



## **Activities of the Secretariat of SWG**

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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 May – August 2007**

### **Summary**

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

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

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Srpska in May 2007, joined the SWG as a full-fledged member.

### **The Sixth Meeting of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE Countries**

The Sixth Meeting of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (RRD SWG) in SEE was held on July, 17<sup>th</sup>.

Since most of the SWG members confirmed their participation for the Study tour: “Best practices in Regional Rural Development” organized by InWEnt for the SWG members, it was decided the Sixth Meeting of SWG to be held during the Study tour.

The purpose of the Sixth Meeting was that SWG members discuss about the current and decide about the future activities of the SWG.

During the meeting the following was concluded:

- Regarding the membership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Trifkovic, a SWG member from the Republic of Srpska, took the responsibility to discuss the issue with the colleagues from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The SWG members for the next meeting should have concrete project proposals with a cross- border and regional relevance, which could be part of the SWG project submitted to the GTZ – ORF or to other donors.
- For the necessity of completing the seerural.org web-site, the SWG members should collect the most important information until the beginning of September.
- During the Agricultural Policy Forum, the Ministers are supposed to take part at the last day of the Forum, at the so called Ministries` Meeting.
- A Declaration supporting the regional cooperation should be prepared by the SWG members and the Secretariat before the APF, thus, distributed to

- the Ministers at least one month before the Forum. It is expected that during the APF, the Ministers would sign the Declaration.
- The participation of the Ministers from the SEE countries on the Ministers` Meeting should be confirmed by the members of the SWG, latest by the end of July, in order to allow InWEnt to proceed with procedure of distributing the invitations of the Saxon Ministry of Agriculture, to the Ministers in the SEE countries.
  - It was proposed for the SWG to take the responsibility of becoming a strategic partner (on the political level), who is also responsible for the political backstopping of the new InWEnt programme in the country/region.
  - If the SWG decides to become InWEnt's strategic partner, a Memorandum of Understanding stating the contributions, tasks and responsibilities, mainly programme steering, contacting and networking, should be prepared.
  - More active involvement and inputs from the members and the Rotating President of the SWG for the year 2006/2007 is expected and needed.

### **The Project Proposal for the Open Regional Fund (ORF) for South–Eastern Europe on the Foreign Trade Promotion**

Project proposal was prepared by the Secretariat and it was submitted to the GTZ HQ for the Open Regional Fund (ORF) for South–Eastern Europe on the Foreign Trade Promotion. The project has been approved by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The project will support the activities of the SWG and will provide basic funds for organization of SWG meetings, as well as, for financing of the initial assessments of cross- border regions in SEE.

### **The Study Tour: “Best practices in Regional Rural Development”**

The Secretariat of the SWG, in cooperation and supported by the InWEnt – Capacity Building International organized the Study Tour: “Best practices in Regional Rural Development”. The Study tour was organized for the members of the SWG and aimed to provide SWG members with relevant information, experiences in implementation of measures for regional rural development in terms of:

- Diversification of activities in rural areas;
- Agro-Environmental measures;
- Marketing concepts and organization;

During the study tour relevant institutions, organizations and individuals were visited and the SWG members had the opportunity to discuss, to exchange experiences and to broaden the information on issues related to rural development. The study tour was organized in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

## **SEE Conference on Sheep and Goat Breeding and the Regional Sheep and Goat Breeders' Day**

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE (SWG) under the auspices of the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and in cooperation with GTZ, as well as other institutions and donors, organized the Regional Conference on Sheep and Goat Breeding and the Sheep and Goat Breeders' Day in SEE.

The events took place in Macedonia on the Bistra Mountain in Mavrovo and Galicnik.

During the Regional Conference on sheep and goat breeding, experts from Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia delivered presentations on different actual topics related to sheep and goat breeding.

More than one hundred and thirty sheep and goat breeders from Macedonia, Serbia, UNMIK Kosovo, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Albania had an opportunity to discuss and exchange information, knowledge and experience.

The second day of the event was celebration of the day of the protector of sheep and goat breeders – the St. Peter's Day, on the sheep breeding farm "Vardar" from Gradsko, located on the Bistra Mountain. Over 1500 people came to celebrate together the day dedicated to sheep and goat breeders.

## Annex: Photos

### Regional Conference on Sheep and Goat Breeding and Sheep and Goat Breeders' Day

Promotion material





Regional Conference on sheep and goat breeding – 13.07.2007



Official opening of the Conference



presentation of the Albanian expert

Anonymous tasting of different types of cheese – 13.07.2007



The Sheep and Goat breeders` Day – 14.07.2007



opening speech of the Macedonian Minister



The President of the EC Delegation Mr. Ervan Fuere visited the event



Mr. Ervan Fuere buys Macedonian wool products

Contests in hand milking and hand shearing of sheep



Contest in hand milking



contest in hand sharing

Sixth SWG meeting





SWG Study Tour: "Best Practices in Regional Rural Development"

