



“Preparation for implementation of Area Based Development in the Western Balkans”

Up-date on Progress

The project is financed by:



Overall Objective

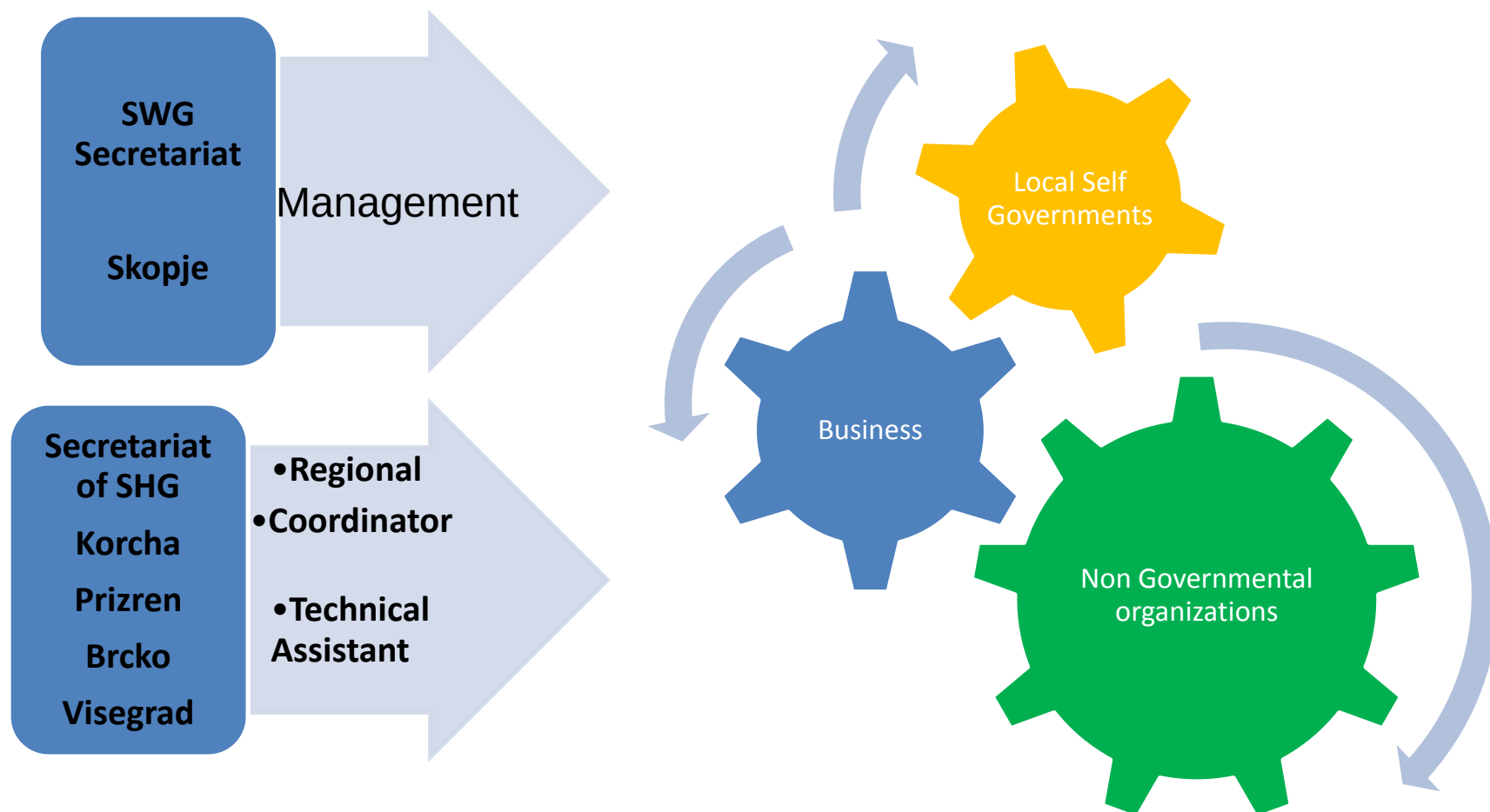
To facilitate **regional cooperation, political reconciliation and economic growth** in the Western Balkans through application of area based development approaches in selected rural cross-border areas.



