

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 09.07.2021</i>

This report should be sent to all partners

LSG Meeting General Information

A. Participants

Name	Institution/profile
Luísa Garcia	<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>
Ana Cristina Rodrigues	<i>Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo (IPVC)</i>
Ana Paula Xavier	<i>Associação de Desenvolvimento Rural Integrado do Vale do Minho (ADRMINHO)</i>
António Lisboa	<i>Águas do Alto Minho (AdAM)</i>
António Torres	<i>Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial do Rio Minho (AECT Rio Minho)</i>
Gilda Carvalho Neves	<i>Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte (CCDRN)</i>
Luís Brandão Coelho	<i>Direção Regional de Agricultura e Pescas do Norte (DRAPN)</i>

B. Agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brief contextualization of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project; ▪ Presentation of the main results of the deliverable Joint Analytical Report (JAR); ▪ State of play - study visits and good practices (Romania and France); ▪ Presentation of the guidelines for the Action Plan for Alto Minho; ▪ Communication of the next steps (activities for the next semester); ▪ Collection of inputs from the Local Stakeholders Group (LSG).
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C. Duration

Start: 10h00
End: 11h40

LSG Meeting Conclusions

A. Summary of the meeting

<p><i>Executive summary of the meeting minutes</i></p> <p>The session was opened by the representative of CIM Alto Minho in the project's Technical Committee, who began with a brief contextualization of the BIGDATA 4RIVERS project, by framing the Technical Committee of the Project (TC), explaining 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. In the fourth semester of the project, two study visits (virtual) were carried out: one in Romania and one in France.</p> <p>Regarding the study visit to Romania, a brief description was made of the four good practices presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATMAN - Information System for Integrated Water Management; • IoT solutions in cloud monitoring and control of wastewater treatment plants; • Innovation, research and technology transfer centre “nano for health & clean environment”; • Sensors2Net – wireless buoy monitoring system, with Artificial Intelligence aided data analysis. <p>Regarding the study visit to France, a brief description was made of the five good practices presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practices of the Loire-Bretagne Water Agency in collecting, sharing and promoting water quality data; • JUNON Project, creation of a digital research centre on the continental environment; • Covid-19 City watch; • Flood warning on the Orléans canal;

- Hub'eau: all water-related data in near real time.

After the expository moment, it was presented the guidelines of the Action Plan for the territory of Alto Minho CIM. 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 implemented in phase 2 of the project. A specific structure / template has been defined for the project, which includes the mandatory fields identified by the Interreg Europe Program.

The Action Plan to be outlined for the territory of CIM Alto Minho assumes as goals / assumptions its influence in its policy instrument (Alto Minho 2030); the synergy with the objectives of sustainable development; and the introduction of the principles of circular economy.

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 Spanish partner, the Iberian Association of Douro Riverside Municipalities (AIMRD).

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:

CCDRN

- As the first participation in a project meeting, the interest and potential contribution of the project to the improvement of policy instruments guiding action for water management was highlighted.

AECT Rio Minho

- Notes that all the good practices presented are interesting from the point of view of new technologies;
- Considers that water management is a complex issue, particularly with regard to international / cross-border water bodies management;
- Shows availability to collaborate and to know the methodology of the Swedish partner, once the Action Plan to be elaborated based on this practice can assume a methodology that can be relevant in the definition of some intervention program of the entity;
- Considers that governance is a fundamental factor to consider in the development of the Action Plan;
- Recalls the figure of the "*Basin Council*" that was in force in Portugal, as an advisory body for regional planning in the field of water use, referring to it as an inspiring model for the governance of transboundary water bodies.

DRAPN

- Recognizes governance as an important factor to be addressed in the Action Plan;
- Refers that the needs, potentialities and opportunities of CIM Alto Minho territory should be studied in depth when preparing the Action Plan;
- Suggests that the relevant issues surrounding water (use, strategic reserve and availability) should be studied in depth, so that the entities with responsibility in this area can make their interests known and raise the necessary funds to build a strategy that makes the territory more resilient and with a greater availability of water, ensuring on a multi-annual basis that this availability will not affect the quality of life of citizens and that the ecological quality of the territory is not jeopardized by sporadic phenomena.

IPVC

- Refers that although CIM Alto Minho does not have specific competences regarding water bodies, it has a fundamental role in the management of water resources and in bringing together key actors in this thematic area to share knowledge in this subject and also in the collection of information, considered important by its members in water management, and that can influence policies, defined at central level;
- Admits that the Action Plan assumes itself as a very important tool in order to put into practice some good practices presented that may be suitable to the territory;
- Agrees that the local action plans presented by the Swedish partner are a good option for the territory, so its adaptation should focus on specific areas, with measures adjusted to the reality and according to the pressures to which the water bodies are susceptible;
- It also considers interesting the proposal of the French partner (digital research centre), for the possibility of sharing data between partners and entities in the territory;
- Considering the current Portuguese context, mentions that it would be advantageous if the Action Plan could be aligned with the ecological transition and the digital transition, areas implicit in the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP);
- Another suggestion put forward is that technical training actions could be promoted for the implementation of water management solutions that may be needed, arguing that the Nature Based Solutions (NBS) could respond to many interventions needs that may be identified.

ADRMINHO

- Considers it fundamental to reflect and study water quality, being of utmost importance to value and protect the water resources through specific actions;
- Taking into account the Action Plan to be developed and implemented, considers it important to identify in operational terms how citizens and institutions can contribute to its success. In fact, it mentions the importance of communication and assumes a proximity role in order to be a driving force of information on the ground.

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 recognizes the relevance and replicability potential of the good practices of the Swedish partner to the Portuguese context.

The LSG also identifies the importance of an in-depth study of the territory's main issues so that the Action Plan can respond to them.

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. However, the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation of Rio Minho (AECT Rio Minho) expressed its interest and willingness to learn more about the good practice presented by the Swedish partner (possible to be transferred to the Alto Minho region).