

SOUTH EASTERN
EUROPE

SWG RRD

Regional Rural Development
Standing Working Group



West Balkans on the move

Paris 11-12 September 2008
Boban Ilik

Progress, but slow



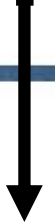
- Increasing production
- Increasing quality
- Improving food safety

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- Reestablishing regional trade
- Rehabilitating food chains

Rural still going down



Degradation of natural
resources – land,
waters, forests,
grasslands still
ongoing...



- Aging of rural communities,
- Further decrease of quality of life in rural areas and
- Depopulation in rural areas is ongoing and intensified

Chance unused & ...

Real:

- Suitable soils
- Available lands
- Agriculture/food tradition





Existing:

- ongoing EU Accession process and following opportunities in trade etc.



Potential

- Internal political stability
- Regional reconciliation

Real:

- Copy-pasted legal change
- Institutional upgrade waiting for better times





Potential

- Brain drain continuing
- Few restarts possible – institutional memory in RAM instead on HDD



Hungry for development assistance, suffers of the “over-consulted” phenomena, which is ridiculously ruling

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Repeating or multiplying mistakes, due to the present “syndrome of the election year” and “bureaucracy repositioning amnesia”

Shared priorities

Working:

- Modernizing agriculture
- Increasing production and competitiveness
- Getting on EU market
- Harmonizing legislation





Theoretical, more or less

- Institutional capacity building
- Improving living conditions in rural areas
- Diversifying rural economies
- Improving education ...

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SWG, what's that?

The Regional Rural
Development Standing
Working Group (SWG) of
SEE institutions responsible
for RD in respective
countries and territories



Real:

- regional cooperation between responsible institutions (SWG)





Potential:

- Regional pool of experts
- More efficient and timely EC assistance

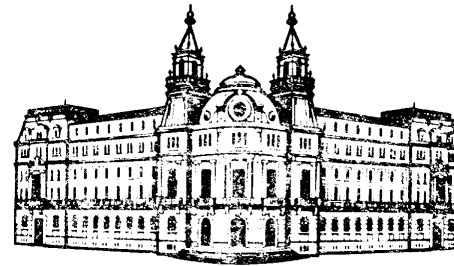
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Birth, Skopje, 2005



Networking & permanent cooperation

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- **The Stabilisation and Association Process** demands strong **regional co-operation.**



Regional co-operation is
an essential factor for
**political stability and
economic prosperity
of West Balkans.**



The only way to successfully address key common challenges (such as trade, pollution, transport etc.) and threats

Speed-up the process of transition by learning from lessons-learned in similar environment





Save money and time
through sharing expertise,
development projects in
cross-border regions and
trainings of mutual interest



Frustration &.....

Process of accession too unpredictable, making public nervous and national politicians loosing ground

...and frustration

Too many political demands imposed, not related to AP changes, which are themselves already too complicated



Real problem

Assistance not shaped to demand, not on time, eligibility demands too high and rules for accessing it constantly changing





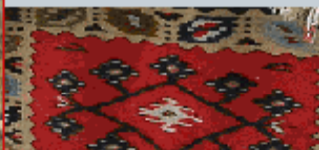
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