

Activities preformed in the period May – September 2013

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4th Stakeholder's Group meetings for “Prespa”, “Sharra”, “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” cross border regions, 28 May – 6 June 2013 in Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Croatia

The 4th Stakeholder's Group meetings of cross-border regions resulted with :

1. Finalization of revision of Baseline study and Strategic Framework;
2. General agreement on the operational functionality of the SHG-s;
3. Endorsement of priority project ideas.

Regional Meeting: “Establishment of the Balkan Rural Development Network”, 19 – 21 May 2013, Andrevlje, Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia

- Statute on the Balkan Rural Development Network signed by the existing national networks (Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia);
- With the mandate given by the signatories i.e. Presidents of the founding NRDNs in the upcoming period (in the year and a half – until December 2014) SWG will represent BRDN and will serve as an administrative and organizational hub of the Balkan Rural Development Network.

**Second Regional Networking Workshop for the FAO SWG
Project: "Streamlining of agriculture and rural development
policies of SEE countries for EU accession",
22 – 24 May 2013, Bar, Montenegro**

- At the 2nd WS the national agricultural and rural development policy documents were presented by the countries. For the purpose of future work the participants received information about the Agricultural Policy Measures Tool (APMT) as the basis for the forthcoming budgetary transfer analysis.
- The project web-portal was designed and presented at the workshop. The participants were introduced to the methods of how to use the online portal. A decision was made to have a specially designed logo and name for the online portal.



Study tour: “Rural development by sustainable management of forests and water”, 09-14 June in Austria and Germany

- The study tour promoted successful examples of mutual understanding and cooperation among the stakeholders, regional actions implemented in function to sustainable water and forest management and economic growth of the rural areas, in particular taking care of the cross-border aspects;
- The examples presented should assist the working group in the finalization of their regional project proposals (integration of water, forest, environment and agriculture for achieving ecological-economic benefits in the rural areas).

Regional Fact Finding Tour of SWG with ANRICA and the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control, SEE countries, 23rd – 27th June 2013

- Cross-border regions from the South Eastern Europe have been visited by the SWG, ANRICA and the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control in order to explore potentials for cooperation in the field of water, forestry, environment and agriculture;
- The group discovered that many potentials for regional cooperation exist in the region on various topics concerning the water, forestry, environment and agriculture sectors. As such, the identified regions will be proposed as potential target areas for implementation of the regional project proposals.

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World Plowing Contest, 16th – 21st July 2013 in Calgary, Canada

- During the foreseen visits with the Agricultural Producers on the 17th and the 18th of July 2013, SWG together with the participating Ministries established good cooperation grounds for future cooperation with Canadian companies and institutions in the field of agricultural production, land, water and forestry as well as agricultural education.
- SWG was presented on the WPC 2013 with a stand at the international fair.



Informal meeting of key players in Rural Development in the EU, 11th July 2013, Brussels, Belgium

- promotion of PREPARE's new book 'Community Spirit wins' and has been organized by the PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe Network, the Economic and Social Committee, and the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development H.E. Dacian Ciolos;
- Presentation of the SWG activities related to planning for implementation of rural economic development through intensive regional cooperation for sustainable economic development in rural cross border areas in Western Balkan countries.



27th SWG Assembly Session

SWG
RDP

