



Activities of the Secretariat of the SWG

REPORT No. 3
November 2006 – January 2007

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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
November 2006 – January 2007

Summary

The report covers the most important information and activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE countries (SWG).

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

The Forth Meeting of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE was held in the period November 29th - December 1st, 2006 in Mavrovo, Macedonia.

A Meeting Report was prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to all concerned parties.

Forth Meeting of SWG (November 29th - December 1st, 2006 in Mavrovo, Macedonia)

The Forth Meeting of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE was held in the period November 29th - December 1st, 2006 in Mavrovo, Macedonia.

The purpose of the Fourth meeting was SWG members to discuss and decide about future activities of the SWG, as well as to prepare an Operational Plan of the activities for the period December 2006-December 2007.

During the meeting the following was concluded:

- A formal registration of the SWG was recommended. The Secretariat of the SWG will engage a Lawyer who will explain and recommend the legal procedure for official registration of the SWG.

- Since the SWG members are mostly on political level (changing positions), it was also recommended that representatives on technical level from the respective Ministries to be informed and included in the activities of the SWG, in order to keep the continuation. Each SWG member should nominate one Ministry representative who will be continuously informed about the SWG activities and will participate on the SWG meetings, trainings and other relevant events.
- Several questions about the FAO Project proposal, implementation concept are still opened and should be discussed before the project implementation starts. Each SWG member should prepare list of issues for discussion with FAO.
- The Secretariat prepared templates for an invitation letter and CV for experts as well as organization profile template and delivered them to all SWG members.
It is expected that each Ministry will contribute with delivery of list of maximum 10-15 experts and organizations profiles from the region and the EU by February 28th, 2007.
- Each Ministry – SWG member, according to own opinion and decision about documents that could be of interest for other members, should post relevant documents on the website.
Draft documents will be also useful to be shared. Useful links should be shared, as well (Phare, IPA, EAR etc.).
- Each SWG member should share any information about different trainings, events with RD relevance with the SWG colleagues.
The Secretariat should search on internet about different events and trainings, which could be of interest for the members.
- InWEnt presented a plan and programme for 2007. InWEnt will support the SWG in organization of trainings and study tours for the SWG members according to their needs and request.
- A set of electronic version of all promotion materials prepared, as well as printed version of the leaflets and the banner, was delivered to each member Ministry.
- Methodology and project documentation of project with CBC and regional relevance to be shared among the SWG members and similar project to be elaborated and executed.
Project proposals should be prepared until the next SWG meeting, when they will be discussed and future steps defined.

- Taking into consideration that Agricultural Policy Forum (APF) organized by InWEnt will be held in November 2007 in Leipzig, Germany, the SWG members agreed that it is not necessary to organize APF in SEE next year.
- An Operational plan of activities of the SWG for the period December 2006 - December 2007 is prepared (including trainings and events).

SWG membership, Statute of SWG

The Secretariat of the SWG approached the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina both in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Serbska as well as the Canton Brcko.

An interest from their side was expressed during the meetings of representative of the Secretariat with representatives from the Ministries. Complete documentation was delivered to the Ministries and feed back is still expected.

As per the initiative and discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia to support SWG in organizing a WS for the SWG members, no reply received so far.

During the Fourth meeting of SWG it was concluded that the Greek Ministry of Agriculture should be informed about SWG initiative and invited to join. Mrs. Djordjevic from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management from Serbia, took responsibility to approach the colleagues from Greece.

Promotional material

Each member Ministry, as well as supporters were provided with a set of electronic version of all promotional materials, as well as with printed version of the leaflets.

As per the request of the members, small banners with SWG logo were printed by the Secretariat and delivered to each SWG member, in order to be exposed at the premises of the respective Ministries.

A new edition of the leaflets of SWG activities and the web – site “seerural.org” were printed for future promotion of SWG.

