INTERRIM NARRATIVE REPORT

SUPPORT TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN BELARUS
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4.1. Project Outreach Activities
### List of Acronyms Used in the Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAP</td>
<td>Annual Action Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABD</td>
<td>Area Based Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERI</td>
<td>SRI Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>International Technical Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPC</td>
<td>National Project Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>Project Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP</td>
<td>Social and Economic Development Program for the period 2011-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description

1.1. **Name of Coordinator of the grant contract:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1.2. **Name and title of the Contract person:** Sanaka Samarasinha, UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Belarus

1.3. **Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Action**
   - Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus
   - SRI Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus
   - Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev and Vitebsk Region Executive Committees
   - District administrations and self-governance bodies in the territory of these regions

1.4. **Title of the Action:** Support to Local Development in the Republic of Belarus

1.5. **Contract number:**
   - ENPI/2013/318-533
   - ENPI/2014/351-349

1.6. **Start date and end date of the reporting period:**
   - July 8, 2014 – July 7, 2015

1.7. **Target country(ies) or region(s):**
   - Belarus: Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions

1.8. **Final beneficiaries&/or target groups:**
   - Local authorities, civil society and communities of the Republic of Belarus
2. Assessment of Implementation of Action Activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

Support to Local Development in the Republic of Belarus Project (the Project) as a part of the EU funded Support to Regional and Local Development in Belarus Program (AAP 2011, the Program), was agreed and signed between UNDP and the EU in July 2013. In compliance with the Belarusian legislation requirements, the Project was passed for registration to the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus and formally registered on February 15, 2014.

In December 2014, the Project expanded its territorial coverage considerably from four originally planned to six regions. This expanded focus enables to disseminate the experience of applying the ABD approach at the local level on the entire territory of the Republic of Belarus.

In effect the implementation of the Action activities started in July 2014 since hiring Liudmila Sakalouskaya for the position of Project Manager. Over the reporting period, the Project has been fully staffed with 22 professionals, including seven employees in Minsk Office and 15 Regional Coordinators in Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions.

In the course of the past 12 months, six kick-off information roundtables at the regional level were held in the central cities gathering 487 participants. In addition, the Project presentations at numerous conferences and meetings have brought about 600 people to the roster of the information campaign audience.

As a result of the 24 training workshops on developing applications for the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives conducted throughout of Belarus, 709 local community members were trained in the application drafting methodology. The 1st Contest of Local Initiatives was announced with the deadline for applications submission on July 31, 2015.

Moreover, complementary project activities, including the sociological survey “My District” and development of 118 ABD Briefs, were initiated by the National Executing Entity and approved by the Project Steering Committee.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target Value</th>
<th>Level of Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1: Large-scale information and education campaign, 1st Contest of Local Initiatives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of kick-off roundtables</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of district representatives who took part in kick-off roundtables</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>487 (+600 participants of other conferences and meetings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of training workshops on preparation of applications</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of district representatives trained in the application drafting methodology</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>709 (+1197 trained by Regional Coordinators and other experts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of My District sociological survey respondents*</td>
<td>3540</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of ABD Briefs developed*</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of local project initiatives supported in the framework of the preliminary contest</td>
<td>about 79</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of districts selected for implementation of the Project</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 2: Strengthening of the capacity of local authorities and organizations in the field of ABD and project management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of workshops on key ABD challenges, project management and participatory planning</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of district representatives trained in key ABD challenges, project management and participatory planning</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of district representatives who studied EU experience in implementing ABD initiatives during study tours</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 3: Development of ABD passports with the involvement of stakeholders</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of ABD plans developed at the district and/or local level through implementation of participatory planning process</td>
<td>At least 30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4: Practical implementation of ABD initiatives, analysis and dissemination of accumulated experience</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of local project initiatives supported and implemented in the framework of the main Contest of Local Initiatives</td>
<td>at least 95</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Volume of attracted local financing for supporting the project initiatives</td>
<td>about 30%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of regional conferences on ABD Briefs development conducted*</td>
<td>6 (one in each regional city)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of participants of the regional conferences on ABD Briefs development*</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of publications on ABD Briefs development*</td>
<td>• 1 methodological recommendations on ABD Briefs development</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of actions on coordination and assessment of the project results</td>
<td>• 4 region conferences</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of publications for dissemination of the project experience and results</td>
<td>• 1 concluding roundtable</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 5: Effective Project Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of publications for dissemination of the project experience and results</td>
<td>• 1 compendium of methodological recommendations on good ABD practices in the</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 1 analytical note</td>
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</table>

* Complementary project activities
2.2. Results and Activities

Activity 1.1. Kick-off Roundtables

From November 19th, 2014 through April 24th, 2015 six kick-off information roundtables at the regional level were held in the central cities gathering 487 participants. The roundtables were aimed at informing regional and district authorities, as well as the general public (public organizations and not for profit associations, business associations, local residents and citizen action groups, etc.), of the goals and objectives of the Project and its main approaches, possibilities provided to project participants and requirements for potential participants.

