

LSG Conclusions Report

Partner concerned:	<i>Asociación Ibérica de Municipios Ribereños del Duero</i>
Policy Instrument concerned:	<i>ERDF Regional Operational Programme Castilla – León</i>
Date of the meeting:	<i>Online Meet 28.07.2021</i>

This report should be sent to all partners

LSG Meeting General Information

A. Participants

Name	Institution/profile
Jesús Rivas Rojo	<i>Asociación Ibérica de Municipios Ribereños del Duero (AIMRD)</i>
Ana Rodriguez	<i>Asociación Ibérica de Municipios Ribereños del Duero (AIMRD)</i>
António Sanfins	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee AIMRD representative</i>
Liliana de Sousa	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee AIMRD representative</i>
Rosa Silva	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee AIMRD representative</i>
Ángel Jesús González	<i>Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero (CHD)</i>
Clemente Recio	<i>Universidad de Salamanca (USAL)</i>
Edna Cabecinha	<i>Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD)</i>
Miguel Broto	<i>Univesidad de Valladolid (UVa)</i>
Pedro Huerta Hurtado	<i>Universidad de Salamanca (USAL)</i>
Paulo Noronha	<i>Comunidade Intermunicipal do Douro (CIM Douro)</i>
Simone Varandas	<i>Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD)</i>
Vitorino José	<i>Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (APA)</i>

B. Agenda

- Brief contextualization of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project (objectives, phases and main deliverables of the project; role of the Technical Committee; and role of the Local Stakeholders Group);
- Status of the project (Joint Analytical Report - main results; status of activities - study visits, good practices, seminars and action plan);
- Next steps - next semester activities (study visit to Spain; and 2nd Knowledge Transfer Seminar);
- Collection of inputs from the Local Stakeholders Group (LSG).

C. Duration

Start: 11h00 (CEST)
End: 13h10 (CEST)

LSG Meeting Conclusions

A. Summary of the meeting

Executive summary of the meeting minutes

The session was opened by Jesús Rivas Rojo, AIMRD General Secretary, who began by thanking the participants for their presence and giving a brief explanation of what the session will be about, then passing the floor to GeoAtributo, as the representative of AIMRD in the project's Technical Committee.

GeoAtributo began the technical presentation with a brief contextualization of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project, explaining its objectives, phases and main results. It was explained that the partnership is composed of seven partner countries, namely Spain, Greece, Romania, Sweden, France, Lithuania and Portugal, and that the overall objective of the project is to exchange experiences and good practices in the field of water systems efficiency, to adapt these good practices and apply the lessons learned to the reality of each partner by developing individual action plans and to promote their implementation through the partners' policy instruments.

Continuing on, it was explained that the project is divided into two distinct phases, namely: Phase 1 involves an inter-regional learning component, exchange of experiences and good practices, which will result in the Joint Analytical Report and the Action Plan to be implemented in each of the partner regions; and Phase 2 consists in the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan approved in Phase 1.

Regarding the Technical Committee of the Project (TC), it was explained that it is composed of representatives of all partners (both staff and external experts) and its main responsibilities are to develop the Joint Analytical Report, to support the organization of events and actions to exchange experiences, to advise the partnership from a technical point of view and to develop the action plans of each partner.

Finalizing the discussion of agenda item 1, the role of the Local Stakeholder Group (LSG) in the project was elucidated. In the first phase of the project, the LSG will share experiences, ideas, know-how and good practices in the context of the project, resulting in solutions that can contribute to improving the regional development strategy for water management; understand the needs, inputs and expectations of each stakeholder regarding the definition and prioritization of actions and measures to be included in the Action Plan; monitor the implementation of the project (participate in technical meetings or events); and use lessons learned from other countries (project partners) and other public authorities. In the second phase, the LSG will support and collaborate in the implementation and monitoring processes of the Action Plan, as key actors in the territory.

Proceeding, it was explained that the Joint Analytical Report is one of the main outputs of Phase 1 of the project and consists of a deliverable in which the current status of water management plans and policies in the partner regions is explained. The main conclusions associated to each chapter of this deliverable were briefly presented, and it was explained that it is currently completed and validated by the BIGDATA 4RIVERS Technical and Steering Committees, and it is published on the project website.

