



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Local Action Groups

Framework and setting

Geographic scale Twelve Local Action Groups (LAGs) are established in disadvantaged areas covering twelve municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosanska Krupa, Brcko District, Drvar, Jajce, Kljuc, Maglaj, Derventa, City of Mostar, Novi Grad, Samac, Vares and Velika Kladusa) geographically spread over two entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska) and one Brcko district. Currently eight LAGs are based in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, three are in the Republic of Srpska, and one is located in Brcko District. The population covered by LAGs is approximately 500,000.

Policy framework Local Action Groups (LAG) were initiated in the framework of the United Nations Development Programme SUTRA II Project (Sustainable Transfer to Return Related Authorities) in April 2005. LAGs are considered as new local partnerships bringing together local authorities, civil society organisations and the private business sector.

Partnerships at work

Rationale Importance of the return of refugees and displaced persons in BiH to their pre-war places of residence is of the highest importance for the development of sustainable peace in BiH and exercising of basic human rights. Return is considered as pre-condition for creating the necessary conditions to enable the design of future interventions that ensure the long-term social and economic sustainability of return and reintegration of refugees and DPs in BiH and contribute to human development of BiH communities. In this light, the Local Action Groups (LAG) aim to build and strengthen the capacity of community members of both the governmental and the civil sector to identify and manage community development needs in a sustainable way.

Objectives The main objectives of LAGs are to enhance the public and private partnerships in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to involve local partners in the decision making process at the municipal level and to enhance the capacity of NGOs and business sector by enabling them to become potential partners in the area of local development. This is in line with the overall objective of SUTRA project, which is to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Stabilisation and Association Process with the European Union.

Functions The functions of the Local Action Groups are:

- _ creating and maintaining co-operation of all stakeholders at the local level related to employment and social inclusion;
- _ improving the integration and co-ordination of activities leading to social inclusion and increasing the rate of employment;
- _ defining strategies of economic and social development for the respective territories;
- _ developing and implementing programmes/projects and securing their sustainability;
- _ establishing mechanisms of the project assessment and recommendation;
- _ evaluating the results of the projects and their impact on the strategy;
- _ assistance in project monitoring;
- _ providing information and publicity on small-scale projects in territories; and
- _ dissemination of best practices within the country and abroad.

Policy areas Local government reform policies and Local economic development policy

Policy tools/ Instruments The main activities include counselling services provided to target groups, the preparation of local development action plans and the conduction of capacity building activities to increase performance and efficiency of LAG functions. LAGs operate as the operational body for implementation of projects at the local/municipal level. LAGs develop sub-projects proposals for their respective municipalities (including reconstruction of houses and

technical infrastructure, local capacity building initiatives and definition of sustainability measures components), as well as co-ordinate all activities during implementation of the project.

- Timeframe** The LAGs started to operate in April 2005 and are financed for a period of approximately 20 months. The LAGs are the continuation of “local consortia”, which have been operative since 2003. During the follow-up phase of SUTRA, the name of local consortia was changed to Local Action Groups in order to emphasise their commitment to act in more systematic and organised manner and as a step towards defining these partnerships more in line with accepted terminology.
- Partners** The LAGs include Municipal authorities, civil society organisations (NGOs) and the local business sector.
- Contracts** LAGs are based on a partnership statement which is signed between the partners to ensure clear division of responsibilities. An institutionalisation process is on-going.
- Legal status** None
- Sources of Financing** LAGs are currently being financed by the United Nations Development Programme - SUTRA Project (Sustainable Transfer to Return Related Authorities), which is co-financed by the EC and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Results** LAGs have gained recognition from the local authorities who have accepted the notion of working with and consulting civil society organisations and the local business sector in their rendering of services to citizens; and all partners involved in LAGs have developed their capacities in identifying needs in the community, defining development priorities and in drafting project proposals.

Contacts

Partnership co-ordination on national / sub-regional level

Project co-ordinator in ARDA NW Bihac – Member of Local Action Group in Velika Kladusa Municipality, Ermina Grozdanic, e-mail: ermina.grozdanic@ardanw.org

Partnership co-ordinators on regional / local level

Bosanska Krupa Municipality: Omer Sulejmanovic,
e-mail: LAG.BosanskaKrupa@gmail.com

Brcko District: Milica Kunjadic, e-mail: LAG.Brcko@gmail.com

Drvar Municipality: Nebojsa Jovicic, e-mail: LAG.Drvar@gmail.com

Jajce Municipality: Enver Sabic, e-mail: LAG.Jajce@gmail.com

Kljuc Municipality: Senad Zecevic, e-mail: LAG.Kljuc@gmail.com

Maglaj Municipality: Edvin Mehinagic, e-mail: LAG.Maglaj@gmail.com

Derventa Municipality: Cedomir Coric, e-mail: LAG.Derventa@gmail.com

City of Mostar: Lejla Deronja-Suljic, e-mail: LAG.Mostar@gmail.com

Novi Grad Municipality: Branislav Dmitrasinovic, LAG.Novi@gmail.com

Samac Municipality: Ratko Mihajlovic, e-mail: LAG.Samac@gmail.com

Vares Municipality: Rusmir Berberovic, e-mail: LAG.Vares@gmail.com

Velika Kladusa Municipality: Kenan Keserovic, e-mail: LAG.VelikaKladusa@gmail.com