Graph 1 illustrates the completion rates reached as a result of the information campaign. A total of 487 individuals participated in the kick-off roundtables, out of which 79 percent represented local authorities and government organizations, 12 percent - businesses, and nine percent - local NGOs.

![Kick-off Roundtables Participants](image)

Developed in Belarus. In addition, the issues on Sustainable Regional Development monitoring were touched by the specialists of the SRI Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus.

The second part of the kick-off roundtables agenda was mainly focused on the experience of UNDP, Belarusian NGOs, local authorities and other partners in the sphere of the Area Based Development and local initiatives development. The invited speakers, among whom were the Director of the International Foundation for Rural Development Serguei Tarasyuk, the former manager of the UNDP/EU Area-Based Development of the Chernobyl-Affected Areas project Andrei Piniguin, the Chairman of Lev Sapegua Fund Miroslav Kobasa, the Coordinator of the German Federal Government Program of Support to Belarus Alexander Peresypkin, shared their experience in building partnerships between local authorities, local NGOs and citizen’s initiative groups.

Moreover, the Project endeavored to disseminate the information to as many beneficiaries as possible. The Project was presented to over 600 participants at numerous conferences and meetings, including:

- Belarusian-German Seminar on Sustainable Development at the Local Level, German Federal Government Program of Support to Belarus;
- Belarusian-German Conference on Sustainable Development Strategy, German Federal Government Program of Support to Belarus;
- Conference on Agritourism-2014, Belarusian Association of Rural and Ecotourism Country Escape;
- Roundtable on raising co-funding for the projects in the area of energy-saving technologies and measures in educational buildings, EU/UNDP Project “Developing an Integrated Approach to a Stepped-Up Energy Saving Program”
- International Conference “Market of Belarus and Export Capacity of “Green Building Industry”, National Confederation of Entrepreneurship;
- Management and Involvement in Processes of Sustainable Development Conference within the Week of Sustainable Development – 2015, German Federal Government Program of Support to Belarus;
- Conference on Expanding Economic Opportunities in Rural Belarus, Belarusian NGO “New Eurasia Establishment”.

**Activity 1.2. Training workshops on preparing applications**

Over the period December 2014 through June 2015, a series of 24 training workshops at the district level (four workshops in each region) on preparing applications for the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives were organized.

In total, 709 district representatives were trained in the application drafting methodology, of which nearly 87 percent were the representatives of local authorities and government organizations. Seven percent of people trained represented businesses, and six percent - Belarusian NGOs (Graph 2).

**Graph 2**

In an effort to support the target audience by reinforcing their capacity to develop applications, experienced trainers Sergei Tarasyuk and Elena Tarasyuk from the International Foundation for Rural Development, Minsk, and Vitaliy Vorobey from the Vozrozhdeniye-Agro, Slavgorod, were invited to facilitate the training workshops and to share their experience in local initiatives development.

The first part of the training workshop agenda included hands-on study of specific stages and steps of preparing and planning local initiatives, including review of a challenging situation; analysis of local resources, existing development plans and potential partners; planning an initiative that would include all key elements (rationale, objectives, work plan, budget, etc.), mobilization of co-financing, and drafting an application.

The second part of the training workshop was aimed at providing participants with the detailed information on the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives, including Contest Regulation that lists key eligibility requirements for applicants, the minimum share of co-financing from local resources,
maximum amount of requested financing from the Project budget, application assessment criteria; thematic topics, and the application form.

The final workshop on developing applications for the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives was organized in the format of the Fair. Over 50 representatives of Chaussy, Krichev, Bykhov, Krasnopolie, Slavgorod, Klichev and Cherikov districts have come together to present the local initiatives, which they plan to submit to the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives. All Fair participants were divided into thematic groups where they presented and discussed their local initiatives. There were four thematic groups: economic initiatives, education and culture for sustainable development, social protection and inclusion, environmental security, resource and energy saving.

