

Improving competitiveness in Western Balkan rural cross-border regions – the innovative case of Area Based Development (ABD) approach

**JRC Macro-Regional Innovation Week
25th January, 2018 - Ispra, Italy**

Area Based Development (ABD) approach

- **Targets** defined geographical areas in **cross-border regions**, characterized by a set of common, complex development problems;
- **Facilitates sustainable growth** in small and socially cohesive rural areas in decline;
- Based on LEADER and CLLD principles, **enables** substantial **rural networking** experience among the stakeholders, and further extends in cross-border setting
- Initiated in 2012, today the ABD approach is being **implemented in seven WB 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 – Bjeshket e Nemuna”

(Albania, Kosovo* and Montenegro)

“Pcinja - Krajishte”

(Macedonia, Bulgaria and Serbia)

“Neretva - Krsh”

(Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)

*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

Tools and means

- ❖ **Strategic development programs** prepared by bottom-up approach – cross-border Stakeholder groups for networking and cooperation (SHG)
- ❖ **Technical support** – regional Project management units in each cross-border region (PMUs)
- ❖ **Regional dialogue platform** coordinating the discussions among the rural stakeholders, policy creators and academia in line with EU integration process, CAP and IPA mechanism (SWG)



Implementing:

- **Grant schemes** - income generation by improvement of production processes, technology and quality of products and services in “green” value chains (tourism, agriculture, etc)
- **People-to-People** (P2P) ties on promoting socio-cultural and economic priorities of local communities
- **Knowledge transfer and capacity building** (working together in short agri/food and tourism value chains/partnerships/clusters)



SWG

ABD GRANT SCHEME funded by EU

GRANT SCHEME

In the cross-border regions "Drina - Tara" and "Drina - Sava"

143.223,79€ 55%

Contributed by the European Union

259.386,3€

Total investment of all 9 projects

116.162,51€ 45%

Contributed by the beneficiaries

4

Tourism facilities are reconstructed

3

New products expected as a result from the investment

Expected

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENTS

in the upcoming years due to the investments

17

People additionally engaged as seasonal workforce due to the investment

28

Partners

7

New products launched

9

Cross-border partnership projects granted

7

Businesses have improved and modernized their production processes introducing new technology

6

Additional employment as a result of the investments

6

Projects have improved the touristic products and services in the regions

4

Innovative services and products

ABD GRANT SCHEME funded by GIZ



Investment



513.348,67

total investment (EUR)

Grants



334.718,50

total SWG - GiZ grant (EUR)

Revenue



2.098.559,35

total expected revenue (EUR)

Employment



37

37 new employments

Innovativeness of the ABD approach

- Multi-country LAGs
- Strategic development programs based on area (cross-border)
- Management of natural resources based on area (cross-border)
- Cross-border partnerships as Grant Scheme eligibility criteria
- Area-based responsibility and ownership (cross-border)