



Cross-border region "Drina - Sava"

"Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration"

Minutes from the 17<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Group Meeting for "Drina-Sava" cross-border region



The project is financed by the European Union:

Loznica, Serbia

27. april 2017,

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### I. List of participants

The seventeenth Stakeholders' Group Meeting for "Drina-Sava" cross-border region was attended by 30 participants, representatives of the stakeholder group of the cross-border region "Drina-Sava" and SWG project team.

*Annex 1: List of participants*

### II. Agenda

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 - 10:30 | <b>Arrival of participants and welcome gathering</b>  |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | <b>Welcome speech</b><br><i>Dejan Stalović, Assistant of Mayor Town Loznica</i><br><i>Aleksandar Damnjanović, Regional Manager</i>  |
| 10:40 – 10:45 | <b>Introduction to the programme</b><br><i>Mirela Čaušević, Coordinator</i>   |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | <b>Implemented activities within the EU Project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”</b><br><i>Mirela Čaušević, Coordinator</i><br><i>Aleksandar Damnjanović, Regional Manager</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | <b>Information on the ABD Grant scheme within the Project “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)”</b><br><i>Aleksandar Damnjanović, Regional Manager</i>   |

11:45 – 12:15	Coffee break
12:15 – 12:45	<b>Procedures for applying on CBC Calls - experience and examples of good practice</b>  <i>Representatives of Municipality Nijemci</i>
12:45 – 13:15	<b>Conclusions and future activities</b>
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch

### III. Minutes of the meeting

The seventeenth meeting of the stakeholder group for the cross-border region “Drina-Sava” was organized on the 27th March in Hotel “Royal Spa” in Banja Koviljaca / Loznica (Serbia) and the objective were discussion about general achievements related to the implementation of ABDA in the Western Balkan countries, on going activities and future perspective, information on ABD Grant Scheme under the project: “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)” and procedures for applying on CBC Calls - experience and examples of good practice.

#### Topics during the meeting:

1. Information on the ABD Grant scheme within the Project “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)”
2. Implemented activities within the EU Project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”
3. Procedures for applying on CBC Calls - experience and examples of good practice
4. Conclusions and future activities

#### *Appendix 2: Presentation used during the meeting*

#### **Official opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened and the participants were welcomed by Mr. Dejan Stalovic, Assistant of Mayor of Town Loznica and Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanović, SWG Regional Manager how gave a short review on the activities that were implemented by the “Drina-Sava” stakeholder group.

- 1. Information on the ABD Grant scheme within the Project “Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management (LEIWW)”**

Regional Manager Mr. Aleksandar Damjanović informed that under the ABD Grant scheme within the LEIWWWE programme “Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South-East-Europe” in the cross-border region “Drina-Sava” in total six (6) project will be granted with seven (7) grant beneficiaries. Grant beneficiaries informed the stakeholder group on the current phase of implementation of the project – the execution of works and justification of funds. Beneficiaries pointed out that the benefits of the grant scheme were the possibility of applying the local language as well as the deadline for implementation of the grant scheme, while they reflected that the business strategy in excel format could be simplify. On that occasion, project ideas for future calls were presented.

Appendix no 2: Presentation of Tourism organization of Town Loznica

## **2. Realized activities within the EU Project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”**

Mirela Čaušević, regional coordinator referred on implemented activities within the framework of the EU project: “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”. Presented were people to people activities implemented in the period February to April 2017:

- **„Osmomartovska daroteka - The sounds, tastes and smells of tradition from the cross-border region Drina-Sava”**  
Organizer: NGO „Klaster Sveti Dimitrije“

A three-day international manifestation at which 22 participants / exhibitors presented their products to visitors such as: homemade wine, brandy, handicrafts, products of handicrafts, honey and honey products, creams, teas, souvenirs and the like. In addition to the sale and exhibition, a round table on the theme "Strengthening the tourism turnover in local communities" in which 37 representatives of local authorities, media, tourism organizations, tourism service providers participated.

- **„Networking of Local Action Groups in the cross-border region “Drina-Sava”“**  
Organizer: LAG „Bosutski niz“  
Partner; NGO „RC Sove“

Workshops in the field of LAGs enable the transfer of experience and good practices, and technical and operational methods for the establishment of structures LAG Srem +. At the same time there the transfer of knowledge and good practice during a field visit. Special focuse was on „business to business“ meetings where future cooperation was agreed.