Experienced trainers – Serguei Tarasyuk and the Project Regional Coordinators - have approached each initiative individually, identifying gaps and outlining areas for improvements. As a result, more than 20 initiatives have been elaborated for submission to the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives.

Particular attention was paid to the relevance and novelty of the initiatives, which many participants had missed in their presentations, as well as partnerships, whereby an application can score extra points. Serguei Tarasyuk, Director of the International Foundation for Rural Development, encouraged the participants to more accurately reflect the reality and problems while preparing the initiatives and direct their efforts on the development of the existing local capacity.

In total, 163 local initiatives were discussed during training workshops. Graph 3 below shows the major concerns of the potential beneficiaries and their distribution among thematic topics. Out of them, 33 percent were focused on tourism development, 20 percent - on social aspects, 13 percent - on education issues, 11 percent - on sport and healthy lifestyle, 11 percent - support to entrepreneurship, eight percent - on housing and community matters, and four percent - on ecological challenges.

Graph 3

The Action’s implementation efforts have been strengthened by recently hired 15 Regional Coordinators who currently provide ad hoc information and advisory support to the potential applicants.

Over the past two months, Regional Coordinators visited 80 districts throughout Belarus to get acquainted with the local authorities and NGOs, train potential beneficiaries in preparing applications and assess the level of their interest in participating in the Project activities. As of July 2015, more than 1,197 individuals were trained in preparing applications for the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives by the Project Regional Coordinators.
Moreover, agreement with the consultants from the Dom Vzaimoponimaniya of the Office for a Democratic Belarus has been reached to provide consulting services on the local initiatives’ formulation and applications development at the request of potential beneficiaries. So far, over 19 workshops were conducted for more than 100 individuals representing local authorities and Belarusian NGOs interested in submitting their applications to the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives were trained by consultants of the Dom Vzaimoponimaniya.

Observations/Lessons Learned:

As it’s obvious from the roundtables’ and training workshops’ statistics, the level of the local authorities in the project activities’ participation is very high and totals on average 83% of all the participants of the events. This tendency can be explained by the fact that the Project provides a unique opportunity for the local authorities to participate in the international technical assistance project as one of the main beneficiaries.

However, based on the project staff assessment, the level of the local authorities’ and government organizations’ understanding of the nature of a development project and knowledge and skills in formulating initiatives are very low.

The training workshops should be conducted for a maximum 20-22 people at once and in two stages: 1) theoretical training on the specific stages and steps of preparing and planning local initiatives, and after a while 2) practical training on the assessment of the draft applications developed by potential beneficiaries.

Activity 1.3. Finalizing Results of the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives

As stated above, Regulation on the 1st Contest of Local Initiatives, application form, Rules and Procedures of the Selection Committee, Guidance on applications’ preparation and communication requirements were developed in cooperation with the National Executing Entity and National Project Coordinator. All documents were approved by the PSC meeting that was held on March 2015, and posted on the Project web site.

Currently applications for the First Contest of Local Initiatives are been collected. The applications are registered in a Special Journal.

In an effort to strengthen the Project results, two complementary project activities, including the sociological survey “My District” and the development of 118 ABD Briefs, have been proposed by UNDP and approved by the Project Steering Committee and National Executive Entity.

During the period of June - August 2015 My District sociological survey will be conducted in Belarus by the private consulting company Center of System-Related Business Technologies SATIO. The goal of My District survey is to identify and analyze the challenges, priorities and growth points for districts development based on the opinion of local communities and citizens.

My District survey will aim at identifying the development problems and facts, which caused the problems, at a district level; the competitive advantages and priorities for the development; growth points and points of sustainable development of local communities and territories; the degree of viability of cluster development according to the identified competitive advantages;
assessing potential for district development through identifying its advantages, internal and external risks for achieving district potential; the results and experience of partnership between citizens and local authorities; the state of cross-sector partnership between communities and citizens (businesses, NGO, educational institutions, medical, cultural and sport institutions, housing and utilities infrastructure institutions etc. and their most significant spheres of influence).

Over the next 5 months, 118 ABD Briefs will be developed by the Belarusian experts. The draft ABD Brief structure will consist of the following points: essential indicators and tendencies of district development (general characteristics of the territory, strengths and advantages of the district, weaknesses and challenges of the development), vision of the future district appearance, strategic goal, priorities and line of development, growth points, district contribution into implementation of regional priorities, and approaches to implementation of district ABD in partnership with the local community.

