

SOUTH EASTERN
EUROPE



Regional Rural Development
Standing Working Group



PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

Kolasin, 02 October 2008
Boban Ilik
Permanent Secretary

- Increased membership

- Croatia, Slovenia, B&H (State Level and Federation Entity), Romania
- Contacts with Turkish Ministry Re-established for joining



- Functional Communication with EU established
 - DG Enlargement
 - DG Agriculture and Rural Development
 - EC Delegations in Western Balkans (Regional level)



- Contacts and cooperation with other organizations

- OECD – Organization for economic co-operation and development
- ICDT - International Centre for Democratic Transition
- PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe
- TAIEX - Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
- RCC - Regional Cooperation Council



Continuous and New Partnerships

SWG RRD



- GTZ ORF
 - Rural Border Regions and Cross-border economic cooperation - ongoing
- InWent / SWG partnership
 - EU integration of Rural Areas 2008 – 2010, program launched – February 08
- FAO TCP Project
 - Project started in Inception Mission September 2008
- TAIEX
 - Kick off WS for Western Balkan Countries September 2008

gtz

inWent



Major Activities



- Presentation of the SWG on the East West Agricultural Forum – Green Week - *Germany*
- Regional Training FP7 - *Macedonia*
- Conference and TOT on LEADER approach - *in cooperation with ICDT - Hungary*
- 4-th Regional SEE Sheep and Goat Breeding Day - *Macedonia*
- WS - EU Legislation and institutional set-up as a pre condition for utilization of the fifth component of IPA instrument IPA-RD— *Montenegro*
- 6-th Regional Fair of Balkan Biodiversity and Rural Heritage - *Serbia*

Short Term Future Activities



- Finalizing of assessments of cross-border areas
 - Drina – Tara Region (SRB-BIH-MNE)
 - Debar– Peskopeja (MKD –ALB)
- Financing and startup of “Shopska Land” project (MKD-SRB- BG)
- Training for traditional handicraft production
- Five booklets on EU RD policy, CAP
- Documentary on RD Best Practices in Western and Central Europe
- Strategic multi-annual planning of SWG activities
- Participation on Euregia fair

Strategic Approach



- Maintaining existing and creating new partnerships and networking
- Strengthening of ties with EU, DG Agri, DG Enlargement
- Overall coordination of activities with stakeholders
- Preparation (*assessments and proposal development*) and implementation of cross-border projects (*reality show*)

Challenges



- Registration of the SWG as a legal entity (*statutory changes and status agreement*)
- Financial Sustainability — *Membership fee and co-financing of RD cross-border projects*
- Staffing and premises of the Secretariat



Decisions Needed and Responsibility of Members

Consent on:

- Statute amendments
- Financing of the SWG - Membership fee
- Next SWG presidency (MNE proposed)
- Next Annual Ministerial Meeting and APF (B&H proposed)





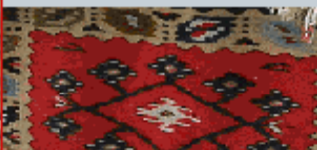
Contact:
SWG Secretariat

Thank you!

Address:
“Antonije Grubisic” Str.No. 5,
1000 Skopje, Macedonia

Tel/Fax:
+389 2 3 103 572

E-mail:
swgsecretariat@t-home.mk
www.seerural.org



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