

SOUTH EASTERN
EUROPE

SWG RRD

Regional Rural Development
Standing Working Group



REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING GROUP (SWG) IN SEE

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SWG Head of Operations

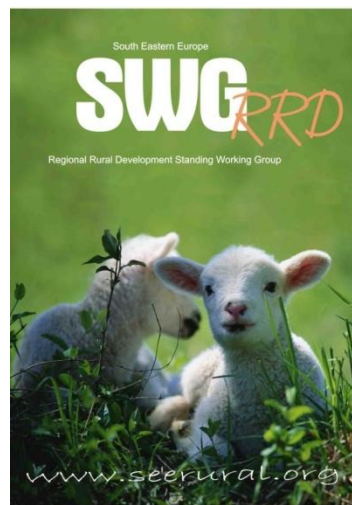
PREPARE GATHERING 2010
Ohrid, Macedonia

SWG RRD

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 in SEE.
- 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.



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** 



Organization- bodies

SWG has four bodies:

- The Assembly
- The President of the SWG Assembly
- The SWG Head Office/ Secretariat
- The Secretary General



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.



Our objectives

SWG
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- Enhance the regional co-operation among the Ministries of Agriculture in South Eastern Europe;
- Support member institutions in identifying mutual needs and interests in the EU accession process;
- Create opportunities to share experiences and know-how among the member institutions with various international organizations and institutions;
- Provide new ideas and tools relevant to agriculture and rural development policies;
- Share and generate initiatives to further implementation of the “rural agenda” of SEE.



Our tasks



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

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



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;





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

"Improving the competitiveness of companies and organizations from Southeastern Europe in the agricultural and food sector through the implementation of food quality standards and increased regional 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 - InWEnt Capacity Building**

"EU Integration of Rural Economic Areas 2010" and "Young Professionals- Managing and Leading Regional Rural Development";



Our Competence



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)”



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”.



Our partners/supporters

SWG RRD



Regional Cooperation Council

gtz



inWent

Internationale Weiterbildung
und Entwicklung gGmbH



The stakeholders

SWG
RRD

rural club



- The SWG is committed to facilitate creation of a regional network consisted of representatives of different stakeholders in rural development – GOs, NGOs, institutions - regional or international organizations willing to accept principles and objectives of the SWG.
- The SWG Assembly is entitled to invite guests and guest delegations to the Stakeholders Rural Club.





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SEErural.net



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.

Thank you!

