

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

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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)





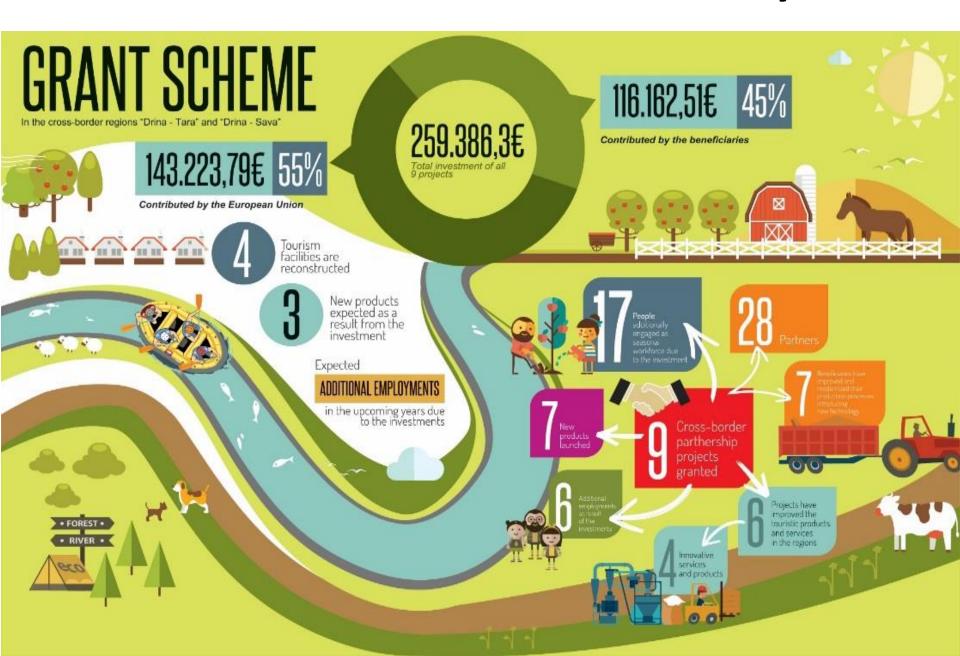


Implementing:

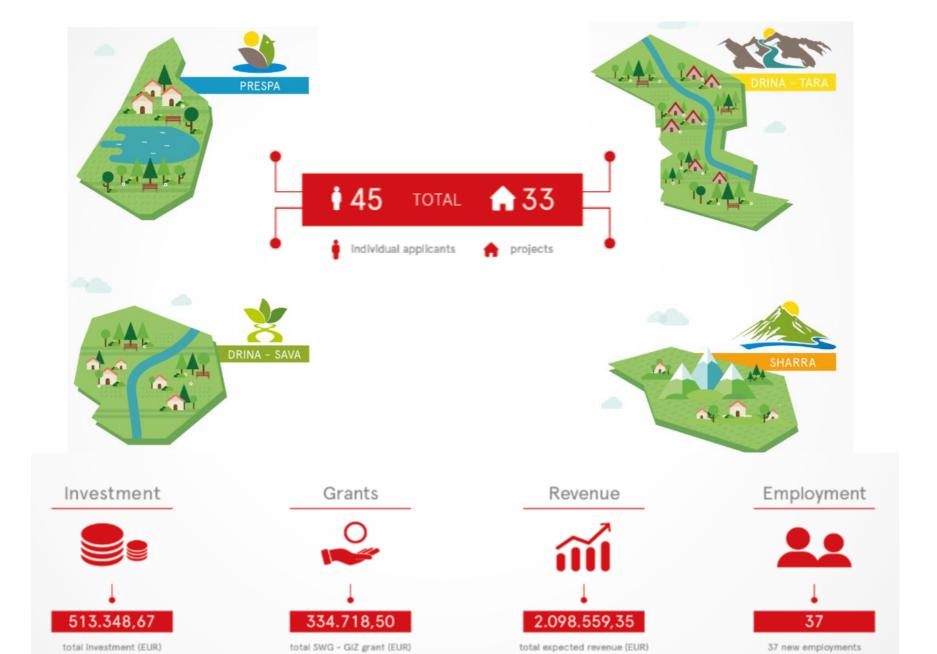
- Grant schemes income generation by improvement of production processes, technology and quality of products and services in "green" value chains (tourism, agriculture, etc)
- People-to-People (P2P) ties on promoting sociocultural and economic priorities of local communities
- Knowledge transfer and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



ABD GRANT SCHEME funded by EU



ABD GRANT SCHEME funded by GIZ





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)