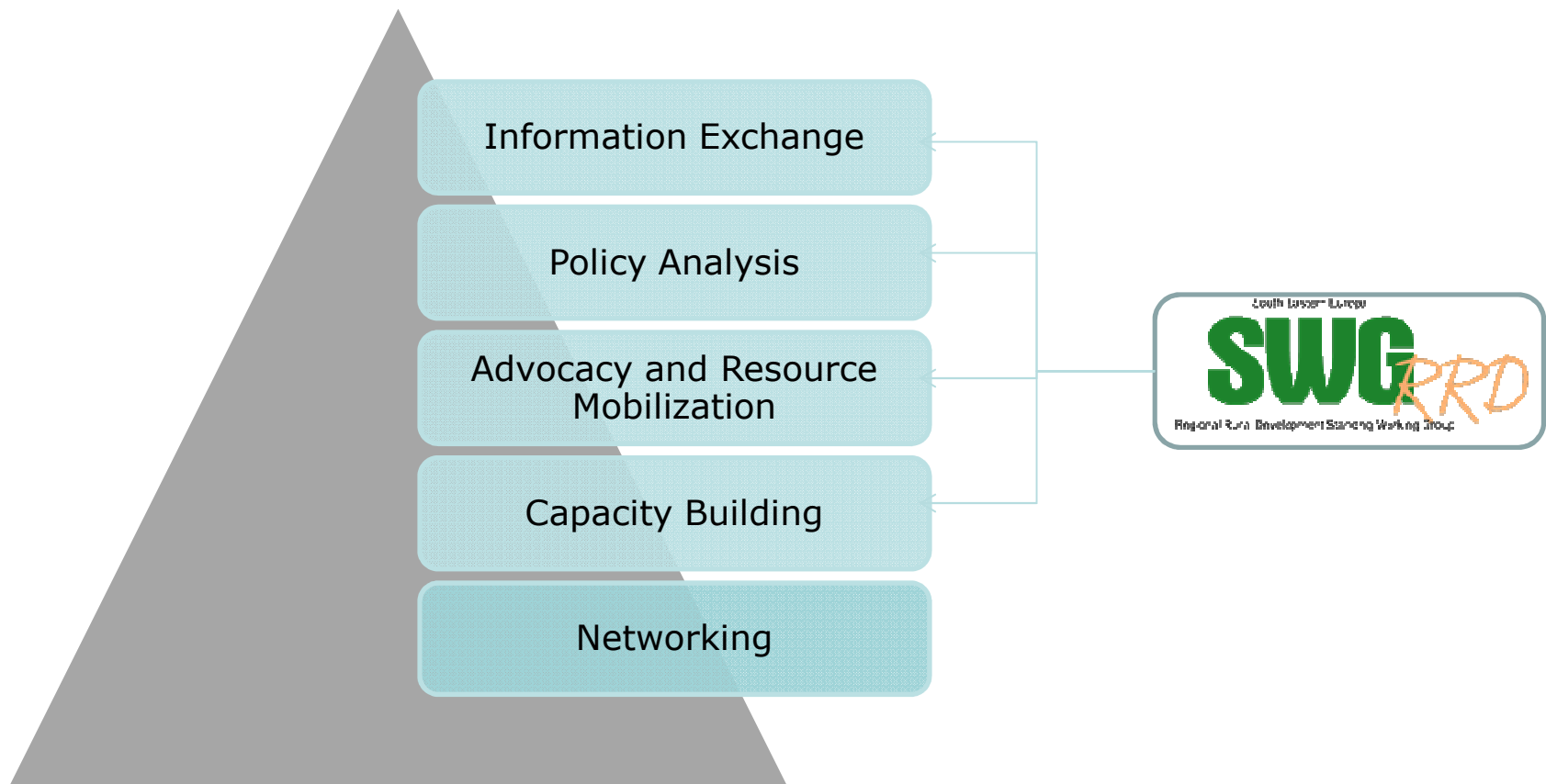


Regional Cooperation in South Eastern Europe 2014



Boban Ilic, SWG Secretary General

Retrospective on the achievements in 2014



Facts and Figures

- Successful implementation of SWG Strategic and Operational Plan 2011-2015;
- SWG expended its operations across the SEE region by opening and operating six (6) functional offices
- Increased capacity of Human Resource in the SWG operating structures;
- Increase of SWG Membership and Observers;
- SWG Manual of Rules and Procedures is up-graded in preparatory phase for 4 (6) -pillar assessment and accreditation;
- Members contribution for adequate funding of the operations satisfactory.