Presentation of RRD SWG activities on East – West Agricultural Forum preparations

As per the invitation from InWEnt – Capacity Building International and GTZ – HQ Germany, the Secretariat of SWG promoted the initiative and activities on

January 20, 2007 in Berlin, on the Cooperation market place, during the East-West Agricultural Forum and Green Week International Trade Fair.

During the Cooperation Market, contacts with relevant experts and professionals' established and possible future cooperation discussed.

Web – site of the SWG

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

One technical assistant is engaged by the Secretariat to administrate the web – site. It is expected that the members of the SWG will deliver all necessary and other interesting material to the Secretariat of the SWG, which will be posted on the web.

Meetings with representatives of the Embassy of Netherlands and the Embassy of Norway in Macedonia

The Secretariat of SWG had meetings with relevant representatives of the Embassy of Netherlands and the Embassy of Norway in Macedonia in order to present the initiative and activities of SWG.

The discussions were focused on the possibilities for support of the SWG in the process of realization of the Operational Plan for 2007, especially the cross border and regional projects.

Annex: Photos



IV Meeting of SWG

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.

Organizational Structure
Four bodies:
- The Assembly
- Permanent secretary
- Secretariat
- The Stakeholders Rural Club

The Stakeholders of the Rural Club
The Stakeholders' Rural Club is a SWG wide regional network, which consists of representatives of different stakeholders in the rural development sector (NGO, NGOs, institutions regional or international), which expressed interest to join. Membership is obtained upon the approval by the Assembly.

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

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of South Eastern Europe

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The SWG has been established on the basis of a common wish to establish an informal organizational body consisting of representatives of Governmental and other bodies responsible for rural development in their respective countries and territories of South Eastern Europe (SEE) and working on relevant rural development topics on sustainable principles, through networking and permanent cooperation between all stakeholders of rural development in the region.

The aims of the SWG:

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

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

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

- Direct support to conduct studies, assessments and research in rural development;
- Assist in establishing proper structures in institutions responsible for rural development;
- Facilitate communication between all stakeholders of rural development in the region;
- Rise awareness for rural development within local communities and rural development stakeholders;
- Support strategic planning and programming of rural development.

www.seerural.org

Flier on SWG initiative

www.seerural.org is the official web site of the SWG.

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

www.seerural.org provides:

- Direct contact with rural development stakeholders
- Easy approach for essential services of data
- Search for all stakeholders to business opportunity building
- Information to access to identify possible gains or overlapping
- Data on training, seminars and courses on relevant RD topics
- Discussion board opened to registered members.

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of South Eastern Europe (SWG)

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www.seerural.org

Territories
Albania
Bulgaria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Macaronesia
Montenegro
Serbia
Slovenia
Romania
EU

Calendar of training
An unique exchange panel for possibilities for training in the region and in the region which is providing an opportunity to better use available assets for human capacity building in the region. The calendar is an indicator of the presence of good will existing between countries and NGOs stakeholders to assist each other attempting to reach EU standards and help harmonising regional development.

Upload files
A program enabling a direct upload of files containing texts and data on rural development in the region, relevant to regional cooperation, development and strengthening national rural development policies. Country building of stakeholders and their engaging with sharing information and knowledge throughout the region. Promotion of achievements and best practices in the region. RD project and concept's promotion.

Discussion board
An email based Discussion board providing possibilities for wide public to comment on content of the SWG site, suggest and launch topics to be considered. Entrance to the board is based on pre-discussion registration as a member of SWG (not NGI).

Institutions
Governmental Structures
Academic Services/Extension Services
Institute/Universities
Regional Structures/ Agencies/ Offices
NGO
Agri-Tourism
Farmers association Unions

Calendar of events
A developing data base of workshops, meetings, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, media releases, fairs etc. dealing with different aspects of the Rural Development. An exclusive database of possible sources of references from the research and scientific areas on socio-economic, environmental, political and other aspects important for rural development in the region. A helpful tool for events planners to prevent overlapping.

Flier on seerural.org web site



SWG Posters

