

LSG Conclusions Report

(template)

Partner concerned:	<i>LP – CIM ALTO MINHO</i>
Policy Instrument concerned:	<i>ALTO MINHO 2020</i>
Date of the meeting:	<i>Online Meet 28.01.2020</i>

This report should be sent to all partners

LSG Meeting General Information

A. Participants

Name	Institution/profile
Luísa Garcia	<i>LP Representative</i>
Alexandra Nogueira	<i>LP Representative</i>
António Sanfins	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee LP representative</i>
Liliana de Sousa	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee LP representative</i>
Rosa Silva	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee LP representative</i>
António Lisboa	<i>Águas do Alto Minho (AdAM)</i>
Carlos Antunes	<i>Aquamuseu do Rio Minho, Município de Vila Nova de Cerveira</i>
Ana Paula Xavier	<i>Associação de Desenvolvimento Rural Integrado do Vale do Minho (ADRIMINHO)</i>
Vitorino José	<i>Associação Portuguesa do Ambiente (APA)</i>
André Trindade	<i>Direção Geral da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural (DGADR)</i>
Patrick Fumega	<i>Direção Geral da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural (DGADR)</i>
Carla Inácio	<i>Direção Geral da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural (DGADR)</i>
Luís Brandão Coelho	<i>Direção Regional de Agricultura e Pescas do Norte (DRAPN)</i>
Ana Cristina Rodrigues	<i>Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo (IPVC)</i>
Maria da Luz Leitão	<i>Administração dos Portos do Douro, Leixões e Viana do Castelo (APDL)</i>
Pedro dos Santos Jorge	<i>Capitania do Porto de Caminha</i>
Cátia Gonçalves	<i>Município de Monção</i>
Luís Macedo	<i>Município de Arcos de Valdevez</i>

B. Agenda

- Contextualization and global status of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project;
- Status of the deliverable Joint Analytical Report (JAR);
- Results of the interregional learning and experience exchange activities that took place in Portugal and Sweden;
- Communication of next steps (next semester's activities);
- Collection of inputs from the Local Stakeholders Group.

C. Duration

Start: 10h00
End: 12h07

LSG Meeting Conclusions

A. Summary of the meeting

Executive summary of the meeting minutes

The session was opened by Luísa Garcia, who began with a brief contextualization and global presentation of the status of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project. The changes in the work schedule imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic were emphasized, particularly regarding the interregional learning activities (study visits), leading to the adoption of alternative solutions (virtual sessions) for the study visits to Portugal and Sweden.

Then the representative of CIM Alto Minho in the Technical Committee of the project presented the development of the Joint Analytical Report, highlighting that it is in the final stages of compilation and that good practices were identified by all partner regions. The main conclusions of each chapter of the report were briefly presented.

Continuing the meeting work's it was explained that the Interregional Knowledge Transfer Seminar in Portugal corresponds to the first of two such seminars (the second one will take place in Spain). The aim of this seminar was to improve regional knowledge and capacities for the implementation of smart water management in partner territories. The structure of the Seminar and the main conclusions for each of its thematic panels were presented.

The approach to the study visits to Portugal and Sweden followed. It was explained that in the study visit to Portugal two Portuguese good practices were presented:

- SI.ADD: Information and decision support system for the management of water resources in the Northern region of Portugal;

- NOR.WATER: Emerging pollutants in the waters of Galicia and Northern Portugal (new risk management tools).

Regarding the study visit to Sweden, a brief description was made of the two good practices presented:

- Local Action Plan: River Tinnerbacken - A holistic approach for city development and measures for reaching EQS;
- Pharmaceutical removal at full scale: Evaluation and experiences of full-scale ozonation followed by MBBR post-treatment and comparison with previous pilot tests.

The next steps of BIGDATA 4RIVERS were also explained, namely:

- Completion / validation of the Joint Analytical Report;
- Definition of the structure of the Action Plans to be developed by each partner;
- Consideration of regional priorities and potential responses found in other regions;
- Initiation of the Alto Minho Action Plan.

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:

IPVC

- Emphasizes the relevance of the work developed by the partners as an added value in terms of learning, enabling the identification of common challenges, the exchange of experiences in solving them, and the adaptation of practices to specific contexts;
- Highlights the emerging pollutants issue as a challenge that requires a concerted response;
- Refers the relevance of local action plans (good practice presented by the Swedish partner), constituting solutions that can be replicated or adapted to the national (Portuguese) context;
- Highlights the potential role of SI.ADD, whose information could help in identifying critical sites from the point of view of ecological status or pressures on water resources, which could be the target of local action plans.

APA

- Highlights the interest of the good practices presented by the Swedish partner, in particular the good practice related to the removal in WWTPs of contaminants of pharmaceutical origin, taking into account that Member States are currently discussing and working on this topic;
- It safeguards that in the scope of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) measures are foreseen for the improvement of the state of water bodies (national, regional or local scope). It adds that it is legally foreseen the possibility of developing "Specific Water Management Plans", with a possible more restricted territorial incidence (e.g. sub-basin, water body or group of water bodies). This type of plans, more operational, are similar to the good practice of the Swedish partner. However, despite being legally foreseen, they have not been applied in the Portuguese territory (and may be an opportunity to be explored in the future);
- Foresees that the RBMPs of the new planning cycle will be put out for public consultation in February/March 2021.

AdAM

- Highlights one of the good practices selected by CIM Alto Minho - NOR-WATER project - mentioning that will try to get to know it better.

APDL

- Highlights the interest of sharing the project's learning and experiences with the group of stakeholders, allowing them to learn about new techniques and technologies implemented in other countries and to transfer this knowledge to the entities' daily activities.

DRAPN

- Highlights the importance of the project for new practices to perpetuate the quality of water bodies, specifically regarding the emerging pollutants;
- Considers necessary an evolution of the type of treatment that is done in the WWTPs, namely taking into account the purpose of removal of emerging pollutants;
- Highlights the contribution of the planning policy in Portugal, which currently implies a principle of containment of urban areas and the condition that they be provided with infrastructure (including water supply and treatment), to the mitigation of the problem related to the coverage of small urban centers.

DGADR

- Reinforces the added value of exchanging experiences and learning with other regions / countries, since it allows the adaptation and evolution of existing processes and practices, making efforts and investments more profitable.

Aquamuseu do Rio Minho

- Points out that the adoption of good practices identified by other regions (partners) will not always imply very substantial changes, and that only minor contextual modifications may be necessary;
- Points out the relevance of discussing about the practical consequences of the action plan that will be developed for Alto Minho (guaranteed funding, involvement of the region's entities).

ADRIMINHO

- Highlights the importance of partnerships for the elaboration of an integrated strategy in the territory;
- It also mentions the importance of clarifying what the next steps are after the Action Plan has been drawn up and what the actual outcome will be.

Finally, the representative of CIM Alto Minho in the project's Technical Committee reinforced the importance of local stakeholders in the process of preparing 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 is unanimous in the relevance of sharing experiences between partners, since they allow the identification of practices / processes that can integrate practices in the portuguese context, as well as support the design of the action plan for the second phase of the project.

The LSG equally recognizes the relevance and replicability potential of the good practices of the Swedish partner to the portuguese context.

The LSG suggested the use of the SI.ADD tool (portuguese good practice) and information from the RBMPs to identify critical sites from the point of view of quality or pressures on water bodies, for which local action plans can be developed and implemented.

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.