



Report for the
1st Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on LEADER
on the

“Assessment of the application on LEADER approach in the Western Balkan countries”

05th – 07th June 2017
Andrevlje, Serbia

Participants/Target Group

The 1st Interim meeting was attended by total of 22 participants consisted of one Ministry representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture - experts dealing on issue on LEADER Approach, one LEADER Expert – representative from Academia or Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) or National Rural Network and the representatives from the Balkan Rural Development Network – (see **Annex 1**), which provided their input, as planned with the agenda (see **Annex 2**).

Official addresses and introduction to the objectives of the meeting

Ms. Bogdanka Leveska Gjorshoska gave an official address on behalf of the organizer, the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG) and moderated the meeting. Ms. Gjorshoska introduced the objectives of the meeting: coordination in terms of roles, responsibilities, upcoming activities, deadlines, and final expected results. The host, Mr. Zoran Janjatovic, Assistant Minister welcomed the participants on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. On behalf of GIZ, Ms. Anica Palazzo provided welcoming address to the present participants.

Progress report of the Country Assessment/Study on LEADER

All the national draft reports have been received accordingly by the national experts. The country reports have been evaluated and reviewed by the regional and international experts as being in their first stage with some corrections, suggestions and additions needed. Regional and international experts have provided their input to the national experts. The progress of the revised country reports has been presented during the 1st Interim Meeting except the report from Kosovo*, since the national expert due to unpredicted reasons was not able to attend the meeting, but the presentation regarding the country report was provided accordingly.

More details on the country reports could be find:

Albania draft country assessment, Dr. Edvin Zhllima: **Annex 3**

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BIH draft country assessment, Prof. Sabahudin Bajramovic: **Annex 4**

Republic of Srpska, BIH draft country assessment, Mr. Dragan Brkovic: **Annex 5**

Kosovo* draft country report, Ms. Mihone Kerolli: **Annex 6**

Macedonia draft country report, Mr. Petar Gjorgievski: **Annex 7**

Montenegro draft country report, Mr. Ratko Batakovic: **Annex 8**

Serbia draft country report, Prof. Natalija Bogdanov: **Annex 9**

Remarks and discussion related to the quality of the draft national country reports

The second part of the meeting was reserved for the individual discussions with the engaged national experts. The regional and international experts discussed with each of the national experts individually and provided their feedback on the quality and structure of the country assessments as per agreed outline. Some of the reports were pointed out as a closest to the expectations, while few of them would have to undertake considerable revision. There was also dissimilarity in respect to the content and length among the country assessments which needs to be overcome. In some of the chapters there was a dismiss of certain data. The regional experts pointed out all the issues which should be fixed in the final version.

Elaboration of the structure of the country reports and their preparation

During the second day, the discussion was focused on the recommendations by the regional experts related to the structure of the country reports in respect to their finalization starting from the initially agreed outline. The participants agreed to keep the country report not longer than 12 pages concerning the content plus the cover page – one page, table of content – one page and abbreviations – one page and max 3 pages for the annexes which are integral part of the report according to the outline.

The introduction should cover the structure of the main headings of the country reports i.e. to be made as a short summary of the report. The experts should prepare the reports in Ariel 11 font and to pay attention to the style of writing – to be unified and to reflect the policy writing. The case study was also elaborated and should follow the template send by the SWG and should describe the process of the examples. The chapter referring to recommendations to include the institutional set up, policy improvements and empowering rural stakeholders. Conclusions to contain an information of the process of creation the conclusions. Maximum 3 Annexes to be included to the report covering the listed instructions in the agreed outline. More details in **Annex 10**

Discussion and agreement of the activities to be performed, communication and dissemination

Mr. Bogdanka Gjorshoska highlighted that the final country reports should be completed by 16th of June and provided to the regional experts for their final quality check. The regional synthesis report should be drafted during the summer period and presented during the 2nd Interim meeting of the experts in September. The regional experts will closely cooperate with the international expert in developing the regional assessment/study. Final complete report should be done by October and presented during the Agricultural Policy Forum 2017 in Montenegro, October 2017. The brief of the study as well as entire study will be edited and printed by the end of the year.

Conclusions and next steps

The purpose of the next meeting will be conducted as a meeting of the regional and international experts on LEADER in which the regional experts will present their regional synthesis report and present the possible recommendations.

Next steps

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| Final country reports on LEADER Approach | National Experts | 16 th June |
| Approval of the national reports | Regional Experts | End of June |
| Draft regional synthesis report | Regional Experts, International Expert | Beginning of September |
| Provision of recommendations for improved mainstreaming of the LEADER approach in the SEE | National Experts, Regional Experts, International Expert, REWAG | September |
| 2 nd Interim Meeting – final regional synthesis report | Regional experts, International expert, GIZ, SWG | September |
| Presentation of major outcomes at the Rural Policy Forum in October 2017 | Regional Experts | 11 th October |
| Final approval of the full report for editing and printing | SWG/GIZ | October |
| Final report editing | SWG/GIZ | November |
| Final report printing | SWG/GIZ | End of December |

** 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*