

LSG Conclusions Report

(2nd Local Stakeholders Meeting)

Partner concerned:	<i>LP – CIM ALTO MINHO</i>
Policy Instrument concerned:	<i>ALTO MINHO 2020</i>
Date of the meeting:	<i>Online Meet 22.07.2020</i>

This report should be sent to all partners

LSG Meeting General Information

A. Participants

Name	Institution/profile
<i>Bruno Caldas</i>	<i>LP representative</i>
<i>Luísa Garcia</i>	<i>LP representative</i>
<i>André Trindade</i>	<i>Direção Geral da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural (DGADR) / General - Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development</i>
<i>Patrick Fumega</i>	<i>Direção Geral da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural (DGADR) / General - Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development</i>
<i>Luís Brandão Coelho</i>	<i>Direção Regional de Agricultura e Pescas do Norte (DRAPN) / Northern Agriculture and Fisheries Regional Directorate</i>
<i>António Lisboa</i>	<i>Águas do Alto Minho (AdAM)</i>
<i>António Torres</i>	<i>Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Transfronteiriço Rio Minho (AECT Rio Minho) / European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Rio Minho</i>
<i>Carlos Antunes</i>	<i>Aquamuseu do Rio Minho, Município de Vila Nova de Cerveira / Rio Minho Aquamuseum, Vila Nova de Cerveira Municipality</i>
<i>Andreia Silva</i>	<i>Município de Caminha / Caminha Municipality</i>
<i>Gonçalo Rodrigues</i>	<i>Município de Ponte de Lima / Ponte de Lima Municipality</i>
<i>Ricardo Carvalhido</i>	<i>Município de Viana do Castelo / Viana do Castelo Municipality</i>
<i>Ana Cristina Rodrigues</i>	<i>Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo (IPVC) / Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo</i>
<i>Liliana Sousa</i>	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee LP representative</i>
<i>António Sanfins</i>	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee LP representative</i>
<i>Susana Queirós</i>	<i>GeoAtributo, Lda. – Technical Committee LP representative</i>
<i>Ana Luísa Ladeiras</i>	<i>Around Europe Advisors, Lda. – Project Technical Assistance</i>

B. Agenda

- *Local Stakeholders Group (LSG) members presentation;*
- *Presentation of the status of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project;*
- *Joint Analytical Report (JAR) status presentation;*
- *Presentation of the good practices shared by the project partners;*
- *Collection of contributions from the LSG members;*
- *Communication of the next steps (activities for the next semester).*

C. Duration

Start: 10h16

End: 11h35

LSG Meeting Conclusions

A. Summary of the meeting

Executive summary of the meeting minutes

The meeting was initiated by Bruno Caldas, who made a brief presentation of everyone present which was followed by Luísa Garcia with the framework of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project. Luísa presented the overall project, its development state and emphasized the changes in the work schedule imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic and restrictions resulting therefrom, particularly at the level of inter-regional learning (study trips).

In sequence, the expert, who is part of the project's technical committee, proceeded with the presentation of the development of the Joint Analytical Report, one of the main products of phase 1 of the project. The main contributions expected by stakeholders to achieve that document were highlighted. A list of the best practices that were shared by the rest partners was put into discussion in order to checking if these are in line with the expectations of the Alto Minho region.

CIM Alto Minho highlighted the importance of sharing contributions by the LSG, in the sense that the results meet the main needs and translate into real added value for the territory. Additionally, the expert explained the need to assess whether the good practices identified respond to priorities of Alto Minho or whether it will be necessary to redefine priorities.

An active participation moment took place by the stakeholders in the meeting, to present their opinions, comments and contributions. Among the interventions of the participants, the following stand out:

Rio Minho Aquamuseum, Vila Nova de Cerveira Municipality:

- Local challenges: pointed out the need to monitor estuarine waters and reinforce direct and effective monitoring of the quality of water courses that cross the territory, as well as problems in wastewater treatment.
- Synergies: identified a potential synergy with the NOR-WATER project (Pollutants emerging in Águas da Galiza - Northern Portugal: new tools for risk management), in which the Viana do Castelo Municipality and the Vila Nova de Cerveira Municipality are partners.
- Other contributions: emphasized the relevance of the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) participation in the project, as a national water authority.

IPVC:

- Difficulties: a difficulty related to the dispersion of good practices was pointed out. It was proposed to identify “significant water management issues” for Alto Minho, in order to find synergies among stakeholders to redefine priorities and identify good practices.
- They would like to have more information about: good practices related to the application of NBS (Nature Based Solutions) for the improvement of water quality and or good practices related to the reuse of treated wastewater in agricultural irrigation and in the irrigation of green spaces.

DRAPN:

- Topics of interest: identification of current and prospective water needs in the short / medium term. The problem of waterproofing soils with serious effects on aquifer recharge and the need to rethink the use of groundwater. The monitoring of the state of the traditional irrigation based on the survey of recent investments (with the sharing of information by the municipalities) and the creation of a network for monitoring the landscape and the state of the landscape in relation to traditional mountain irrigation. The problem of intensification of irrigation in recent years, without its proper maintenance and conservation, resulting in soil loss.
- Regional good practice: DRAPN has developed a manual of good agricultural practices with a view to protecting water and combating pollution. On the theme of traditional irrigation, the creation of a GIS by DRAPN was announced, available soon, with a survey of interventions since 1980.

AECT Rio Minho:

- Topics of interest: cross-border governance in water resources management, in ecological and biodiversity monitoring (upstream) and in the integration of new technologies.

AdAM:

- Synergies: potential for synergy with projects developed or under development by AdAM, namely in the following themes: telemetry and sensing in monitoring water quality; risk management, pollutant focus analysis and bacteriological monitoring; recovery of old water sources for use in the irrigation of public spaces.

MAIN CHALLENGES / CONCLUSIONS:

- The need to reinforce and improve the cross-border management (governance);

- *The unsustainable irrigation linked to some agriculture practices and/or green spaces maintenance and the need of a good management of water resources;*
- *The management of water quality through technological services.*

The expert highlighted the importance (and obligation) of pursuing the objectives of the project application, namely share good practices with a strong component of information and communication technologies and lead to an improvement in regional water management policy.

Technical assistance takes the floor and added the obligation to exchange knowledge between partners, which justifies the visits to different territories, underlining the need to share difficulties and good practices by stakeholders in the Alto Minho territory.

CIM Alto Minho has shown willingness to receive stakeholders' contributions by email until the end of this month (July). The Leader partner also compromise to provide participants with supporting documents of the presentations made during the session.

Finally, CIM Alto Minho share the next steps of the project, namely the study visit to Alto Minho (virtual, as a result of the COVID-19-pandemic), on October 2020. Also, on November 2020, a Knowledge Transfer Seminar will take place, in the form of a technical webinar.

B. Recommendations of the LSG

Recommendations of the LSG for the partner

LSG proposed to identify "significant water management and river basis management issues" for Alto Minho, in order to find synergies among stakeholders to redefine priorities and identify good practices.

Recommendations of the LSG about the good practices/site visits

LSG members will receive the presentations made during the meeting by email and after a more detailed analysis of the information needed, they will send their comments, if they see fit.

C. Information Request

Request of additional information to the partnership/a particular partner

No request for additional information was made.