

SOUTH EASTERN  
EUROPE

**SWG** RRD

Regional Rural Development  
Standing Working Group



# Regional Cooperation in the South East Europe in the agro and food sector - progress achieved in 2010 and way forward

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SWG Secretary General



# Small retrospective about the SWG



## Vision:

Innovative, inclusive and sustainable agriculture and rural development, bolstered by suitable policies and programs for alleviating smoother approximation of SEE member countries towards the EU.



## Main 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
- o Create opportunities to share experiences and know-how among the member institutions with various international organizations and institutions
- o Provide new ideas and tools relevant to agricultural and rural development policies
- o Share and generate initiatives to expand the rural agenda

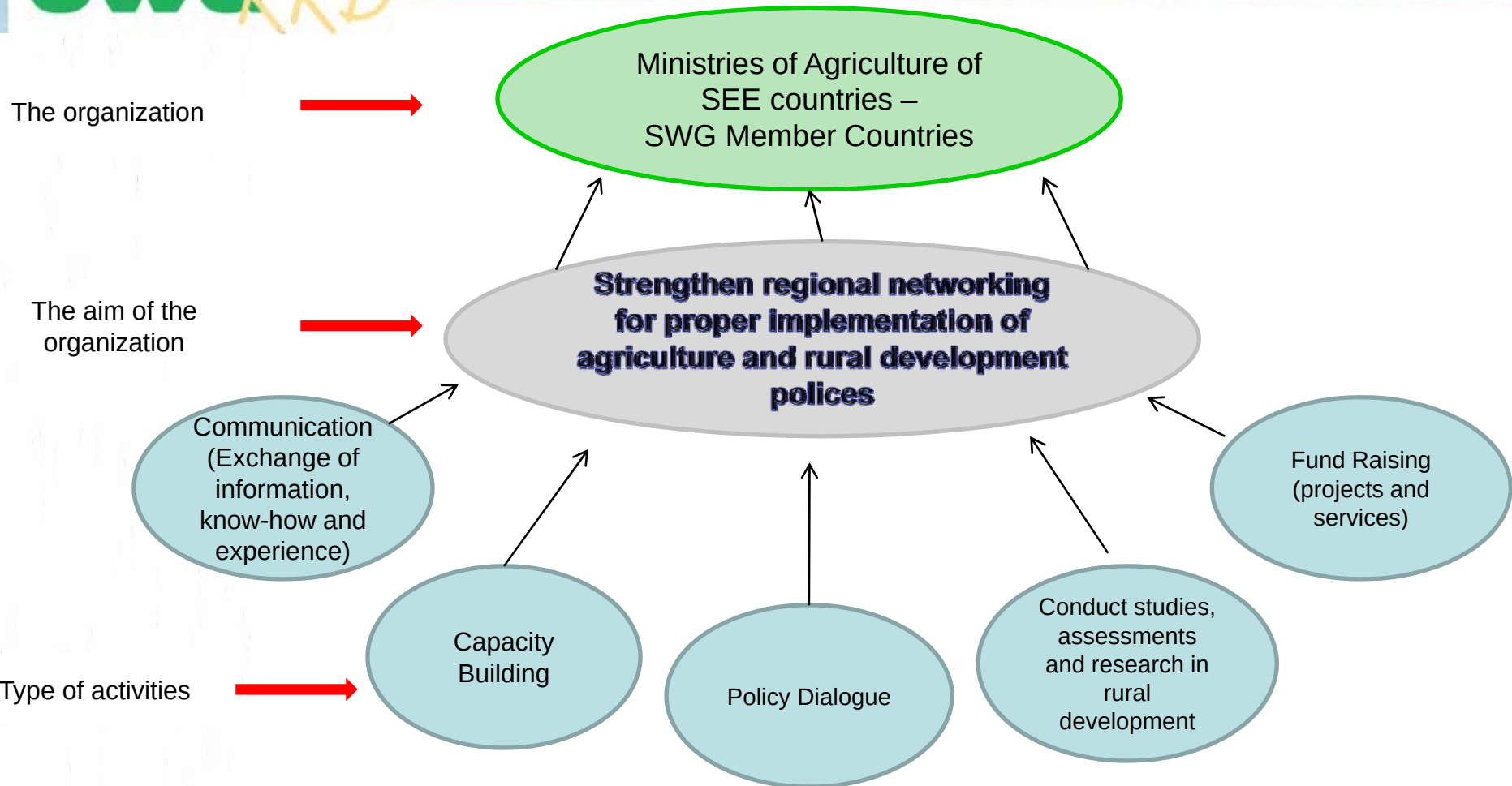


# SWG Member Institutions



- 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 (UNSCR 1244)**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, **Slovenia**

