

1st Working Meeting of the Representatives of the Paying Agencies from SEE

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Regional Rural Development Standing Working
Group (SWG) in SEE

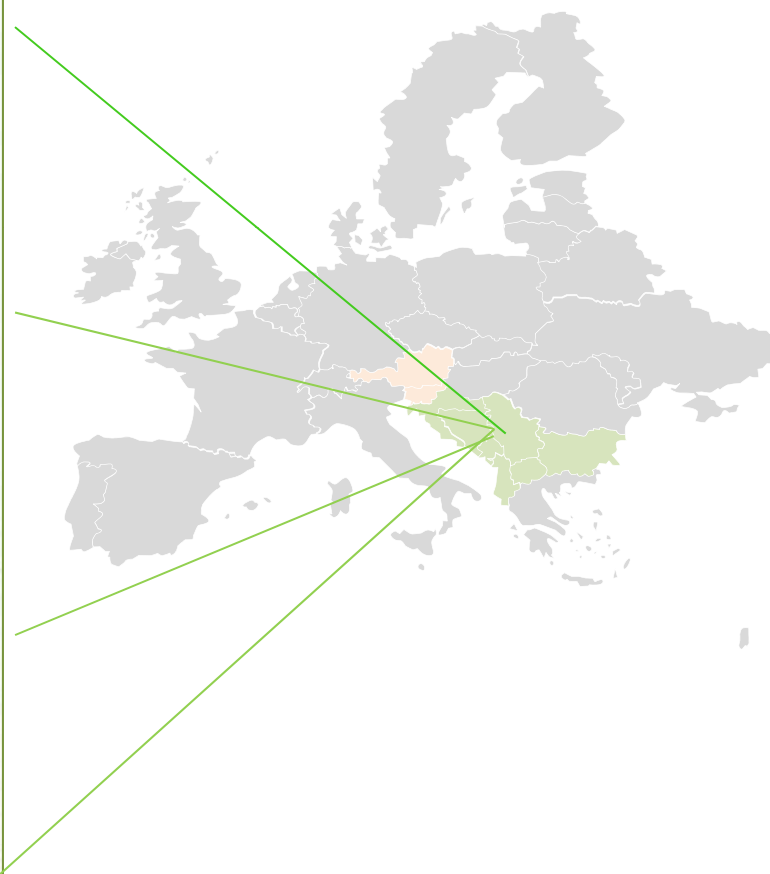
Our Organization

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.

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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**
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
 and Water Management, **Republic of Austria**



General Objective:

To facilitate close co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development and to support EU integration in SEE

Specific Objectives:

- To improve the common understanding of agriculture and rural development policies

- To assist the improvement of implementation structures and systems for agriculture and rural development, with specific emphasis on cross border cooperation

- To improve the understanding and use of implementation tools for agriculture and rural development

- To identify and share information and application of good practice in agriculture and rural development to broaden the rural agenda

Vision

Innovative and sustainable agriculture and rural development through cohesive regional co-operation for improvement of rural livelihoods in the SEE countries

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 social and economic development of rural areas in South Eastern Europe



The main functions of SWG, which derive from the needs and expectations expressed by Member Institutions and which are in line with the specific objectives, are:

- Conducting and facilitating **policy analysis** and presentations;
- **Capacity building** of Member Institutions and other stakeholders;
- Identify and develop **tools for agriculture and rural development** considering the regional aspects;
- **Networking** to share experiences and information among Member Institutions;
- Identification and implementation of **regional projects**.

SWG EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS – WORKING GROUPS

ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT, FINANCING

- Temporary character - established/disbanded upon a specific need expressed by SWG Member institutions and/or other stakeholders – sectoral approach;
- Included in the SWG and the SWG annual work program;
- Facilitated, managed or sometimes chaired by SWG staff;
- Financing – on a project basis or through paid membership fees.

ROLE, TASKS

- o Main role – support the SWG in development /implementation of specific activities;
- o Serves as an instrument to achieve desired service delivery;
- o Conduct their tasks in accordance with the SWG rules expressed in the Code of Conduct.

MEMBERSHIP, STRUCTURE

- Membership organized on voluntary basis;
- Comprised of experts assigned by the Member institutions (and) representatives of other partners/stakeholders' institution.

1st WORKING MEETING OF PAYING AGENCIES FROM SEE

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

- To strengthen the regional cooperation of the existing and future Paying Agencies, exchange of information and experiences, as well as transfer of experiences from candidate to potential candidate countries for approximation to the EU;
- Discuss, clarify needs of Paying Agencies and prepare common position from the region in terms of the new IPARD post-2013.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES and NEXT STEPS

- Outcomes of the 2nd Working Meeting of Managing Authorities from SEE and the 1st Working Meeting of Paying Agencies from SEE will be presented on the TAIEX Workshop on "Pre-Accession Assistance to Agriculture and Rural Development in the context of IPA post-2013" on March 30th, 2012 in Brussels, Belgium, organized by DG Agriculture and Rural Development.
- The aim of TAIEX workshop - build upon the results from the 2011 workshop "IPARD: Lessons learned and prospects for IPA/IPARD post 2013" and give key stakeholders in IPARD an opportunity to express views how IPARD can be improved in the next financial framework period 2014-2020. Results are important for drafting the new IPA Implementing Regulation, the strategies and next Programmes.

Thank you!

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