Currently, the Project Regional Coordinators visit districts to collect the information, which will be one of the parts of the ABD Briefs, including the state of cross-sector partnership between communities and citizens (businesses, NGO, educational institutions, medical, cultural and sport institutions, housing and utilities infrastructure institutions etc.) and their most significant spheres of influence.

**Risks:**

Due to the delay in starting the project implementation and complementary activities introduced, the Project will have to be extended to 2018.

**Activity 2.1. Workshops on capacity building in managing main area-based development problems, project management and participatory planning**

Realizing the limited knowledge of the project stakeholders and personnel and aiming at strengthening their capacity in managing main area-based development challenges at this initial stage, the Project initiated two workshops within the Week of Sustainable Development – 2015 organized by the German Federal Government Program of Support to Belarus in May 2015.

On May 15, 2015, the Project hosted a Management of Territories workshop held by Svyatoslav Murunov, a Russian expert in the applied urban studies field, social planning and territorial development. The event attracted over 75 participants representing international, government and non-for-profit organizations, businesses, media and informal communities. The major topics highlighted by the speaker were City as a System, Understanding of the Processes in the City, Formation of Communities and Action Groups, Work on the Development of the Surrounding area.

On May 22, 2015, the Project contributed to the Management and Involvement in Processes of Sustainable Development Conference by inviting an expert in the area-based development, Ludwig Holzbeck, Germany, to hold a workshop on German experience in coordinating the processes of sustainable development at the local level. The workshop has gathered 25 participants with particular interest in methods of working with local authorities within a paradigm of sustainable development. Holzbeck discussed challenges and opportunities that Germany faced on this way and provided valuable advice to his Belarusian colleagues.
Activity 2.2. Study tours to EU countries to study the experience of implementing ABD initiatives

The activity is planning for implementation in 2017.

Activity 2.3. Project website for local development issues

The Project website http://ld-inbelarus.by/ created in February 2015 is aimed at presenting the background information on the project, its events and activities, and posting educational materials on the participation in the 1-st Contest of Local Initiatives. It is focused on target audience engagement and transparency of application process.

Over the period of the past six months the website was visited by more than 4,000 people with a 50/50 ratio of new and returning visitors. The average duration of every visit (session) is more than 3 minutes. The educational materials (presentations and videos) on preparing applications for the 1st Contest of Local initiatives have been watched by more than 200 people each. The applicants actively use contact form posted on the website for submitting their applications in digital form and contacting project staff.

Activity 3.1. Support to efforts of local action group

The activity is planning for implementation during the period of 2016-2017.

Activity 3.2. Integration of local priorities in the District ABD Passport

The activity is planning for implementation during the period of 2016-2017.

Activity 4.1. Main Contest of Local Initiatives

The activity is planning for implementation in 2017.

Activity 4.2. Implementation of local initiatives

The activity is planning for implementation in 2017.

Activity 4.3. Studying the experience of participatory planning and implementation of ABD initiatives

The activity is planning for implementation in 2018.

Activity 4.4. Preparation of guidelines and training materials based on the results of Project activities and provision of recommendations to government and administrative authorities.

Part of the activity is planning for implementation in 2015 and in 2018.

Activity 5.1. Project registration, core staff recruitment, and inception
Over the reporting period, the Project has been fully staffed by 22 professional employees, including seven employees in Minsk Office and 15 Regional Coordinators in Brest, Gomel, Mogilev and Vitebsk regions. All four project regional offices were set up and equipped.

**Activity 5.2. Project monitoring and evaluation**

Project monitoring is an ongoing activity conducted in accordance with the established UNDP procedures. The monitoring process in use includes the following activities: collecting the baseline data for major indicators and measuring the performance against the baseline information; exchange of information between all parties involved in the project implementation; and recording the activities and events organized.

Over the past year, the following project monitoring activities were completed:

- Monitoring Plan, Risk and Lessons Learned Logs were activated in ATLAS;
- Project implementation report for FY2014 was submitted to and approved by the PSC;
- Project Semi-Annual report for the second half of 2014 was submitted to the Ministry of Economy of the republic of Belarus.

**Activity 5.3. Project management and activities of the Project Management Unit**

By the beginning of 2015, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been formed and in March 2015 two meetings of the PSC were held. The PSC members approved the following documents: Regulations on the Project Steering Committee, Regulation on the Procedure of the First Contest of Local Initiatives, Application Form, Rules and Procedures of the Selection Committee, and FY 2015 Project Annual Work Plan.

