



**“Experiences in establishment of international
network-
Integrated approach to the economic
development of the cross-border regions of the
Western Balkans”**

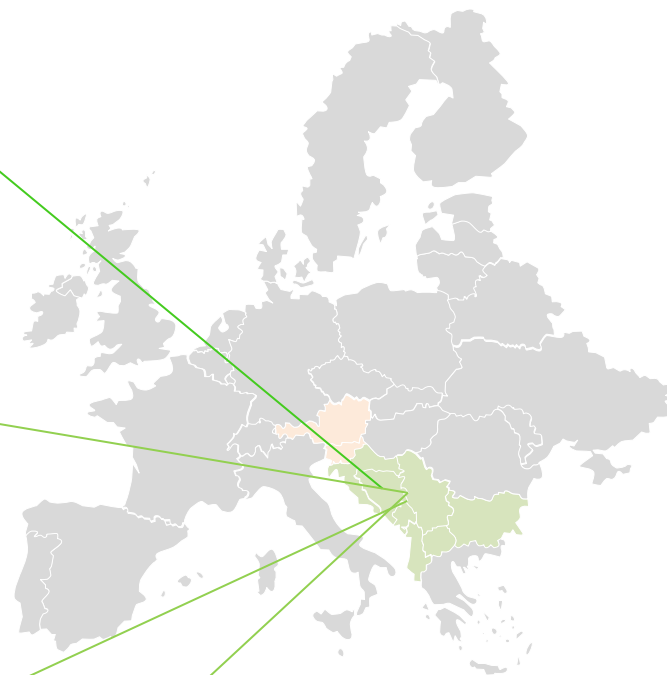
**Irena Dzimrevska
Head of Operations
SWG Head Office/ Secretariat**

The “**SWG**” stands for
**Regional Rural
Development Standing
Working Group in South
Eastern Europe.**

It is an **International
Intergovernmental
Organization**, consisted of
governmental institutions
responsible for agriculture and
rural development in
respective countries and
territories of Southeastern
Europe.

Its managing and coordinative
body is the SWG Head
Office/Secretariat, based in
Skopje, Macedonia.

www.seerural.org



Motivation

- Re-establishment of “wrecked” ties among professionals, experts from Ministries of Agriculture from ex-Yugoslav countries (Western Balkan countries)
- Exchange of information and experiences related to agriculture and rural development in the EU approximation process
- Joint actions in cross-border areas



Motivation

SWG has been established:

to work on rural development on
sustainable principles through:

networking and permanent cooperation
between all stakeholders of rural development
in the region

SWG
RRD

History

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) has been established based on the Leipzig Agenda Document 2004, during the Agricultural Policy Forum 2005 entitled “Rural Development – Opportunities for Cooperation in the SEE” in Macedonia & Serbia – 2nd and 3rd, June 2005.



SWG RRD

Vision

Innovative and sustainable agriculture and rural development through cohesive regional co-operation for improvement of rural livelihoods in the SEE countries

Mission

To increase horizontal collaboration among SEE countries.
Coordinating regional initiatives.
Support the process of social and economic development of rural areas in South Eastern Europe



SWG Member Institutions

- Ministry of Agri-culture, Rural Development and Water Management, **Albania**
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the *Republic of Srpska*, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food, **Bulgaria**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, **Macedonia**
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, **Montenegro**
- Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection, **Serbia**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **Kosovo***



Kosovo "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."*

SWG Observer Institutions

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, **Austria** 
- Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, **Germany** 
- Ministry of Rural Development, **Hungary** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, **Slovenia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, **Croatia** 
- Provincial Secretariat of Agriculture Water Management and Forestry, *Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, **Serbia** 
- Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, **Italy** 

Stakeholder rural club

- Balkan Rural Development Network



- South-East Organic Network



- Balkan Agriculture Advisory Services Network

SWGD
RRD

Our partners/supporters



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



CIHEAM
IAM BARI



What is Area Based Development (ABD) ?

The Area Based Development (ABD) is considered to be an innovative approach enabling breakthrough in sustainable growth

Main characteristics of the ABD

- area-specific (versus country)
- integrated (across sectors)
- inclusive (communities)
- participatory (bottom-up)
- flexible (responsive to changes)



ABD in the Western Balkan countries

Rural areas in the Western Balkans are characterized by great heterogeneity between the countries and within each single country.

The most prominent common characteristics of Western Balkan rural areas are:

1. Migration, depopulation;
2. Bad infrastructure;
3. Under-valorized territorial capital especially the local heritage;
4. Variety and plenty of natural resources and their favorable ratio according to population density;
5. High importance of agriculture in the structure of rural economy;
6. Presence of dual, farm structure;
7. Low level of fundamental services (health, education, social etc.)
8. Low level of business/ economic activities.