Facts and Figures

- Memorandum of Understanding signed between CEFTA and SWG;
- Strategic Framework for Cooperation agreed upon UN FAO and SWG for the period 2015-2020;
- Implementation of activities/technical working group discussions on:
 - Paying Agencies and Managing Authorities;
 - Public Forest Enterprises;
 - Water and Forest management.
- Feeding Knowledge program-2nd phase to be completed in December 2014:
 - Mediterranean network of experts focused on research, innovation and transfer of knowledge for food safety has been established;
 - Best sustainable development (BSD) practices for food safety have been identified;
 - 25 BSD have been submitted to the web platform.



Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) in SEE

- The local partnership in the form of Stakeholder Group (SHG) are operational in the “Drina - Tara” , “Drina - Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” cross-border regions and function according defined rules and procedures;
- Target regions involve 100 municipalities and 1,5 million people;
- Programmes for economic development through intensive cross-border cooperation in “Drina - Tara” , “Drina - Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” cross-border regions have been prepared;
- Grant application and evaluation procedures – developed;
- Pilot grant scheme implemented in “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” regions – 9 projects with involvement 28 partners financed with approx 150.000 EUR;
- Set of 20 promotional material for each region have been prepared;
- Twenty international people to people actions for promotion of products, natural, cultural heritage and tradition are supported with participation of more than 30.000 people.

Financial Statement

Financial Report:

- Financial Report made for the period **01.10.2013 – 30.09.2014** on annual basis

Independent Audit's Report Statement:

- "Reviews the financial statements as *fairly* in all material respects in accordance with the donors' requirements and accounting policies and principles"

Funds at the beginning of the period:

847,076.00 EUR

Total sources of funds:

1,476,333.00 EUR

Total financed operating funds:

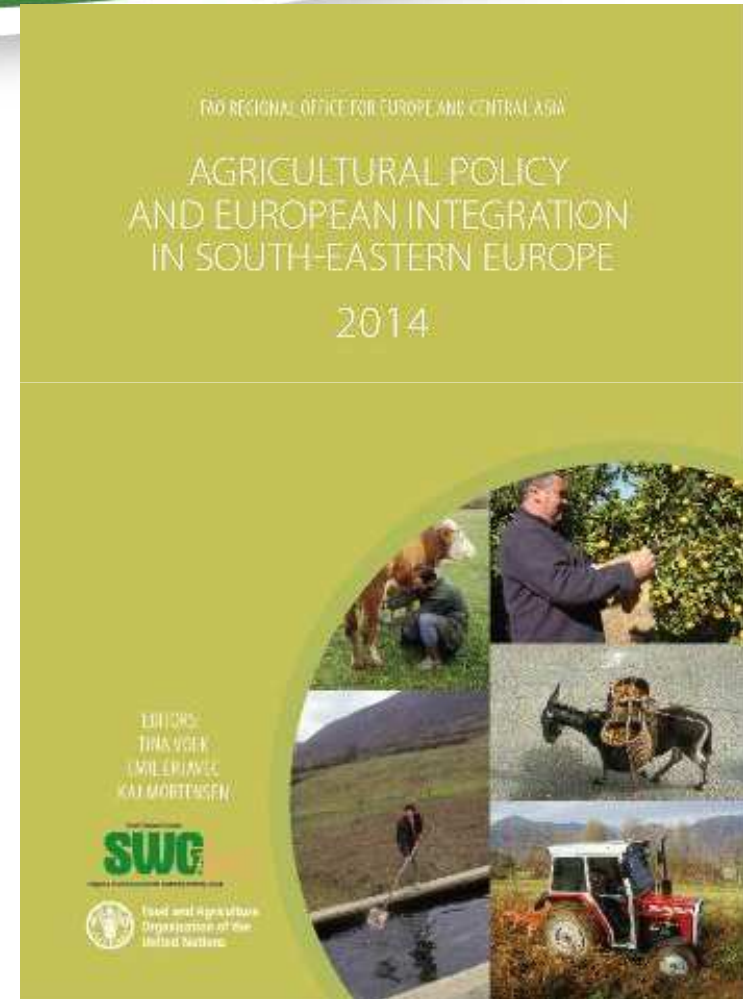
994,060.00 EUR

Funds at the end of the period:

1,332,995.00 EUR

Study on »Agricultural Policy and European Integration in South Eastern Europe«

- Study conducted and published in 2014 under the SWG and FAO project on “*Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries for EU accession*”;
- It provides a systematic overview of the situation and trends in agriculture and agricultural policy in SEE countries;
- The overview put special emphasis on the comparison between key policy indicators within the region as well as with the European Union (EU) agriculture and Common agricultural policy (CAP);
- The general conclusion of the analysis is that progress has been made in the development of agriculture in the SEE region as a whole in the recent years. However, much remains to be done to prepare the respective agricultural sectors for the competitive pressures of the modern global economy and – particularly relevant to this study – for EU accession.