The Project Manager keeps the National Project Coordinator regularly updated on project activities and receives feedback from the National Executing Entity.

On May 16, 2015, a one-day training for the recently hired Project Regional Coordinators was held in Minsk. The participants were able to familiarize with the project log frame, ABD approaches used, 1st Contest of Local Initiatives, and were introduced to the UNDP’s Ethics, administrative and financial issues, requirements to the communication and visibility and to the Project Management software Bitrix24.

Given the complexity of the Project, including financial resources available, number of team members involved, number and size of deliverables and their complexity to be produced, and timeframes involved in delivery, a Project Management program Bitrix24 has been introduced. Bitrix24 is used for planning, coordination and monitoring the project work. It is particularly essential to coordinate the work of a big remote team. The architecture of the system enables users to create, assign and control tasks, share documents in the cloud, business-chat, and store and populate filterable databases and develop reports.
### 2.3. Revised logframe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE / ACTIVITY</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 1: LARGE-SCALE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, FIRST CONTEST OF LOCAL INITIATIVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1. <strong>Kick-off roundtables</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.1. Holding of kick-off roundtables at the regional level</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2. <strong>Training workshops on preparation of applications</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.1. Holding of a series of training workshops at the district level on preparation of applications for the first Contest of Local Initiatives for the interested local governance and self-governance bodies, organizations and citizens in Gomel, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Vitsebsk regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3. <strong>Finalization of results of the first Contest of Local Initiatives</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.1. Development of draft Regulations on the first Contest of Local Initiatives, Rules and Procedures on Contest Commission, Guidance on applications’ preparation and communication requirements and approval of these drafts by PSC.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.2. Announcement of the first Contest of Local Initiatives, compiling the main and back up lists of potential winners and their approval by PSC.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.3. Development of Terms of Reference (set of tender documents) for “My District” survey, holding of a tender, development of “My District” questionnaire, Reviewing of the questionnaire by National Executing Entity, UNDP and donor.*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.4. Holding of “My District” survey, data processing and survey analysis, Report submission.*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.5. Development of ABD briefs, Integration of “My District” survey analysis into ABD briefs. *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.6. Assessment of the winners’ capacity, training in UNDP’s procedures on analytical and financial reporting, signing of agreements with UNDP.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHENING OF THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ABD AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1. <strong>Workshops on capacity-building in tackling main area-based development problems, project management and participatory planning</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.1. Holding training workshops on area-based management, methodology and tools on indication of strategic priorities and growing points of sustainable development at the local level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2. <strong>Study tours to EU countries to study experience in the implementation of ABD initiatives</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. <strong>Project website for local development issues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1. Project website development and support services.</td>
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<td>2.3.2. Development of local initiatives mapping module and its connection to the Project website.</td>
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<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF ABD PASSPORTS WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS</strong></td>
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<td>3.1. <strong>Support to efforts of local action groups</strong></td>
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<td>3.2. <strong>Integration of local priorities in the District ABD Passport</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 4: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ABD INITIATIVES, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION OF ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE</strong></td>
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<td>4.1. <strong>Main Contest of Local Initiatives</strong></td>
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<td>4.2. <strong>Implementation of local initiatives</strong></td>
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<td>4.3. <strong>Studying the experience of participatory planning and implementation of ABD initiatives</strong></td>
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<td>4.3.1. Holding roundtables on the results of ABD Briefs development*</td>
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<td>4.4. <strong>Preparation of guidelines and training materials based on the results of Project activities and provision of recommendations to government and administrative authorities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 5: EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT</strong></td>
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<td>5.1. <strong>Project registration, core staff recruitment, and inception</strong></td>
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<td>5.1.1. Project management (Project staff, supplies and consumables). Participation in the events (seminars, conferences, roundtables) held by other projects with purpose to inform stakeholders about project implementation.</td>
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<td>5.2. <strong>Project monitoring and evaluation</strong></td>
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<td>5.2.1. Preparation of the Project Semi-Annual Reports the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus</td>
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<td>5.2.2. Preparation of the Project Annual Report due to the donor</td>
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<td><strong>5.3. Project management and activities of the Project Management Unit</strong></td>
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<td>5.3.1. Holding of PSC’s meetings</td>
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*Complementary activities
### 2.4. Updated Action Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE / ACTIVITY</th>
<th>2ND HALF-YEAR 2015</th>
<th>1ST HALF-YEAR 2016</th>
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<td>07 08 09 10 11 12</td>
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#### OBJECTIVE 1: LARGE-SCALE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, FIRST CONTEST OF LOCAL INITIATIVES

