

**Donau Soja and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) continue
Strategic Partnership benefiting EU accession countries Ukraine,
Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina
from 2024 – 2029**

**Reducing poverty – creating new value chains - market development
- sustainable standards in agriculture – protecting climate**

From January 2017 to February 2024, the organisation Donau Soja and ADA, the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, conducted a Strategic Partnership to bolster sustainable, non-GM soya and crop production in Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This partnership to **build sustainable, inclusive and well-functioning value chains for non-GMO and organic soya in Ukraine, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova** empowered individuals at every level of the value chain, providing knowledge and developing markets that contributed to economic development and poverty reduction in local communities in these four EU accession countries. The partnership was aligned with the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) and the EU Green Deal with a focus on climate protection.

In a continuation of this successful programme a second Strategic Partnership from 2024 – 2029 will expand beyond soya to include other crops in crop rotation, emphasising multi-crop strategies and digitalisation, also preparing the countries for EU accession.

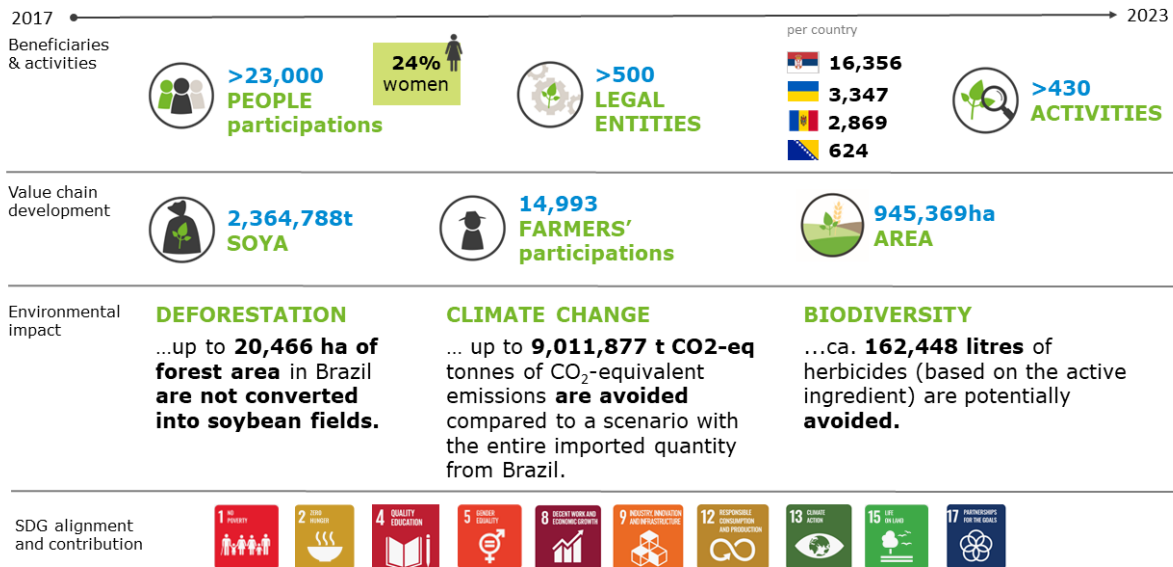
Strategic Partnership I 2017 – 2024 – foster soya

The Strategic Partnership I from 2017 – 2024 with a total volume of €9 million (50% from ADA) included numerous activities such as knowledge and innovation dissemination related to sustainable agriculture production, building up value chains, market and supply development, awareness raising, implementation of quality management and certification and activities that aimed to improve policy and business environment. Over **2.3 million tonnes of sustainably produced non-GMO soybeans** have been cultivated in target countries. The Strategic Partnership has actively engaged over **23,000 participations** of target country beneficiaries with 24% women. Over **500 legal entities** have been involved 2.3 million tonnes were produced on almost **1 million hectares of sustainably managed land** and **counted more than 14,000 farmers participations** and **160 certified collectors and processors**.

Within the Strategic Partnership Programme period 2017-2024, **area under soybeans in Serbia increased for 18%, in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 40% and yield (t/ha) in Ukraine increased for 34%**. This has not only enhanced

economic development but has also contributed to poverty reduction in local communities.

ADA Strategic Partnership I- Key Results



Quotes from partners



"BIMAL Group is a leader in the processing and procurement of oilseeds in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, collaborating with a large number of local farmers. BIMAL has been a member of Donau Soja since its beginnings and the first company with a Non-GMO certificate. As part of the ADA Strategic Partnership Programme, we celebrated this success through a significant joint Non-GMO campaign. Our campaign was supported by key institutions in the country, such as the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture of both the Federation and Republic of Srpska, and the Food Safety Agency, thereby highlighting the significance of our joint project. The Non-GMO label distinguishes our product in terms of quality and enables our consumers to have right to informed choice."

Nataša Pucar, Director of Corporate Communications, HR & IT, STUDEN & CO Holding (owner of BIMAL Group, Bosnia and Herzegovina).



