



Activities of the Secretariat of SWG

REPORT No. 2
September – October 2006

Prepared by: SWG Secretariat
"Kole Nedelkovski" 5
1000 Skopje Macedonia

Cc:

- Ministries of Agriculture in SEE Countries
- SWG members
- GTZ Head Quarters Office, Eschborn, Germany
- InWEnt, Germany
- FAO, Rome

Major activities carried out during the period September - October 2006

Summary

The report covers the most important information and activities taken by the Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE countries.

Secretariat on behalf of the members in the reporting period conducted serial of activities supporting and coordinating the activities of RRD SWG.

RRD SWG Secretary (Mr. Ilik) and President (Mrs. Georgieva) had a meeting in Sofia in order to discuss and prepare presentation and exhibition on Euregia 2006, as well as the Forth Meeting of RRD SWG.

The Forth Meeting of RRD SWG foreseen for October, 24, 2006 during Euregia was postponed due to absence of the majority of RRD SWG members.

SWG membership, Statute of SWG

During the reporting period RRD SWG Secretariat actively communicated with the RRD SWG members as well as the ministries - potential members.

The official respond is still expected from the:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Croatia,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Promotional material

As per the decision taken during the Third meeting of RRD SWG in Sofia, the Secretariat of the RRD SWG prepared promotional materials (flyer total 500 copies and 2 posters) to promote the initiative and activities of the SWG at the Euregia Fair and Conference as well on other relevant events in the future.

Each member Ministry will be delivered with 50 copies of the fliers.

Web – site of the SWG

The Secretariat is preparing Web-site of the RRD SWG (www.seerural.org).

The structure of the web site is based on the proposal and discussions during the First meeting of RRD SWG.

Discussion on the structure of the web – site as well as way and dynamics of delivery necessary information by the member countries will be discussed during the Forth Meeting of RRD SWG.

Presentation of RRD SWG activities on CEI Conference "Sustainable Development of Rural Areas – Readiness of Candidate Countries to Use EU Funds Conference" - September 21 & 22, 2006 in Zagreb

The Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (RRD SWG) participated on the CEI Conference in Zagreb.

During the conference experiences in programming and drafting of plans for agriculture and rural development of EU member states (old and new) and candidate countries were discussed as well as experiences in the application of pre-accession programs.

The initiative and the activities of RRD SWG were presented on the conference.

Impact: Experiences in RD-policy exchanged, contacts with relevant experts and professionals established

International Trade Fair and Congress on Local and Regional Development in Europe - Euregia 2006 Leipzig, Germany

As per the invitation from InWEnt – Capacity Building International and GTZ – HQ Germany, members of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (RRD SWG) decided to participate and promote the initiative and activities on Euregia 2006 in Leipzig from October 23 - 25, 2006.

Euregia is an International Trade Fair and Congress on Local and Regional Development in Europe.

InWEnt and GTZ organized a joint exhibition stand on innovative regional development initiatives in South – Eastern Europe and a half day workshop.

Joint exhibition stand for innovative regional development initiatives from South Eastern Europe

The stand presented eight RRD initiatives from South Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and RRD SWG) at an open exhibition to symbolize the joint efforts of the different initiatives to support the development of structurally weak areas in SEE as well as cross border cooperation.

The RRD SWG has been presented with promotional material (posters and fliers) prepared by the Secretariat of RRD SWG.

Workshop on "Innovative Regional Management in Structurally Weak Areas of SEE", October 24, 2006

On the workshop innovative approaches and best practices for Regional Development and Regional Management in structurally weak areas of South Eastern Europe were presented and discussed.

On behalf of the Coordinator of RRD SWG, the initiative and activities have been presented by the Secretariat.

Impact: RRD SWG initiative promoted, contacts with relevant experts and professionals established

FAO project document: "Support Capacity Building for Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Analysis and Formulation in view of EU-Accession of Western Balkan Countries"

RRD SWG member Ministries delivered the official requests to FAO Office in Rome for inclusion in the above mentioned project.

The Secretariat had a meeting with Mr. Eberlin from FAO, and it was agreed during the Forth meeting of RRD SWG all RRD SWG members to discuss final version of the proposal as well the details for its implementation.

Forth Meeting of RRD SWG

During Euregia, in coordination with the President of RRD SWG, present members (Mr. Gjenci – Albania and Mrs. Micevska- Macedonia) and supporters of RRD SWG, it was decided Forth meeting to be conducted in the period 29.11-01.12.2006 in Macedonia.

Invitations and all necessary documentation were prepared and delivered on November 2, 2006 to all SWG members, supporters and other relevant organizations willing to support the activities of RRD SWG.