1.1. Kick-off roundtables

1.2. Training workshops on preparation of applications

1.3. Finalization of results of the first Contest of Local Initiatives
   - 1.3.2. Announcement of the first Contest of Local Initiatives, compiling the main and back up lists of potential winners and their approval by PSC.
   - 1.3.3. Preparation of the first Contest of Local Initiatives.
   - 1.3.4. Holding of "My District" survey, data processing and survey analysis. Report submission.
   - 1.3.5. Development of ABD briefs. Integration of "My District" survey analysis into ABD briefs.
   - 1.3.6. Assessment of the winners' capacity, training in UNDP's procedures on analytical and financial reporting, signing of agreements with UNDP.
   - 1.3.7. Implementation of the local initiatives.

#### OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHENING OF THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ABD AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

2.1. Workshops on capacity building in tackling main area-based development problems, project management and participatory planning

2.2. Study tours to EU countries to study experience in the implementation of ABD initiatives

2.3. Project website for local development issues
   - 2.3.1. Project website development and support services.
   - 2.3.2. Development of local initiatives mapping module and its connection to the Project website.

#### OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF ABD PASSPORTS WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

3.1. Support to efforts of local action groups

#### OBJECTIVE 4: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ABD INITIATIVES, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION OF ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE

4.1. Main Contest of Local Initiatives

4.2. Implementation of local initiatives

4.3. Studying the experience of participatory planning and implementation of ABD initiatives
   - 4.3.1. Holding roundtables on the results of ABD Briefs development

4.4. Preparation of guidelines and training materials based on the results of Project activities and provision of recommendations to government and administrative authorities

#### OBJECTIVE 5: EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

5.1. Project registration, core staff recruitment, and inception
   - 5.1.1. Project management (Project staff, supplies and consumables). Participation in the events (seminars, conferences, roundtables) held by other projects with purpose to inform stakeholders about project implementation.

5.2. Project monitoring and evaluation
   - 5.2.1. Preparation of the Project Semi-Annual Reports the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus
   - 5.2.2. Preparation of the Project Annual Report due to the donor

5.3. Project management and activities of the Project Management Unit
   - 5.3.1. Holding of PSC's meetings

**P** – Preparation of the Activity  
**E** – Execution of the Activity
3. Beneficiaries/Affiliated Entities and Other Cooperation

3.1. Relationship between beneficiaries/affiliated entities, UNDP and state authorities

Local authorities are committed to interact with the Project in all Belarusian regions. They disseminate information about the Project activities throughout local councils, government- and non-government organizations, initiative groups and rural businesses. Besides, they attend trainings delivered by the Project staff, thoroughly examine the information on the 1-st Contest of Local Initiatives, ask questions regarding participation terms, suggest ideas for local initiatives and are generally proactive about their role in the Project activities.

Many districts are striving to become main Project sites for developing ABD passports and holding main Contest of Local Initiatives. To demonstrate their potential, district authorities actively interact with the Project staff and willingly provide any information necessary for developing ABD Briefs for their districts.

3.2. Relationship with other organizations. Links and synergies developed with other actions.

Over the past year, the Project has managed to build relationships with other organizations working in the area of local sustainable development in Belarus. The Project staff participate in all the working groups’ meetings, seminars and conferences organized by EcoRys, a Contractor implementing Components 1&2 of the EU Support to Regional and Local Development Program. EcoRys’ Team Leader Peter Korsby is invited to join the Project Steering Committee. To ensure maximum synergy and coordination, the methodological recommendations, plans and other relevant documents developed are exchanged between the Program Components’ implementers.

Another notable and highly successful partnership established by the Project is the regular meetings with Coordinators of the German Federal Government Program of Support to Belarus to work out common approaches to the regional sustainable strategies development and coordinate the planned activities at the district level.

The Project has catalyzed the implementation of this Action Plan through a variety of initiatives and actions. The agreement reached with the House of Understanding of the Office for a Democratic Belarus to provide consulting services on the local initiatives’ formulation and applications development at the request of the potential Project beneficiaries has contributed to the number of people trained and quality of applications.