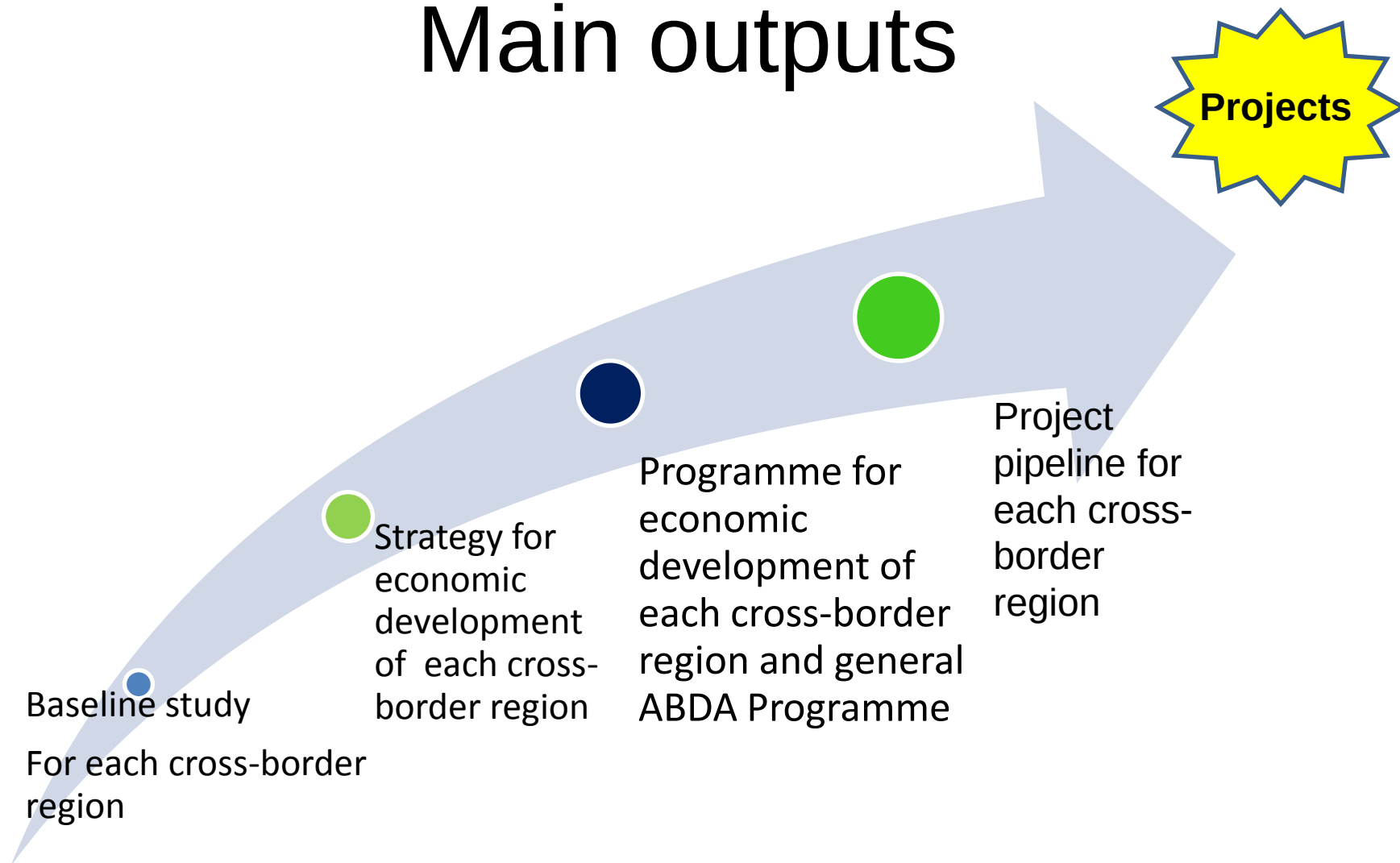
Aim of the project

The overall **objective** of the project: “Preparation for implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans” **is to further work on building capacities and structures within the SWG and the “Drina- Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, Prespa” and “Sharra” cross-border regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming programmes related to territorial and regional cooperation.**

