



The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE

SWG Major activities and achievements

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1



Activities and Achievements

Policy Dialogue

- Annual Working Meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE
- Agriculture Policy Forums
- Technical Discussions
- Experts' Missions



2

SWG RRD

Activities and Achievements

Capacity Building and Education

- Capacity Building for Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Analysis and Implementation
- Trainings, Seminars on Agriculture, Rural Development Topics
- Study Tours
- Young Professional Program for Managing and Leading Regional Rural Development
- Creation of Western Balkan Rural Extension Network through Curriculum Reform




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3

SWG RRD

Part of capacity building activities

Brussels



Austria



Leipzig





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Activities and Achievements

Networking

- Support the Balkan Rural Development Network
- Organization of Conferences, Professional Gatherings
- People-to-people actions for Promotion of Cultural and Rural Heritage



5

SWGRRD

Athmosphere from people-to-people actions












SWGRRD

Activities and Achievements

Support to Agri-business and Trade

- Networking and Professional Associations and Markets from SEE countries
- Organization of Business-to-Business meetings
- Trade Fair Promotions
- Initiation of activities with CEFTA (MoU signed between SWG and CEFTA 2014)
- Implementation of food safety and quality systems and standards
- Export promotion of agro and food products in the SEE and EU
- Preparation of a study on Chances and Challenges of Investments and Co-operations along the Value Chain





7

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Trade Fair participation









88

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Activities and Achievements

Area Based Development

- Assessment of the situation and potentials of cross-border regions in SEE for economic development
- Baseline analysis and studies on (4) four cross-border regions
- Fully functional regional offices: "Drina- Tara", "Drina- Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra", as well as a Regional Office in Belgrade
- Preparation for implementation of ABD phase 1, 2 and 3 on building capacities and structures within SWG and selected cross-border regions
- Established Stakeholder Groups (SHGs) in all 4 regions
- MoUs signed for sustainable economic development in all 4 regions among Mayors from participating municipalities





9

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Activities and Achievements

Area Based Development






16 SHG MEETINGS
528 PARTICIPANTS




CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

2 STUDY TOURS
40 PARTICIPANTS

4 WORKSHOPS
143 PARTICIPANTS



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE



GRANT SCHEME

10

5

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Activities and Achievements

• *ABDA grant scheme - Part of supported investments*










11

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Activities and Achievements

Environment and Natural Resource Management

- Publication of a baseline study on "Integrated Water and Forest Management in South Eastern Europe"
- Establishment of Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on agriculture, environment, water and forest management under the umbrella of the SWG
- Development of a program on rural development through sustainable management of water, forest and mountain areas in SEE
- Involvement in the SEE Strategy 2020 of Regional Cooperation Council, pillar dimension on Environment (agriculture, forestry, water management and water, food & energy nexus)
- Initiation of activities for solid waste management in 3 pilot areas, in cooperation with SEE actors for municipal services
- Cooperation on sustainable green mountain development with EuroMontana

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Activities and Achievements

Food Safety and Security

- Capacity building
- Technical discussions
- Support to implementation of food safety standards and systems (HACCP, Global GAP, Organic etc.)
- Facilitation of Ad hoc meetings of Ministers for Agriculture and Food on food safety (risk assessment and management)









13

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Activities and Achievements

Information Exchange and Access to Knowledge

- SWG platform www.seerural.org re-designed and update
- Agricultural Policy Plus sub-platform www.app.seerural.org fully functional with data, statistics and reports on agriculture and rural development policies
- The Balkan Rural Development Platform has been also created www.brdnetwork.net

7

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Activities and Achievements

Publications

- Agricultural Policy and European Integration in Southeast Europe – 2014
- Empowering Rural Stakeholders in Western Balkans – 2014
- Promotional material packages for the cross-border regions: Drina-Tara, Drina-Sava, Sharra and Prespa – 2014
- Chances and challenges of Investments and Cooperation along the Value Chain – 2012







15

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Accomplished Projects:

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations

- Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries in the process of EU accession;
- "Establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries".

European Commission

- Technical Assistance to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe;
- Area based development-ABD in Drina-Tara river(SRB-MNE-BIH);
- "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme 2011 – ABDA Project Preparation Facility";
- "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme- "Preparation for implementation of an Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans 2014 – 1st phase".
- SWG – EC: "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme- Preparation for an Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans 2014";


German International Cooperation (GIZ)

- "Strengthening of the regional cooperation/networking in the forestry and water management sector and sustainable development in the river basins of the South-Eastern Europe countries;
- "Increased competitiveness of companies and associations from SEE in the agro and food sector through implementation of food safety standards, networking and increase of volume and value of trade"
- SWG-GIZ: "Strengthening capacity building through networking and regional cooperation in the Western Balkan countries";

CIHEAM

SWG – CIHEAM IAMB: "Feeding Knowledge Program";

16



Running Projects:

- *SWG – GIZ*: "Support to the EU reform processes in the field of agriculture and rural development of SEE countries and strengthening of regional cooperation and networking in South Eastern Europe";
- *SWG – EC*: "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme- : " Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration - Support to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe";
- *SWG-FAO*: "Support to the implementation of an integrated and innovative economic development approach in Drina-Tara and Drina-Sava – the Area Based Development Approach";
- *SWG – JRC IPTS*: "Monitoring and assessment of agriculture and rural development policies in Western Balkans".

17



Projects Under Preparation:

- *SWG- GIZ*: "Rural Development through water and forest management in SEE";
- *SWG – GIZ*: "Support to sustainable waste management in SEE rural and costal cross-border areas"

18



SWG Partners












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19