Proposals for follow-up activities

WS on RD-Policy, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia

The Secretariat actively communicated with the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, in order to discuss details for organization of the above mentioned Ws.

During the CEI Conference in Zagreb, representative of the Secretariat had a meeting with representatives of the Slovenian Ministry (Mrs. Janja Kokolj-Prosek).

Due to the changes within the Slovenian Ministry (Former State Secretary Mr. But with who the Ws was agreed, left the Ministry and delivered the responsibility for organization of the Ws to several colleagues), still no official respond received.

Annex 1- Photos:



Euregia – presentation of RRD SWG on the WS: “Innovative Regional Management in Structurally Weak Areas of SEE”



Stand of the RRD SWG



The GTZ/ InWent Stand – South – Eastern Europe

www.seerural.org

SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of South Eastern Europe

The RRD SWG is an informal organization of institutions responsible for rural development in the countries of South Eastern Europe working on sustainable principles, through networking and permanent cooperation.

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY PROTECTION
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
Republic of Montenegro
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA
SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY NOVI SAD
GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO (NINKE)
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The objectives of the RRD SWG:
The general objective of the RRD SWG is to facilitate the identification of mutual needs and interests, support joint planning of cross-border rural development projects as well as support to different institutions in fulfilling needs of the countries.

Contacts:
 Secretariat of RRD SWG
 GTZ HAAP Project
 Tuzla, Montenegro
 13000 Beograd, Montenegro
 Tel.: +381 21 539 536
 Fax: +381 21 537 993
 E-mail: seerural@haap.net.mk
 seerural@haap.net.mk
 www.seerural.org

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SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of South Eastern Europe

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group has been established on the basis of a common wish to establish an informal organization, consisted of representatives of institutions responsible for rural development in the respective countries and territories of South Eastern Europe (SEE) to work on rural development on sustainable principles, through networking and permanent cooperation between all stakeholders of rural development in the region.

The aims of the RRD SWG:

- To assure a close and permanent cooperation among the Members in order to accomplish the common policy of integration with EU;
- To stimulate and organize initiatives and activities on a national, regional and global scale under the supervision of the SWG Assembly;
- To devote itself to an open, active, constructive and critical approach to the ongoing integration processes in Europe towards a world wide cooperation.

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Tasks of RRD SWG:
Major tasks of the SWG are to provide a platform for exchanging experience and assisting to each other with:

- Direct support and conducting studies, assessments and research in rural development;
- Assist establishing proper structure in institutions responsible for rural development;
- Facilitating communication between all stakeholders of rural development in the region;
- Raising awareness for rural development within local communities and rural development stakeholders;
- Strategic planning and programming of rural development.

Members	Organizational Structure	RRD SWG members are:
The SWG is composed of representatives of institutions in the SEE region in charge of rural development on national or regional level.	Rural bodies: - The Assembly - Permanent secretary - Secretariat - The Stakeholders Rural Club	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Albania Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Bulgaria Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Montenegro Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Hungary Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, (NINKE) Kosovo Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, (NINKE) Kosovo
The Stakeholders Rural Club The Stakeholders Rural Club is 100% stakeholder network, which consists of representatives of different stakeholders in rural development - GOV, NGOs, institutions - regional or international, which maintain interest in rural development and support the development of the business.	Supporters of RRD SWG Supporter can be a national authority, a national or international organization or institution, willing to host SWG meetings, to serve, objectives and tasks. Supporters are entitled to support SWG by providing technical assistance, logistic and financial support.	

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 Secretariat of RRD SWG
 GTZ HAAP Project
 Tuzla, Montenegro
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Posters of RRD SWG

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South Eastern Europe

SWG RRD

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Posters of RRD SWG



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 5. Strategic planning and programming of rural development.



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Organizational Structure

Four bodies:

- The Assembly
- Permanent secretary
- Secretariat
- The Stakeholders Rural Club

The Stakeholders Rural Club

The Stakeholders Rural Club is SWG bi-regional network, which consists of representatives of different stakeholders in rural development: EDs, NGOs, institutions - regional or international, which expressed interest to join. Membership is obtained upon the approval of the Assembly.

Supporters of RRD SWG

Supporter can be a national authority, a national or international organization or institution, willing to help SWG meeting its aims, objectives and tasks. Supporters are entitled to support SWG by providing technical assistance, logistic and financial support.



Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of South Eastern Europe



Flier



CEI Conference "Sustainable Development of Rural Areas – Readiness of Candidate Countries to Use EU Funds Conference" - September 21 & 22, 2006 in Zagreb