



## X MINISTERIAL MEETING

Ministries of Agriculture  
from South East Europe

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Bečići, Montenegro



Montenegro

A DECADE  
OF INDEPENDENCE  
A MILLENNIUM  
OF STATEHOOD  
MONTENEGRO  
2016



May Montenegro live forever



# THE TIRANA AGENDA

By

**Kaj F. Mortensen**

International consultant



## The Agriculture Policy Forum (APF)

The APF is the culmination of the past year's work where:

- Policymakers, academics and experts discuss achievements and selected topics.
- Conclusions are drawn and recommendations made to the political level for the future SWG working agenda.
- **The Tirana Agenda 2016**



## **Overall theme:**

***Evidence – Based Agricultural Policy: Enabling Environment for Developing the Agricultural Sector in South East Europe.***

## **Main topics discussed:**

- Agricultural policy based on relevant in-depth analyses and adaptation to the EU approximation process.
- Promotion of the Area Based Development approach as a tool for local rural development
- along with the need for sustainable use of natural resources and involvement of the rural civil society,

**As crucial factors for development of rural areas.**



## The general situation

- Difficult for agricultural sectors in the SEE countries to sustain the competitive pressure from mainstream imports and to compete on Eu and international markets.
- **The analysis highlights that the main reasons are:**
  - The agri-food sectors in the SEE countries are very small compared to the EU or indeed most EU member states.
  - Deficient infrastructure and weaknesses in the value chains
  - Lack of competitiveness of the agri-food sectors and the rural economy
  - The vast number of very small entities and
  - The need to address the constraints of small farms and rural businesses who still represent a large share of food production.



## The Forum recommends:

### The SEE countries should:

- Apply all available policy tools to use the full potential of the sectors
- Actively pursue regional cooperation to
  - Harmonise their trade policies and marketing standards
  - Improve the effectiveness in the value chains
  - promote development of short value chains and quality products
  - Facilitate **regional** business cooperation, product development, promotion and marketing



## IPARD – applied evidence based policymaking

- IPARD represents a substantial share of the agricultural budget for investments,
- It provides large range of tools for developing agriculture and rural areas.

### **However,**

- These tools are only used to a limited extent and
- It only addresses a marginal number of farms and rural businesses.



## The forum recommends:

That policymakers apply a larger range of tools and give higher priority to IPARD measures:

- Facilitating cooperation among small farmers and businesses
- Setting up and running business partnerships
- Promoting development of short value chains in line with the EU cluster policy.
- Integrating elements of sustainable use of natural resources and natural resource management.

In this regard a supportive legal, financial and administrative environment for business development is of critical importance.



## **Natural resources management in the frame of environment protection policies and sustainable rural development**

Policy challenges of natural resources management in the frame of environment protection and sustainable rural development.

### **The Forum highlighted the need to:**

- Enhance policy coherence for development (SEE efforts in attaining EU development goals)
- Support the development of sound regulation and effective institutions that ensure user rights to natural resources of the rural population.
- Support for design and implementation of market-based instruments for natural resource management
- Support local organization capacity and natural resource users



## **ABD – bottom up local development in cross border areas**

- The ABD approach **enables** rural stakeholders to participate in local and regional policymaking and implementation in cross-border regions and:
  - strengthens local cross border cooperation, although with very little funds to support small scale investments.
  - Applies evidence based policymaking – bottom up
- Fully consolidated in four cross border regions
- Implementation initiated in three new regions.

### **The forum recommends:**

- to seek increases in funding to small scale investments contributing to local economic development and sustainable use of natural resources.



## ABDA cross-border regions

### “Drina – Tara”

(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro)

### “Drina – Sava”

(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia)

### “Sharra”

(Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo\*)

### “Prespa”

(Albania and Macedonia)

### “Prokletije”

(Albania, Kosovo\* and Montenegro)

### “Pcinja”

(Macedonia, Bulgaria and Serbia)

### “Neretva”

(Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)



## FINAL CONCLUSION

**In a time where the EU integration process has become rather inert, closer regional cooperation and coordination of policies among the Western Balkan countries is even the more important in order to enhance trade and foster economic growth and prosperity in rural areas.**