



**Activities of the SWG Head Office/Secretariat
for the period July - August 2010**

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Cc:

- Ministries of Agriculture in SEE Countries (SWG member institutions)
- GTZ HQ Office, Eschborn, Germany
- InWEnt, Germany
- FAO Regional office, Budapest
- European Commission – Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Major activities carried out during the reporting period

Summary

This report covers the most important activities undertaken by the SWG Head Office/ Secretariat during the period July- August 2010.

The SWG Head Office/Secretariat, on behalf of the SWG-members, conducted a series of activities by supporting and coordinating the activities of the SWG.

1. PROJECTS and PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

1.1. Cooperation with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

1.1.1. The SWG-project financed by the GTZ Open Regional Fund (ORF) for SEE on Foreign Trade Promotion entitled:

“Increased competitiveness of companies and associations from South-Eastern Europe in the agro and food sector through implementation of food safety standards, regional networking and increase of volume and value of trade”

- Within the project, the following activities were organized in the period July-August 2010:

1.1.1.1 The Regional Event: “The Sheep and Goat Breeder’s Day 2010” and the Round Table entitled: “Classification of ovine carcasses on slaughter line according to the SEUROP standard” were organized in Macedonia on July 9th and 10th, 2010.

- The Round Table was organized by the SWG under the Auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) from Macedonia and the Mission of the European Union in Macedonia. Organization of the round table was also part of the SWG- TAIEX multicounty expert’s mission.
- The events provided a platform for strengthening the regional cooperation in the sheep breeding sector, as well as increasing the awareness on importance of the food quality standards for the export oriented companies and national economies.

1.1.1.2 Preparations for the **forthcoming events are on-going:**

- Fair on Agro biodiversity, Sales exhibition of wool handicrafts and discussion on business networking of handicrafts producers, September 24th, 2010, Dimitrovgrad, Serbia
- Technical discussion on honey quality and export requirements combined with regional exhibition of bee products and a business meeting of traders of honey and bee-products from SEE, October 11th 2010, Pljevlja, Montenegro
- First Regional Meeting of the wholesale and green markets from the Western Balkan countries, October 18th, 19th 2010, Belgrade, Serbia

- Conference on CEFTA Agreement and multilateral business-to-business meetings, November 9th, 2010, Skopje, Macedonia

1.1.2 The SWG-project to be financed by the GTZ Study and Experts Fund: “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”

1.1.2.1 Planning and Coordination Meeting, 13-14 July 2010 in Mavrovo, Macedonia

The meeting objective were to:

- Define the project activities and the implementing procedures;
- Discuss and define technical issues related to water and forestry management in river basin areas of SEE region;
- Draft/ plan project activities and preparation of project draft Operational Plan;
- Determine other project partners (institutions, organizations, etc.) which could be involved in the project implementation.

Subsequent to the definition of the main technical topics in the water and forestry sectors, the following project activities – Technical discussions/ Conferences were defined related to the project indicators:

- Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive
- Improvement of technical and financial sustainability of irrigation
- Improvement of management and monitoring of water resources and irrigation in South Eastern European Region
- Implementation of a concept for sustainable forest management (SFM) in protective forests
- Network and management of private forests
- Unified methodology, classification criteria, data base, definition of forest lands

1.2 Cooperation with the European Commission

1.2.1 TAIEX

1.2.1.1 Multicounty TAIEX expert mission has been performed within the Round Table entitled: “Classification of ovine carcasses on slaughter line according to the SEUROP standard” were organized in Macedonia on July 9th.

Ministry representatives from Albania, Croatia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), Macedonia and Serbia had an opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences related the classification of ovine carcasses and SEUROP standard among themselves and with the TAIEX expert from the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs.

1.2.1.2. Based on the SWG training map for Multicounty TAIEX seminars for the period June – December 2010 the SWG Head Office/ Secretariat started the initial preparation for the:

- TAIEX experts mission on CMO which will be organized in Zagreb, Croatia in the period November 26th – December 2nd, 2010;
- Workshop on Less Favorable Areas (LFA) to be organized in the period November – December.

1.3 Cooperation with InWEnt

Preparations for the **forthcoming events are on-going:**

- Agricultural Policy Forum 2010 which will be held in Dresden, Germany in the period 27th – 31st October 2010;
- Planning workshop at the InWEnt Alumni Conference in Belgrade, February 2010 in order to discuss and define on the EU- Integration of SEE II foreseen for the period of 2011-2014.

2. EVENTS, MEETINGS

2.1 Events

2.1.1 Preparations of Agricultural Policy Forum 27th – 31st October 2010, Dresden Germany

- APF 2010 will focus on fostering the implementation of EU-like agricultural and rural development policies in SEE with respect to a further integration of the region's agricultural and rural sector into the EU;
- All nominated participants from the SWG member countries and partner organizations should register by the end of September 2010.

2.1.2 Preparations for the Annual Ministers Meeting 23rd – 24th November, Zagreb, Croatia

- The objective of the Annual Working Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture from SEE is to discuss and decide upon the next steps for strengthening regional co-operation in the field of agriculture and rural development;
- This year the Annual Ministers Meeting will be held separately from the Agricultural Policy Forum and the host will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Croatia;
- The official invitations on behalf of the Croatian Ministry should be sent by September 25th 2010.

ANNEX: Photos



Round Table: Classification of ovine carcasses on slaughter line according to the SEUROP standard



Sheep and Goat Breeders` Day 2010

Planning meeting of the SWG GTZ SWF Project