"Bankom is a privately owned company, specialized in processing of NON GMO soybeans for human and animal nutrition. We are one of the first members of Donau Soja association as we recognised the importance of being part of the network which supports European Protein Transition. Currently we are exporting our NON GMO soybean products in 40 countries on 4 continents and cooperation with Donau Soja supported through ADA Strategic Partnership encouraged our business connections on European market. As the new regulation on

deforestation- EUDR is coming, we appreciate support from Donau Soja in doing all the necessary preparations to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements.”
Mladen Tucovic, Global Trade Director, Bankom, Serbia



“I returned from Spain to my homeland and decided to devote myself entirely to farming and introduced soybean in the crop rotation starting with 30 ha and having irrigation. Soya acts as a soil doctor, providing 50% of the total nitrogen requirement. Thus, the corn cultivated next year on the land where the soybean was previously harvested is provided with the necessary nutrients and by obtaining certification according to the Donau Soja Standard, there is the possibility of exporting soybean to EU countries.”

Stanislav Biz, Puhăceni village, Anenii Noi district, Moldova



“As a small agricultural producer, accessing leading cultivation technologies and direct sales markets in Europe is crucial. Thanks to our collaboration with Donau Soja, we gained access to both. Their expertise and networking events helped us establish contacts and promote our company in the EU market. We're eager to continue working with the Association to elevate Ukrainian agricultural production.”

Yulianna Bilodedenko, FEA Director, STOV “Alians-Bekon”,

Ukraine



“Donau Soja helps farmers and producers in Ukraine to upgrade soybeans from a just commodity quality to comply with higher standards. By creating a level playing field in Europe, it was achieved that around 20% of Ukrainian soybeans comply with EU production rules and regulations. This is a highly important milestone and a demonstration of the realistic EU membership pathway to Ukrainian agriculture.”

Sergiy Galashevskyy, General Manager of Certification Body Organic Standard, Ukraine

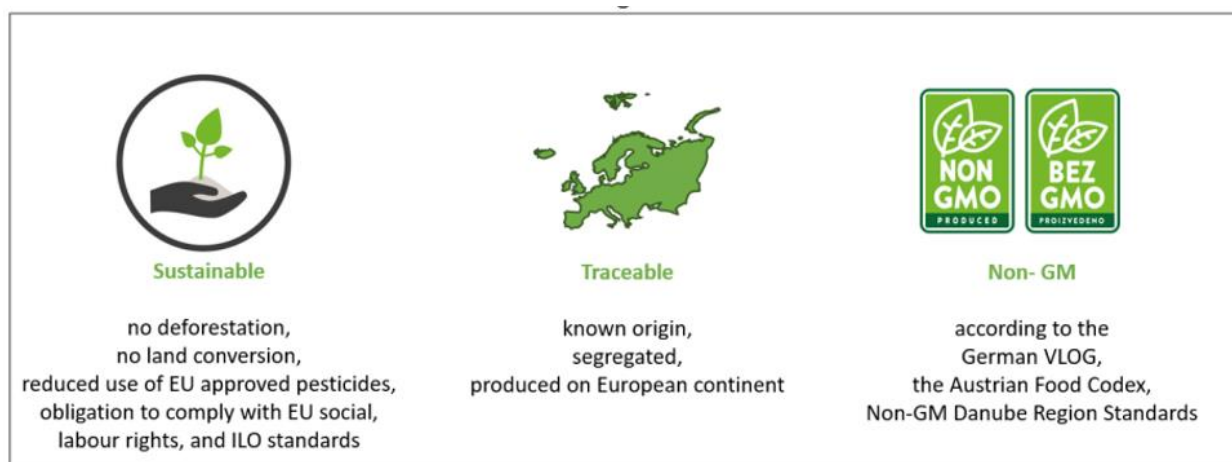
Many activities took place:



Strategic Partnership II 2024 – 2029 – Going beyond soya

The second Strategic Partnership has a total volume of €11 million (50% from ADA). This new phase will run until April 2029 and will expand beyond soya to include other crops in rotations, with a focus on multi-crop strategies and digitalisation.

The new partnership goes beyond soybeans and will leverage experience and successes from the Strategic Partnership I, expanding from soybean value chain development to scale up maize, wheat, fava beans and other crops. A broader impact on beneficiaries and yield and multiple environmental benefits in Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, and BiH can be achieved. The implementation of the program is in line with global and European priorities, including the contribution to the UN SDGs - 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 17, the European Commission's Farm-to-Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal. The programme concept also aims to benefit agriculture, economies and consumers beyond the target countries' borders. The programme's environmental impact will be an increase of sustainably managed land, applying higher standards and contribute to CO₂ emissions reduction. This will be conducted by utilisation of IT systems and digitalisation as well as support for the target country's beneficiaries to comply with the new requirements set forth in EU regulations, such as those related to deforestation and corporate social responsibility due diligence.



[Link to DS website](#)

[Link to Final Report of Strategic Partnership I](#)

[Link to ADA](#)

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