

**41st Session of the Assembly  
of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-Eastern  
Europe**

**10th - 12th April 2018  
Sofia, Bulgaria**

**PROGRAM**

**April 10th, 2018 (Tuesday)**

- Arrival of the participants

20:00 Dinner hosted on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of Bulgaria

**April 11th, 2018 (Wednesday)**

**SWG Assembly Session (Open Meeting)**

*Chair: President of the SWG Assembly*

*Co-Chair: SWG Secretary General*

- 09:00 – 09:05 Introduction of the topics of the program for the 41<sup>st</sup> SWG Session
- 09:05 - 09:15 Official address on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of Bulgaria
- 09:15 - 09:40 Rural Development Program of Bulgaria for the period 2014 – 2020
- 09:40 - 10:00 Development of Organic Agriculture in Bulgaria
- 10:00 – 10:10 Review of the realized activities within the SWG in the period December 2017 - April 2018 via SWG Operational Plan  
*SWG Head Office/Secretariat*
- 10:10 – 10:30 Elaboration and update on the cooperation with EU, JRC and DG Agri
- *SWG – EC “Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas”*
  - *SWG – JRC “Land Market development and Small Farms’ Access to Land in the Pre-Accession Countries (LMSF-AC)”*
  - *SWG – JRC “Agricultural Policy Developments and EU Approximation Process in the Western Balkan Countries (APDAP-WB)”*
- SWG Head Office/Secretariat*
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 11:20 Update and progress in relation to the cooperation with GIZ
- *SWG - GIZ: Summary of the evidence-based policies relevant for rural development (LEADER, Agrobiodiversity)*

- 11:20 – 11:40 Update and progress in relation to the cooperation with GIZ
- *SWG - GIZ: Summary of the evidence-based policies relevant for rural development (Agro-environmental measures, Value chains in the tourism and agro-food sectors)*  
*SWG Head Office/Secretariat*
- 11:40 – 12:00 *Update and discussion related to the proposal*
- *SWG - GIZ: Proposal for LEIWW phase II (09.2018 – 08.2021)*
- 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 – 14:30 Discussions on the SWG major upcoming activities for the year 2018  
*SWG Head Office/Secretariat*
- 14:30 – 15:00 Preparations for the Agricultural Policy Forum 2018  
*SWG Head Office/Secretariat*
- 15:00 – 16:00 Preparations for the 12th Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE (Possibility for back to back meeting with the Ministers of Environment)  
*SWG Head Office/Secretariat*
- 16:00 – 16:30 Official closing of the session
- 19:30 Dinner hosted on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of Bulgaria

#### **April 12th, 2018 (Thursday)**

#### **SWG Assembly Session (Closed Meeting - for SWG Delegates and Observers)**

*Chair: President of the SWG Assembly*

*Co-Chair: SWG Secretary General*

- Departure of the participants