Regional Program: rural development through water and forest management

- Goal of the program is to improve the state of natural resources through enhanced and integrated forest and water resource management in SEE, considering the ecological and socio-economic balance of the rural areas in the entire SEE region;
- Flood management due to major impacts that has caused in 2014 (May and September) will be tackled as a main topic;
- Appraisal mission of the SEE region completed in October 2014;
- Program duration foreseen for 3 years period 2015 – 2017;
- Program implementation to be done in cooperation with German International Cooperation (GIZ).

SEE Strategy 2020

- SWG as regional initiative part of the pillar dimension on environment, competitiveness and trade;
- SWG is responsible for the measures and indicators on forestry, agriculture and irrigation of agricultural land;
- Qualitative and qualitative indicators defined and collected;
- Regional action plan developed together with Regional Environmental Center (REC) and Global Water Partnership (GWP);
- Regional program for the period 2015-2020 developed and adopted by RCC;
- Operational plan for execution of activities for 2015 to be defined in December 2014.

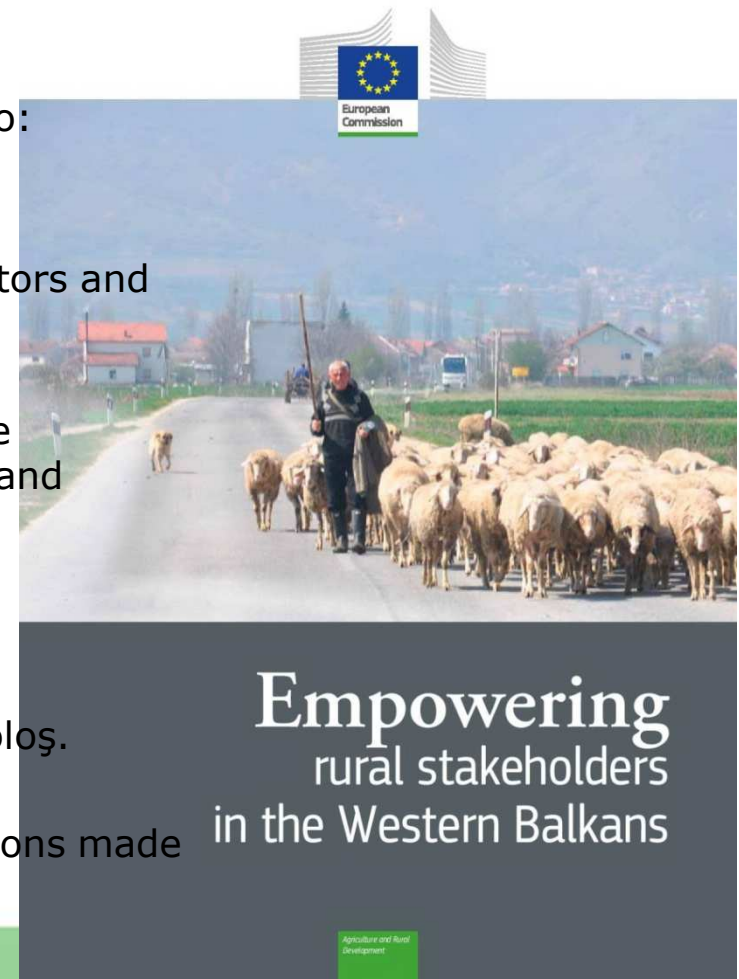


South East Europe
2020 Strategy –

**Jobs and
Prosperity in a
European
Perspective**

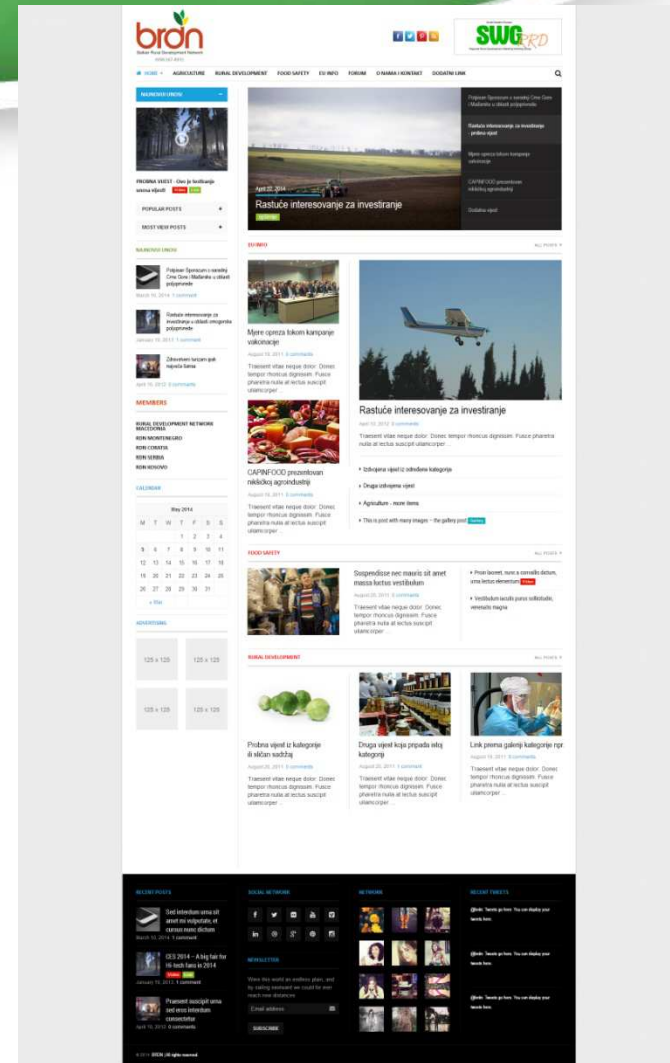
Empowering Rural Stakeholders

- *Goal: Effective rural development depends upon action by both governments and rural stakeholders.*
- Traveling workshops in Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro:
 - Meeting stakeholders on their home ground;
 - Gaining their perspective on rural realities;
 - Intensive discussion among people from different sectors and countries.
- Participants from civil society and government in the three countries and in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Turkey;
- National conferences in the three countries.
- Concluding conference in Brussels, with Commissioner Cioloş.
- Publication on the traveling workshops and recommendations made for empowering rural stakeholders.



Balkan Rural Development Network

- Operational plan for 2014 fully implemented for the BRDN;
- Strategy and Action Plan of the BRDN developed and implemented;
- Croatian National Development Network has joined the BRDN;
- Bulgarian and Bosnian National Development Network expresses the willingness to join;
- Design of the BRDN web site (www.brdnetwork.net)



Project Portfolio

Accomplished Projects:

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations

- Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries in the process of EU accession;