Moving on, it was referred that several events have taken place so far in the framework of the activities of exchange of experiences planned for Phase 1, namely, five study visits and an inter-regional seminar of knowledge transfer. Then, a brief explanation of the best practices presented by the different partners at the respective events and the main results of the first interregional seminar were given.

After the expository moment, the guidelines of what will be the Action Plan were approached. This Action Plan will be based on the adaptation / replication of good practices (methodologies, technologies and knowledge) identified in the exchange of experiences with partners and, if approved, will be applied in phase 2 of the project. Taking stock of its elaboration, it was explained that a specific structure / model is defined for the project, validated by the partnership, which includes all the mandatory fields identified by the Interreg Europe Programme.

Regarding the next activities of the project, it was communicated that the next event will be the study visit to Lithuania (in October 2021), followed by the study visit to Spain (in November 2021) that will take place in parallel with the 2nd Seminar on Knowledge Transfer, organized by the AIMRD. The (preliminary) thematic structure developed for the events to be held in Spain was presented, emphasizing the potential contribution of stakeholders as a key aspect, namely to support the identification and selection of good practices to present to partners during the study visit and to participate on the Seminar panels.

Then the period for the stakeholder's participation began. All of the present their opinions, comments, and inputs. Among all the interventions made are worth of mentioning the following:

CIM Douro:

- Underlines the importance of the knowledge of good practices related to water management, mainly because a possible synergy could be foreseen for the preparation of the regional policy instrument in the next programming period (Douro 2030);
- As a possible collaborating entity in the project, ADVID (Wine and Vine Cluster) is mentioned. This association, which aims to promote the sustainable development of Douro viticulture, in a context of cooperation and networking, could be an important collaborating agent in the presentation of good practices in the Douro region, especially in viticulture;
- Another entity with potential for collaboration was suggested, namely, Symington. This entity, which has several community projects, could present possible good practices in the Douro demarcated region;
- Regarding the good practices presented so far under the project, it was questioned whether any refer to navigability and its effect on the quality of water and rivers, as it could have potential for replicability in the Douro region, with the receptiveness of companies that work in the sector for new sustainable solutions.

UTAD:

- Mentions the collaboration in a European project affecting the Paiva river basin, in which a methodology is being developed to monitor water quality (eutrophication and pollution) and water quantity (shortages in summer and floods in winter). At the same time, models were developed to simulate various climate scenarios and their expected impacts. An integrated modelling platform was also developed as part of this project to simulate various territory management scenarios, which helps to define priority areas for intervention and decision-making;
- Also, points Symington as a possible entity to collaborate in BIGDATA 4RIVERS, as they have projects linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically in the agri-food sector;

- Refers the implementation of a project already concluded within the framework of the Rede Douro Vivo, which consists in the inventory of barriers in the Douro River, presenting the results in terms of biodiversity (hotspots) and the prioritization of the barriers to be eliminated. Since there are already results of the project and of the different aspects studied, this can be a good practice to present.

USAL:

- Refers the work carried out by the University of Salamanca in the study of groundwater and its chemical and isotopic analysis. Was asked if this could be studied as part of the Action Plan, with the development of a database in this area, that is, if there would be financial viability to impute.

APA:

- Explains that several good practices have already been presented within the scope of BD4R, as a result of the work carried out to date with the Portuguese partner (CIM Alto Minho), and that these are already included in the Joint Analytical Report;
- Refers the fact that, at this moment, since there are no more good practices to be evidenced by them, it is to accompany the development of the project.

CHDuero:

- The Automatic Information System in real time of the Duero Hydrographic Confederation, O.A., stands out as a potential regional good practice to be presented within the scope of the project, reiterating its availability for presentation to partners in the next BIGDATA 4RIVERS events.

Finally, it was reinforced the importance and potential contribution of the stakeholders in the process of preparing the next events and the Action Plan, since they benefit from greater proximity and privileged knowledge of the territory, its priorities, specificities and challenges.

B. Recommendations of the LSG

Recommendations of the LSG for the partner

The LSG recognizes the relevance of the exchange of information about the good practices across the different regions.

Recommendations of the LSG about the good practices / site visits

No recommendations about the good practices / site were made.

C. Information Request

Request of additional information to the partnership/a particular partner

No request for additional information was made.