

SOUTH EASTERN
EUROPE

SWG RRD

Regional Rural Development
Standing Working Group

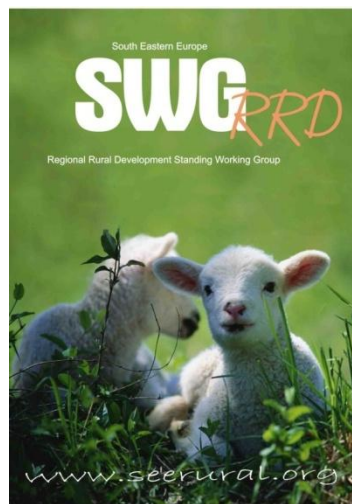


REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING GROUP (SWG) IN SEE

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 agriculture and rural development in respective countries and territories of Southeastern Europe.
- Its managing and coordinative body is the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, based in Skopje, Macedonia.



Our Establishment



- 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.
- Based on **the International Agreement** on the status and activities of the SWG, in **September 2009** the SWG is registered as International Intergovernmental Organization.



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**
- 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 and Rural Development, **Montenegro** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, **Serbia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **Kosovo** (UNSCR1244) 

SWG observers

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, **Slovenia** 
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** 
- Provincial Secretariat of Agriculture Water Management and Forestry, *Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, **Serbia** 

Our Mission

- To increase horizontal collaboration among respective countries and territories of SEE, coordinating regional initiatives related to agriculture and rural development and support the process of economic development in rural areas of Southeastern Europe.



Our General Objectives

To facilitate close cooperation among the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development and to support the EU integration of the Western Balkan countries.



Our Areas of Cooperation



- Rural development;
- Agriculture and agro-industry;
- Trade and economic development;
- Environmental protection;
- Protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- Alternative tourism;
- Food safety;
- Promotion of Gender equality and empowerment of women in rural areas;



Our main activities and achievements

SWG *RRD*



Policy Dialogue

Annual Working Meetings
of the Ministers of
Agriculture from SEE

Agriculture Policy
Forums

Technical Discussions

Experts` Missions

Capacity Building and Education

Capacity Building for
Agriculture and Rural
Development Policy
Analysis and
Implementation

Trainings, Seminars on
Agriculture, Rural
Development Topics

Young Professional
Program for Managing
and Leading Regional
Rural Development

Creation of Western
Balkan Rural Extension
Network through
Curriculum Reform

Networking

Support to Creation of
Rural Development
Networks

Organization of
Conferences,
Professional Gatherings

Organization Rural
Events

People-to-People Actions
for Promotion of Cultural
and Rural Heritage

Our main activities and achievements

SWG *RRD*



Support to agribusiness and trade

- Networking of Professional Associations and Markets from SEE countries

Organization of Business-to-Business Meetings with Stakeholders

- Discussions on the CEFTA Agreement

Agro & Food Trade Fair Participation

Area Based Development Approach

Study on the Situation in the Cross-Border Region Drina – Tara

Fund Raising – Donor Conference

Assessments of the Situation and Potentials of the Cross-Border Regions in SEE

Cross-Border Project Implementation

Communication

Web page: info available about events, trainings, seminars, workshops

Joint Statements and Positions

Promotional Material, Technical Material Related to Agriculture and Rural Development

Press Releases and Media Campaigns on Activities

Our partners/supporters

SWG RRD



Our Project Portfolio



1. **SWG - GTZ Open Regional Fund for SEE**

“Strengthening the competitiveness of companies working in the agro and food sector through implementation of food safety systems and standards and regional business networking”;



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 – FAO TCP Facility**

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



Our Project Portfolio



4. **SWG - TEMPUS IV Project**

“Western Balkan Rural Extension Network through Curriculum Reform”



5. **SWG- EC – JRC (Joint Research Center)**

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





GTZ Open Regional Fund for Foreign Trade

“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”

PROJECT CONCEPT

TIME FRAME

- Two and a half years (01/2010 to 06/2012)

PROJECT GOAL

The aim of the project is to strengthen the competitiveness of associations and companies working in the agro and food sector, through regional networking/increase of volume and value of trade, production of value added food products and implementation of food safety standards.

TARGET GROUPS

- Main target groups are professional associations, small and medium enterprises (traders of agricultural and food products and processors) and wholesale-markets.



PROJECT CONCEPT

FORESSEN ACTIVITIES



- Organization of **seminars, round tables, on –farm visits, consultancy** related to food safety systems and standards (Global GAP, HACCP, GMP and value added products such as products with PGI, PDO, TSG);
- Organization of **seminars, round tables, study tours** for strengthening of networking and co-operation of wholesales markets from SEE;
- Organization of **business forums, B2B meetings, analysis** for enhancement of business relations and regional trade.
- Implementation of food safety systems and standards.

SWG

RRD

www.seerural.org

www.seerural.org is the official web site of the
Regional Rural Development Standing Working
Group.

www.seerural.org is an internet platform
promoting cooperation for sustainable rural
development
in South-East Europe.



South Eastern Europe

SWG

RRD

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



Thank you!

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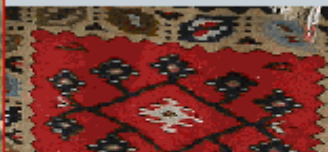
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