- "Establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries".

European Commission

- Technical Assistance to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe;
- Area based development-ABD in Drina-Tara river(SRB-MNE-BiH);
- "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme 2011 – ABDA Project Preparation Facility";
- SWG – EC: "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme- Preparation for implementation of an Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans 2014 – 1st phase".

Project Portfolio

Accomplished Projects:

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations

- Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries in the process of EU accession;
- "Establishment of rural development networks in SEE countries".

European Commission

- Technical Assistance to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe;
- Area based development-ABD in Drina-Tara river(SRB-MNE-BiH);
- "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme 2011 – ABDA Project Preparation Facility";
- "IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme- Preparation for implementation of an Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans 2014 – 1st phase".

Project Portfolio

Accomplished Projects:

German International Cooperation (GIZ)

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

Project Portfolio

Running Projects:

- *SWG – GIZ*: “Support to the EU reform processes in the field of agriculture and rural development of SEE countries and strengthening of regional cooperation and networking in South Eastern Europe”;
- *SWG-GIZ*: “Strengthening capacity building through networking and regional cooperation in the Western Balkan countries”;
- *SWG – EC*: “IPA Multi-beneficiary Annual Programme- Preparation for an Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans 2014”;
- *SWG – CIHEAM IAMB*: “Feeding Knowledge Program”
- *SWG-FAO*: “Support to the implementation of an integrated and innovative economic development approach in Drina-Tara and Drina-Sava – the Area Based Development Approach”.

Project Portfolio

Projects Under Preparation:

- *SWG- GIZ*: "Rural Development through water and forest management in SEE";
- *SWG – GIZ*: "Support to sustainable waste management in SEE rural and coastal cross-border areas"
- *SWG – JRC IPTS*: "Monitoring and assessment of agriculture and rural development policies in Western Balkans"

Thank you!

SWG Head Office/Secretariat
Blvd. Goce Delcev 18
Macedonian Television Building fl. 12
1000 Skopje, Macedonia

Tel: ++389(0)2 3 217 708

Fax: ++389(0)2 3 217 244

www.seerural.org

**Kosovo "This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence."*