



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗА ЗЕМЈОДЕЛСТВО,  
ШУМАРСТВО И ВОДОСТОПАНСТВО  
на Република Македонија



XII MINISTERIAL MEETING  
Ministries of Agriculture  
from South East Europe 2018  
14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November, Struga, Macedonia



South Eastern Europe  
**SWG** RRD  
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

# Jahorina Agenda 2018

## Agricultural Policy Forum 2018

### Agricultural Policy: Determinant of the Regional Rural Development and EU Perspectives of SEE

By

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## The Agricultural Policy Forum – a platform for international policy dialogue

Three main orientations of the debate:

- The future EU pre-accession policy in the light of the new strategy 'A Credible Enlargement Perspective for and Enhanced Engagement with the Western Balkans'
- The CAP reform, trends in EU agri-food trade policies and their implications for the EU integration process.
- Review of the results of analytical work done on specific topics by the SWG regional advisory groups.



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## The future strategy for EU pre-accession policy.

- **Main concern:** Depopulation of rural areas due to lack of income opportunities, weak social services, etc.
- **High potential in** rural areas for increasing economic activities and job creation to improve livelihood.
- Yet, more than **90 % of farms and rural businesses** out of reach for traditional support measures, incl. IPARD.



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## The future strategy for EU pre-accession policy.

### The Forum concluded:

- **Diversifying economic activities and cooperation** will increase economic performance of small businesses.
- Key sectors: **Agri-food production and rural tourism.**
- Introduce **mix of policy measures**, incl. support to investments, innovation and managing partnerships.
- **IPARD III** could introduce a comprehensive measure with focus on small farms and rural businesses



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## The future strategy for EU pre-accession policy.

**6 flagships** for strategic support in the future.

The Forum concluded:

- Essential to enhance competitiveness and economic performance of **small farmers and rural businesses.**
- **Two important flagships:**
  - Supporting socio-economic development
  - Supporting reconciliation and good neighbourly relations



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## EU policy reforms – impact on integration.

Major challenge to align nat. policies to EU agricultural and trade policies and standards.

The Forum concluded:

- The **competitive pressure** from the EU will be fierce.
- **SEE could align policies and standards** already during the pre-accession period.
- **Joint actions to harmonize** marketing standard, remove trade barriers to enhance their competitiveness.



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## EU policy reforms – impact on integration.

The **SWG expert advisory working groups** consists of experts from **public** institutions, **private** sector and **research**.

- Analyse and discuss selected topics throughout the year
- Meet at the APF to discuss their findings in a broader forum.

These groups play an **important role in the accession process** by:

- **Exchanging experience among stakeholders** at regional level
- **Coordinating** approximation issues at regional level
- Provide **recommendations** to the SWG member countries



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## Review of the analytical work on specific topics:

**Topic:** Agricultural policy developments in the SEE

National policies still short term – not in line with strategies

### The Forum concluded:

- More **transparent** policymaking and **long term** orientation
- Policies to be **evidence based** in line with EU principles
- Focus on improving **competitiveness** of the large group of **small farms and rural businesses**



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## Review of the analytical work on specific topics:

**Topic:** Land market and small farms' access to land

Agricultural land is still very fragmented and a clear policy for land management and ownership is generally missing.

### The Forum concluded:

- Legislation to **prevent** further land **fragmentation** needed
- State **support** to land consolidation
- Measures to **stimulate** the **land market** to reduce abandoned and unutilized land



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## Review of the analytical work on specific topics:

**Topic:** Agri-environment policy, conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture

Implementation of agri-environment policies is diverging in the SEE. although in national strategies it has low priority.

### The Forum concluded:

- **Higher priority** to agri-env- policy and sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity
- **Integrated info system** to ensure evidence based policy design
- Apply **IPARD** to introduce EU compliant policy measures



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## Review of the analytical work on specific topics:

**Topic:** Good practice in the meat processing sector in the WB

The WB meat industry is characterized by small farmers/ processors, low productivity and high production costs.

Lack of a strategic value chain approach, coordination, access to info.

### The Forum concluded:

- **Effective strategy implementation** to improve competitiveness, reducing production costs and increase productivity.
- More focus on **small producers and processors** through training, knowledge transfer and organization in strategic value chains
- **IPARD** measures should be well designed to address these issues



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**Those were the words from the APF**



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