- **“Regional competition in food preparation of the cross-border region Drina-Sava”**  
Organizer: Tourisim organization of Municipality Nijemci

In the competition part participate representatives of high school from three countries in the cross - border region "Drina-Sava, as follows:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Students from “JU Ekonomske škole Brčko” and “JU Srednje stručne škole Janja”

- Croatia: students from “JU Ekonomske škole Ilok”
- And Serbia- students from “Ekonomsko-trgovinske škole Šabac”, “Ekonomske srednje škole “9.maj” “ Sremska Mitrovica and “Mačvanske srednje škole iz Bogatića”.

The competition was held in Bogatic – Macva High school and the pairs competed in two categories: I - national menu, based on the traditional dish of each region and II - contemporary gastronomy, a dish of their choice. This regional manifestation contributed to development of gastro-tourism, strengthening women entrepreneurship and providing the opportunities for generating economic income. Developed promo movie was presented.

- **„Youth activism in the sustainable management and biodiversity conservation in ABDA Region of Drina - Sava“**  
 Organizer: NGO” Eko Leonardo“

This series of two regional conferences and six workshops contributed to strengthening the networking and regional cooperation among members of the stakeholder group from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, as well to defined joint actions and measures for protecting biodiversity. In total around 380 students participated.

As a result of the activities, joint project proposal was defined and memorandum for cooperation was signed.

- **“XI International Volunteer Scientific research Eco Camp Trsic 2017”**  
 Organizer: NGO” Udruženje građana za razvoj seoskog turizma Vuk Karadžić Tršić“

The components of environmental education, acquiring practical knowledge in the field of resource management, volunteerism and rural tourism within the “XI International Volunteer Scientific research Eco Camp Trsic 2017”, were connected into the symbiosis that is now often used as an example of good practice for sustainable development in local communities.

Volunteers have been working on specific new approach for environmental condition assessment by using visual indicators, as well as gain skills about the additional skills required by modern management in the field of environmental protection.

- **„Through folklore to reconciliation“**  
 Organizer: The administration of municipaity Lopare

The aim of this regional manifestation was promotion of traditional, gastronomic and cultural heritage of the cross-border region “Drina-Sava”. Participants from three countries - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia participated and had the opportunity to get familiarize with traditional gastronomy folklore culture from this region. A total of around 200 participants participated as follows: KUD "Sveti Sava" from Loznica (Serbia), KUD "Frula" from Loznica (Serbia), KUD "Koraj" from Koraja (Bosnia and Herzegovina), KUD "Apševački veseljaci" from Apševaca/Nijemci (Croatia), KUD "Spačva" from Donji Novo Selo/Nijemci (Croatia) and SPKD "Prosvjeta" Lopare (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

- **I International Meeting: Good agricultural practices and improvement of agricultural riparian areas in the “Drina-Sava”**



Organizer: NGO „Pokret gorana Sremska Mitrovica“

The aim of this regional event was establishment of a dialogue and open a discussion for exchange of experiences and raised level of knowledge in the area of management of agricultural land in accordance with good agricultural practice intended for improving the conditions of riparian agricultural areas and water protection in the cross-border region “Drina-Sava”. The meeting was attended by 23 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, mainly representatives of local governments and NGO's. Main focus during the discussion was on agricultural practices and water protection. Participants also discussed possibilities for joint projects and initiatives, and potential sources of financing of projects in this area.

### ***3. Procedures for applying on CBC Calls - experience and examples of good practice***

Ivan Plavsic, in front of the Local Action Group "Bosutski series" gave a presentation on the procedures for applying to the calls cross-border cooperation - experience and examples of good practice that were presented through an example project Horis - Srijemske horseback riding trail that was approved as part of the calls Interreg IPA CBC Call Croatia - Serbia and the total value of the project amount is € 1,483,008.08. During the presentation highlight were the opportunities and threats, as well as recommendations during the development of project proposals.

Appendix no 4: Presentaction Horis

#### **Conclusions from the meeting:**

- SHG is willing to continue their participation in ABD process,
- Specific workshops and trainings during the next project phase are needed (such as food preparation for small agriculture household, example of good practices in the region etc.)
- SHG suggested that new municipalities should have the opportunity to join the cross-border region “Drina-Sava”
- Working groups for agriculture and tourism should continue previous work.

Prepared by:

Mirela Čaušević, Coordinator for the "Drina-Sava" cross border region