The Project actively communicate its plans and initiatives with the other UNDP/EU-funded projects, such as Developing an Integrated Approach to a Stepped-Up Energy Saving Program and Supporting the Transition to a Green Economy in the Republic of Belarus.

In addition, productive relationships have been built with numerous Belarusian NGOs, including New Eurasia Establishment, International Foundation for Rural Development, Belarusian Association of Rural and Ecotourism Country Escape, Pr. Kunyavsky Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers, Lev Sapegua Fund, and many others.

4. Visibility
The Action funded by the European Union (EU) incorporates information and communication activities designed to raise awareness of the specific and general audiences about the reasons for the action and the EU support for the action in the country, as well as about the results and the impact of the support.

The requirements to the written and visual identity of the EU are being ensured. All written materials developed, including presentations, official letters, invitations, and events handouts, Project roll-up and press wall mention the EU as a donor or contains the EU logo.

Both FY2014 and 2015 Communication and Visibility Plans were developed and submitted to the EU.

4.1. Project Outreach Activities

The Project outreach activities were in focus over the reporting period. The local outreach, as well as a strong collaboration with the local partners throughout the regions, afforded the Project a wider audience, enhancing the spread effects of the Project goal and activities and 1st Contest of Local Initiatives.

Workshops:

Kick-off roundtables:

Gomel:

Mogilev:
- [http://www.bykhov.by/?p=93630](http://www.bykhov.by/?p=93630)

Vitebsk:
Brest:
- http://www.janow.by/novosti/obshhestvo/2228-lokalnym-problemam--globalnye-
  reshenija.html
- http://www.ifrd.ru/novosti/novosti-regionov/489-na-brestchine-proshli-trening-
  ot-idei-k-proektu

Grodno

Workshops:
- http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Kratkie-kontseptsii-territorialno-
  orientirovannogo-razvitija-razrabotajut-dlja-vseh-rajonov-Belarusi_i_701997.html
  ativ/2015-04-20-161
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z721o55pUUU

Roundtables:
- http://ftf.grsu.by/151-predstaviteli-fakulteta-prinjal-uchastie-v-krugom-stole-
  sodejstvie-razvitiyu-na-mestnom-urovne-v-republike-belarus.html
- http://grodnogreenbelarus.info/articles/17-02-2015/grodnenskie-inicjatywy-poluchat-
  podderzhku-v-ramkah-proekta-esproon-sodeystvie
  950-tys-evro-na-finsirovanie-okolo-60-mestnych-initiativ_i_14549.html
  evro-na-finsirovanie-okolo-60-mestnych-initiativ_i_694444.html
- http://grodnoplustv.by/index.php/novosti/item/1913-sodejstvie-razvitiyu-na-
  mestnom-urovne
- http://www.grsu.by/ru/newsfaculties/1_3443.html
  evro-na-finsirovanie-okolo-60-mestnych-initiativ_i_694444.html
- http://grodnor-region.gov.by/ru/analtika/prioritetami-razvitiya-grodnenskoj-oblast-
  na-blizhajshie-5-let-nazvany-selsozproduktov-stvo-derevoobrabotka-i-
  turizm_i_14543.html
- http://inn-minsk.by/info/anounces/596/
- http://masty.eu/vlasti-grodnenshhiny-khotyat-razvivat-produktov-costvo-prodovolstviya-
  derevoobrabotku-i-turizm/
Minsk

Workshops
- [http://www.ngo.by/news/abd5a5d0049e.html](http://www.ngo.by/news/abd5a5d0049e.html)
- [http://socnews.by/opportunites/edu/2015/05/07/article_4626](http://socnews.by/opportunites/edu/2015/05/07/article_4626)
- [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGznuo35PTKREqS_DzYcK4JlG1j1F2SwZ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGznuo35PTKREqS_DzYcK4JlG1j1F2SwZ)
- [http://citydog.by/afisha/event/upravlenie-razvitiem-gorod/](http://citydog.by/afisha/event/upravlenie-razvitiem-gorod/)
- [https://www.facebook.com/Talaka.by/posts/605632259573180](https://www.facebook.com/Talaka.by/posts/605632259573180)
- [http://www.tio.by/novosti/33687](http://www.tio.by/novosti/33687)

Roundtables

Name of the contract person for the Action: Ekaterina Paniklova

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Belarus

Signature: 

Location: Minsk, Belarus

Date report due: July 8, 2015

Date report sent: July 8, 2015