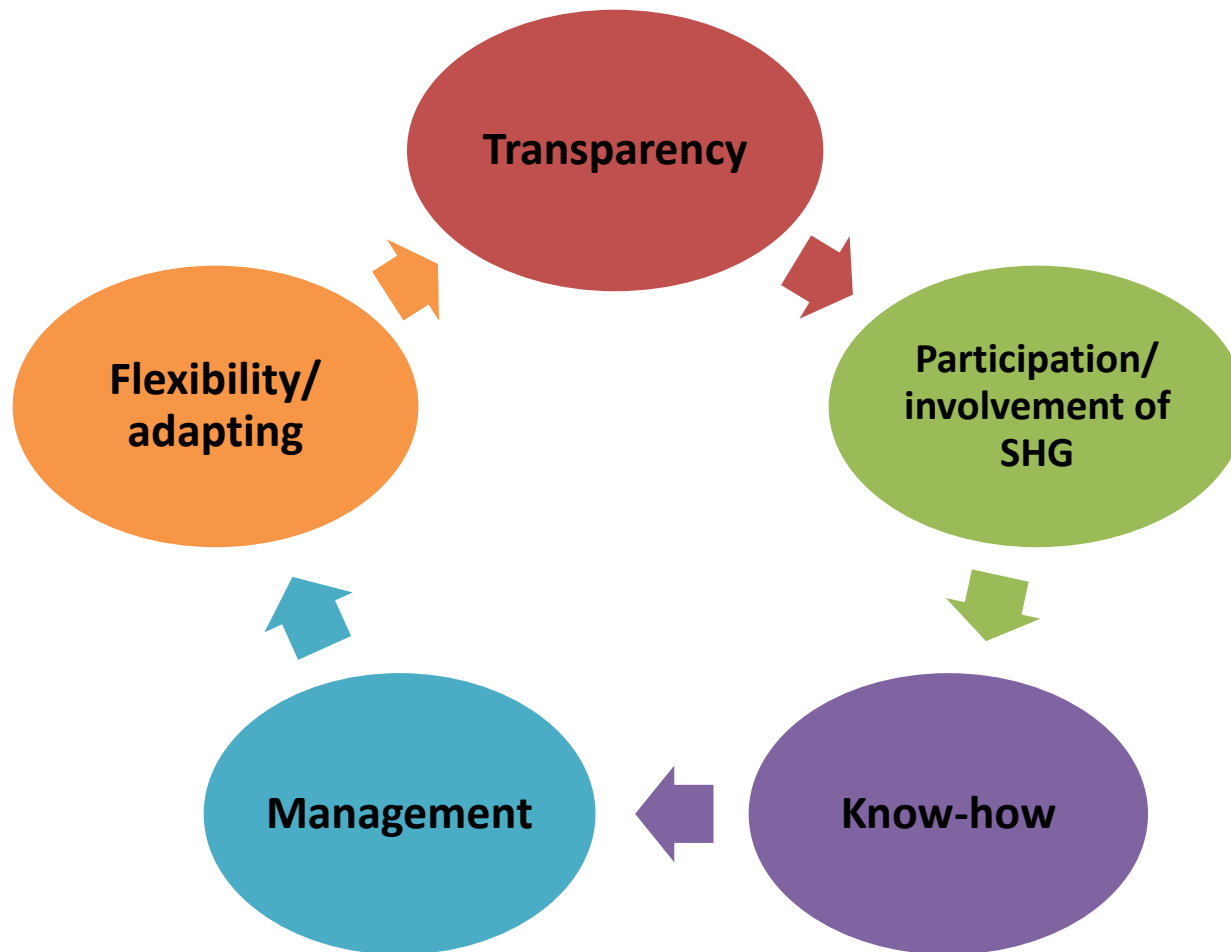
Stakeholder Group



Main outputs



Main principles



Activities

1. Establishment of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within the SWG HQ

1.1 Preparation of the Project Implementation Unit (SWG HQ) for four pillar assessment

- Contracted expert for review of SWG rules and procedures
- Up-dates on the SWG Operational Manuals for financial management, procurement and contracting – **should follow**

Activities

2. Establishment of Project Management Units (PMU)

2.1 Protocols for establishment and functioning of SWG country offices prepared – no official reply from the Governments

2.2 Process of establishment of PMU in the four regions

- “Prespa” - Korcha, Albania - completed;
- “Sharra” - Prizren, Kosovo* - completed;
- “Drina-Tara” – Visegrad, Bosnia and Herzegovina – in progress;
- “Drina-Sava” - Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina- in progress;

Activities

2. Establishment of Project Management Units (PMU)

2.3 Establishment of Regional SWG Office in Belgrade, Serbia for **coordination** of activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia

2.4 SWG Head Office/ Secretariat based in Skopje, Macedonia will serve as Regional Office for **coordination** of activities in Albania, Macedonia and 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."*

Activities

3. Preparation of project pipe-line

- 3.1 Preparation of project proposals 3/ region **on –going**
- 3.2 Pilot project on **integrated economic development**
will be implemented as of February 2014



Activities

4. Drafting of programming documents for Territorial and Cross-Border Cooperation

4.1 Up-date of existing Strategic Frameworks
(vision, SWOT, strategic goals, actions) – **completed**

4.2 Preparation of **programming documents** for economic development of the cross-border regions and general ABDA programme - **on going**



Activities

4. Preparation of programming documents for Territorial and Cross-Border Cooperation within IPA II

- 4.3 **Communication** with **NIPACs** and SWG delegates related to National IPA Strategies and inclusion of ABDA in the country documents
- 4.4 **Communication** with **EC** DG ENLARG and DG AGRI – related to new IPA – comments and recommendations provided on country and multi-country strategy papers
- 4.5 **Communication** with RCC – Strategy 2020 for the Western Balkan countries – comments and recommendations provided

Next steps

Next steps

- Finalization of process of **establishment of PMU**
- Finalization of **project proposals**
- Finalization of draft **Programming documents** for economic development through regional and territorial cooperation of “D-T”; “D-S”; “P”; “S” cross-border regions and Programming Document for implementation of Area Based Development Approach within the Regional and Territorial Cooperation in the framework of International Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2014-2020.

Next steps

- Presentation of project proposals to EC and other **donors for funding**
- **Discussions and negotiations** with EC related to funding of **ABDA programmes**
- SWG should be ready to **implement ABDA programmes latest by mid of 2015 (accreditation process completed)**

Continuation of the process in 2014...

with project on **continuation of preparations for implementation of ABDA in WB** and **pilot action on integrated economic development** with an aim:

- to continue with the process of building capacities and structures within the SWG and within selected regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming area-based development (ABD) programmes;
- to test in practice the ABD with implementation of integrated economic development approach in “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” cross-border regions.