the cross-border region "Drina-Sava" are approved, and they will be sent to the members of interest groups, to get their comments and inputs in the official document by the end of October.

Presentation and discussion of the completed concepts for the Project Proposals for the crossborder region of "Drina-Sava"

Aleksandar Damjanovic, Regional Coordinator said that the joint efforts of the working groups came to define three priority projects in various fields such as:

- Agriculture - "Agriculture clusters in the region Drina-Sava";
- Tourism "Green River Region - Drina-Sava region -by water, foot and bicycle"
- Environmental protection „Resource-oriented economy as a driving force of socio-economic development of the Drina-Sava region"

Sabina Mujezinovic, LAG Semberija, Bijeljina, presented the project "Agricultural clusters in the region Drina-Sava". The main objective of this project is the diversification of the rural economy and contribute to socio-economic development "Drina-Sava" in the region through the support of cluster initiatives in agriculture and rural development, improvement of the conditions for market access, strengthening the competitiveness of producers and production growth, with the aim of facilitating the placement of primary producers products on the market.

Nikola Niksic, Micro Cluster "Sv. Dimitrije", Sremska Mitrovica, spoke about the project "Green River Region - Drina-Sava region -by water, foot and bicycle." The aim of this project is to contribute to socio-economic and rural development "Drina-Sava" in the region through the creation of joint regional tourism products, improve conditions for attracting more tourists and stimulate the creation of income in the region through the support of local authorities.

Aleksandra Velimanovic, Association of Citizens "Nimbus", Loznica presented the project "The resource-oriented economy as a driving force of socio-economic development of the Drina-Sava region." The aim of the project is to contribute to socio-economic and rural development "Drina-Sava" in the region, diversification of rural economy based on the use of resources and employment through improving competitiveness and strengthening the capacity of entrepreneurs. The goal is to pass through mentoring and enable the participants self-employment based on the use of natural resources in the region.

Discussion of the concepts for the future Project Proposals for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"

Kaj Mortensen, ABDA SWG International Consultant pointed out that should be taken into account what already has been done, and detail the next steps that will generate economic activity and attract donors. The project "Green River Region - Drina-Sava region - water, foot and bicycle" shall specify the manner that is specifically defined routes and tourism products in order to start a chain of values that will enable investments.

If we want to develop the project "Agricultural clusters in the region Drina-Sava" it is necessary to find and analyze the products that we can offer and give them a image. In addition to the product it is necessary to find service providers. In addition, it is necessary to attract the private sector and thereby expand the group of stakeholders. Within the measure is possible to make many sub measures by which we can identify a specific product, that would be worked out in detail.

Elisabetta Sartorel, EU Delegation of Serbia, likened the previously implemented projects with the three priority projects SHG and stressed out that it is necessary to work on the strategy of the projects because similar projects have been financed before.

Karl Vogel, EU Delegation of Serbia, expressed his enthusiasm for the work of the group that represents a major success for regional cooperation. He pointed out that the support of local authorities is essential because it is the way to coordinate the countries of the region.

Irena Dzimrevska, SWG, expressed her satisfaction for the established coordination and cooperation with the EU Delegation and the cooperation will be continued through the official channels. SWG will support the application of the CBC members of stakeholder groups as a consultative body.

Conclusion: The final drafts of the proposed cross-border projects in the region, "Drina-Sava" will be delivered by mid-October by the SWG, and will be finalized with the working groups in order to be able to apply them to different sources.

Presentation and discussion of the Operation Protocol and Rules of Procedure for the SHG for the cross-border region of "Drina-Sava"

The Operating Protocol has been previously forwarded to the members of interest groups for comments. Dejan Velimanovic, Loznica Municipality, proposed to change the name of the Operational Protocol Rules in to Rules of Procedure, he also pointed out that it is necessary to adopt a statute before adopting Rules of Procedure. He suggested that Article 7 on voting has to be changed, and raised the question of the inclusion of new members.

Sabina Mujezinovic, LAG Semberija, Bijeljina suggests that to the potential new members an observational period should be set, and after the period expires, enable the organization applying for membership. If the organizations that have signed the membership do not participate in the work, they have to be put "under quarantine" in order to determine next steps.

The group discussed and Article 2 of that is the choice of the members of interest groups, on which way to vote, and to include new members to the group of stakeholders.

Conclusion: By Monday the 14th October 2013 the members of interest groups will submit their comments and suggestions via e-mail, and the Operative Protocol and the Rules of Procedure for the work SHG shall be adopted at the next SHG meeting.

Technical discussions with members of the Stakeholder Group

Ana Cvitkovic-Komesarevic, LDA "Vjeverica" Drenovici presented the advantage of the region three different countries which offer three different products that need to be consolidated in order to strengthen cooperation in the region. It is necessary to transfer the know-how of learning in order to protect products. Together with members of the SHG plans to apply to the CBC with the "Green River Region - Drina-Sava region - water, foot and bicycle" with the support of SWG's.

Conclusion: Ana Cvitkovic-Komesarevic, LDA "Vjeverica" Drenovici will by the end of next week 19th 10.2013. to SWG forwarded the draft pilot project for CBC for Croatian and Bosnia and Herzegovina, by the end of October month she will forward final project for CBC Croatian and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and until 15 November Ana Cvitkovic- Komesarevic will send the pilot project for SWG.

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