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)

0

SWGD SRD



SHARA

CROSS-BORDER STACKHOLDER GROUP



PRESPA

CROSS-BORDER STACKHOLDER GROUP



DRINA-SAVA

CROSS-BORDER STACKHOLDER GROUP



DRINA-TARA

CROSS-BORDER STACKHOLDER GROUP



ABDA Process

Baseline Analysis

Strategic Planning

Programming

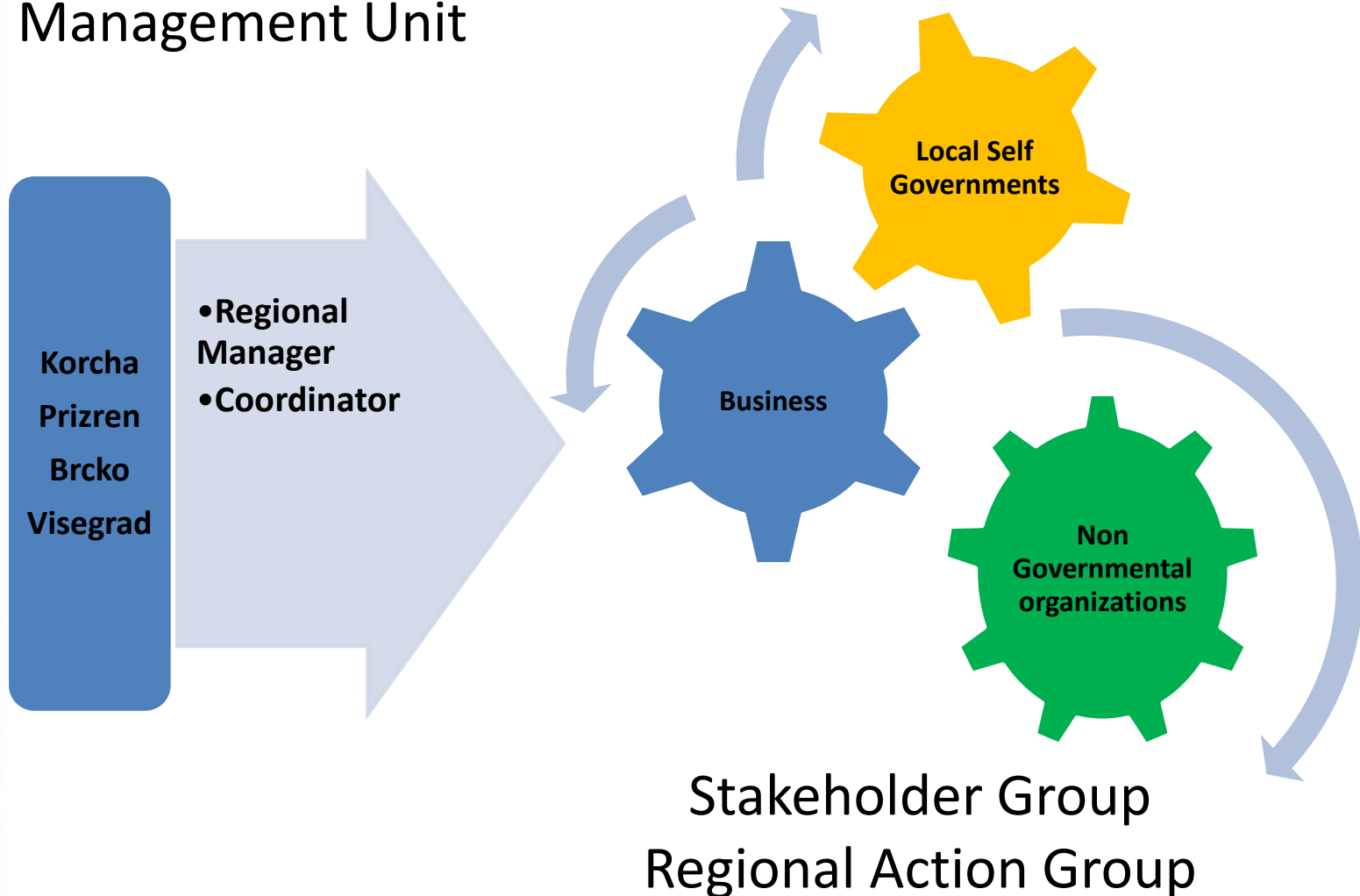
Implementation

Based on
defined
development
priorities

Without special
budget allocations
for ABDA
Programmes

Structures in the regions

Secretariat
Management Unit



ABDA – LEADER-CLLD

- Focuses on specific cross-border area
- Is regionally led by Stakeholder Group i.e. Regional Action Group
- Include integrated multi-sectoral approach based on Strategies for economic development of the respective region and respective Programme
- Consider needs of the region and development potential including networking, cross-border cooperation principles





