

SOUTH EASTERN
EUROPE

SWG RRD

Regional Rural Development
Standing Working Group



REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING GROUP (SWG) IN SEE

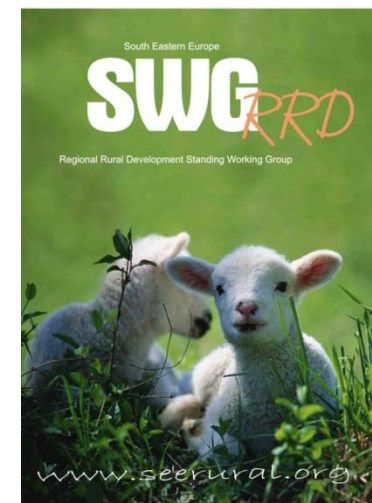
Irena Dzimrevska
SWG Head of Operations



Our Organization



- The “**SWG**” stands for **Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe**.
- It is an International Intergovernmental Organization, consisted of governmental institutions responsible for rural development in respective countries and territories.
- It was founded on the basis of a common wish to establish an organization for sustainable rural development in SEE. It is a non-political body, acting in a spirit of friendship and good neighborliness and enhances mutual respect and confidence, dialogue and cooperation among the Member Institutions.
- Its managing and coordinative body is the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, based in Skopje, Macedonia.



Our establishment

- o The SWG, as a platform for networking and regional co-operation, has been established during the Agricultural Policy Forum 2005 (“Rural Development Opportunities for Co-operation in the SEE”) held in Macedonia and Serbia in June 2005 and later on confirmed with the Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE convened in Dresden in 2007.



Our Concept



We act to increase horizontal collaboration among respective institutions- Ministries of Agriculture and international organizations, in order to have innovative, inclusive and sustainable agriculture and rural development strengthened and bolstered by suitable policies and programs for alleviating smoother approximation of SEE member countries towards the EU.

The SWG provides the bases for exchange of experience and mutual assistance among its member institutions in the field of rural development, agriculture, tourism and economic development, environmental protection, promotion and protection of cultural heritage.



SWG Member institutions



- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, **Albania** 
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations,
Bosnia and Herzegovina 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the *Republic of Srpska*, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food, **Bulgaria** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, **Croatia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, **Macedonia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, **Montenegro** 
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, **Romania** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, **Serbia** 
- Provincial Secretariat of Agriculture Water Management and Forestry, *Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, Serbia
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **Kosovo** (UNSCR1244) 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, **Slovenia** 

Our objectives

- o Enhance the regional co-operation among the Ministries of Agriculture in South Eastern Europe;
- o Facilitating information sharing on rural issues and rural development topics;
- o Support member institutions in identifying mutual needs and interests in the EU accession process;
- o Create opportunities to share experiences and know-how among the member institutions with various international organizations and institutions;
- o Share and generate initiatives to further the “rural agenda” of SEE.



Our Areas of Cooperation



- o Rural development;
- o Trade and economic development;
- o Agriculture and agro-industry;
- o Environmental protection;
- o Protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- o Tourism and rural tourism;
- o Exchange of statistical data;
- o Knowledge, experience and information;
- o Collaboration between authorities or in any other related area.



Our tasks

Specific tasks of the SWG are to provide a platform for exchange of experiences and assisting each other through:

- o exchange of information;
- o initiation, preparation and implementation of joint projects,
- o lobbying and fund raising;
- o exchange of personnel;
- o building up rural development expert pool;
- o actively supporting capacity building on all levels.





1. SWG - GTZ Open Regional Fund for SEE

“Strengthening the regional cooperation in the EU integration process and increase of economic competitiveness in the rural areas;



2. SWG - GTZ SEF

“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”;

3. SWG - InWEnt Capacity Building

“EU Integration of Rural Economic Areas 2009”;



4. SWG - InWEnt Capacity Building

“Young Professionals- Managing and Leading Regional Rural Development”;





5. SWG - FAO

“Support Capacity Building for Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Analysis and Formulation in view of EU-Approximation of the Western Balkan Countries”;

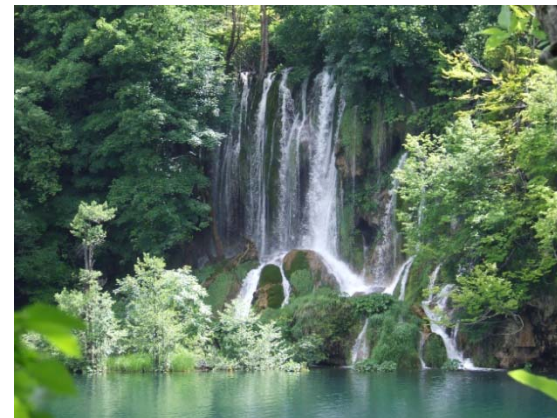


6. SWG - TEMPUS IV Project

“Western Balkan Rural Extension Network through Curriculum Reform”

7. SWG- EC – JRC (Joint Research Center)

“Area based development – ABD Drina – Tara river (SRB-MNE-BiH) and Shopska Land (BG-MK-SRB)”



SWG Our upcoming projects



1. **SWG – FAO TCP**

“Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries in the process of EU accession”;

2. **SWG – FAO TCP Facility**

“Support for establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries”

3. **SWG -TEMPUS KNetRRD Project**

“Knowledge Transfer Network in Western Balkans for Regional Rural Development”.



SWG Our partners/supporters

RRD





Thank you!

Contact:

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Adress:

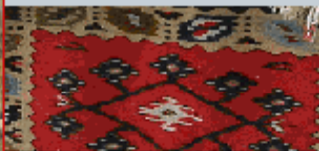
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