# The purpose of the SWG



## Main SWG Activities and Achievements in 2010

**Agricultural Policy Forums (Dresden, Germany) and Ministerial Meeting in SEE region**

**Support in the implementation process of food quality systems and standards**

Technical discussions and expert missions on

- PDO, PGI, TSG (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- SEUROP standards and hygiene requirements for slaughterhouses (Macedonia);
- Quality of honey and exports requirements (Montenegro).

**Strengthening the cooperation and networking among the water and forestry sector**

Technical discussions on

- Sustainable Forest Management in protected forests in SEE countries (Serbia);
- EU Water Framework Directive (Montenegro);
- Network and management of private forests;
- Improvement of management and monitoring of water resources and irrigation in SEE .

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## Main SWG Activities and Achievements in 2010

### Support to Agro-Business and Trade in SEE

- Networking of Professional Associations and Markets from SEE countries;
- Organization of Business-to-Business Meeting with stakeholders;
- Discussions on the CEFTA Agreement.

### Capacity Building and Education

- Support Capacity Building for Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Analysis and Formulation in view of EU-Approximation;
- Young Professional Program for Managing and Leading Regional Rural Development (6 months training in Germany);
- First Conference on Young Professionals (Croatia);
- Creation of Western Balkan Rural Extension Network through Curriculum Reform (TEMPUS running project).

### Communication and Networking

- Web page: info available about events, trainings, seminars, workshops;
- Press releases and media campaigns on activities;
- Participation on different kind of fairs, conferences and gatherings;
- Produce promotional materials, develop technical rural development material and PR material;
- Gatherings and meetings with stakeholders.

## Main SWG Activities and Achievements in 2010

### Area Based Development Approach

#### ***Pilot Region:***

Drina Tara

#### ***Cross Border Region of:***

- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia

#### ***Study Financed by:***

European Commission

#### ***Executed by:***

Joint Research Institute (JRC) of European Commission

#### ***Role of SWG:***

In partnership with the EC and other partners to do a fund raising for additional studies and implementation of such concept of economic development

### **Running and Upcoming Projects**

SWG within its functioning has build respectful portfolio of regional projects which are providing the means for our regional agendas

#### Memorandum of Understanding signed with:

- InWEnt Capacity Building International
- Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nation (FAO)
- Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)



Regional Cooperation Council



## Running Projects



### **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”**

### **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”**

### **SWG – FAO**

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

### **SWG - TEMPUS IV Project**

**“Western Balkan Rural Extension Network through Curriculum Reform”**

### **SWG – European Commission**

**“Technical Assistance for the Development of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group”**

## Upcoming Projects



### **SWG – FAO TCP**

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

### **SWG – FAO TCP Facility**

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

### **SWG –TEMPUS**

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

# Way forward



- Expend the operations with the Projects in Member Countries;
- Expending the list of partners (Partner Organizations and Governments);
- Stronger fund raising for the countries in the region;
- Stronger focus on the EU approximation agenda (regional relevance);
- Closer cooperation with the European Commission;
- Profiling of SWG as a partner to the donor community;
- Completing the process of establishment as an International Intergovernmental Organization (strengthening the SWG Head Office/Secretariat with regional staff);
- Inviting more Institutions/Governments to join this regional initiative in the South Eastern Europe;
- Completion of the process for the establishment of the Rural Stakeholders Club (SEE Rural Network);
- Horizontally addressing other sub-sectors under the authority of the Ministries of Agriculture in SEE.

# SWGRRD



“ You have one chance to make an impression that could last a lifetime. To that end we pride ourselves to create experiences that produce lasting impressions, deliver the unexpected and make people say...WOW”

*John L.N. Bitov*



# Thank you!

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