Integrated economic development

Short value chains



Integrated economic development

Grant scheme-successes

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

Beneficiaries have improved and modernized their production processes introducing new technology

6

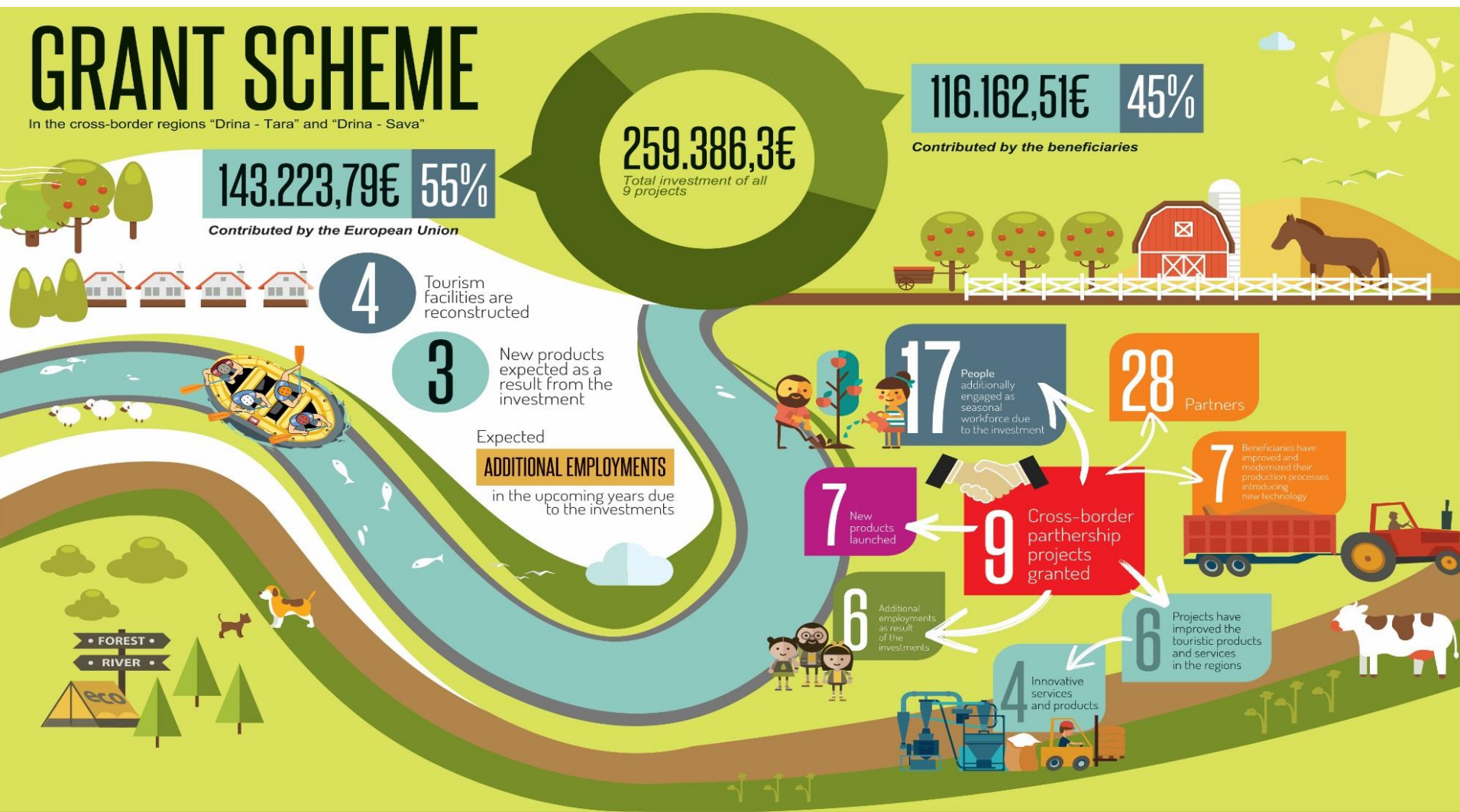
Additional employments as result of the investments

6

Projects have improved the touristic products and services in the regions

4

Innovative services and products



Current phase

- Facilitation of the work of SHG
- Managing activities in the regions (e.g. promotional activities such as people-to-people actions)
- Publicity related to existing Calls for proposals
- Facilitation of the process of preparation of project proposals for different Calls with special emphasis on CBC Calls
- Continuation of activities on creation of partnerships and cooperation within short-value chains
- Assessment of situation and development potentials of “Pcinja”, “Neretva” and “Prokletije”

2015-2017



Long path towards achievement of the development goals of the regions is ahead!