

Methodology for the assessment of the policies for economic diversification in rural areas through rural tourism in the SEE

Regional Expert

Suzana Dordevic-Milosevic

supported by

International Expert

Kirsi Hyvaerinen

Assessment of the policies for economic diversification in rural areas, with focus on rural tourism

- Defining rural areas (adapting from the previously done RD analyses, SWG publications)
- Clarifying what term “rural tourism” means (include) for every participating country (National RT experts)

The state of legal frameworks related to economic diversification in rural areas, with focus on rural tourism

- Collecting of relevant legal documentation on the national level to be analysed and stored in shared SWG RRD archive for further use
- Assessment of the available documentation on the national level (existence/non/existence, coverage/topics etc.)
- Evaluation of the relevant legal frameworks in place against EU best practices – Health check of legal framework related to efficiency/level of implementation, results achieved - **evidence of impacts, if monitored in the past 10 years?**

(with support of Ministry representatives; clear checklist / Excel sheet will be provided for getting comparable information)

Assessment of the institutional set-up relevant for economic diversification in rural areas, with focus on rural tourism

- National (jurisdictions over laws implementation, financial support, education, technical support etc.)
- Regional (Development support, Marketing and Promotion, Destination Management etc.)
- Local levels (Financial support, Technical support etc.)

Assessment suggested to be completed through Governments representatives in SWG RRD and other national institutions which are responsible for certain aspects relevant for RT and National rural development networks representatives in Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN) by semi-structured interviews of relevant stakeholders – to which we will deliver the frame

Collection, assessment and elaboration of the relevant national data/information on policy related to support to economic diversification in rural areas with focus on rural tourism

- National strategies for rural tourism
- Master plans for rural tourism on the national, regional, local and destination levels (with the functional DMO)
- National programmes and action plans for rural tourism development
- Local programmes and action plans for rural tourism development
- EU (IPA) projects 2014-2020 (finished and ongoing) with rural development focus (project name, website & lead partner) if possible

Assessment suggested to be completed by engaging Ministries representatives in SWG RRD to assist with collection of data

Development of recommendations for future steps needed for improved institutional, policy and legal setup and alignment with EU policies related to economic diversification in rural areas with focus on rural tourism

- Primarily by national experts following results of the policy assessment

(is there space for an extended research within NRTE ToRs for the stakeholders experience/opinion survey? (across 3-6 months; disseminated online) – this could be done with engaging students)

- Comments provided by regional and international expert

National reports structure

Economic diversification of the rural areas in **xxx**, with focus on rural tourism

(national experts with assistance of regional and international expert)

- **The status** of economic diversification policies with focus on rural tourism in respective country (**desk work**, analysis of documents collected with the assistance of authorities / national, regional, local, public, private, CSO, development agencies and others)
- **Gaps and constraints** regarding the economic diversification policies with focus on rural tourism in respective country, including level of EU approximation and identification of gaps (**participatory work** / questionnaires for local stakeholders / registered RT services providers, DMO, TOs)
- **Recommendations** for improving:
 - policies on the national, regional and local level
 - institutional set-up for providing support to the sector, empowering stakeholders and strengthening value and supply chains, linking diverse sectors
 - legal set-up

for economic diversification of the rural areas in respective country (national experts view with reference to findings from the assessment; contribution from the ministry representative and other stakeholders specific for the respective country)

Economic diversification of the rural areas in SEE, with focus on rural tourism

(Regional expert supported by national and international experts)

- **Summary of the status** of economic diversification policies with focus on rural tourism in SEE
- **Summary of gaps and constraints** regarding the economic diversification policies with focus on rural tourism in SEE
- **Recommendations for improving :**
 - national policies
 - legal set-ups on the national levels
 - institutional set-ups on the national levels

Through:

- intra-regional dissemination of good practices, exchange of expertise and technical assistance etc. for upgrading national policies, legal set-ups and implementing agencies
- regional cooperation in designing harmonised development strategies and policies for supporting joint actions in development, marketing and promotion of RT products in SEE rural cross-border regions and their management as joint RT destinations

RACI role charting

For the task of policy analysis:

- ✓ Responsible: National and regional experts
- ✓ Approval: Regional and international expert
- ✓ Consulted: International expert, Ministry representatives in SWG (present)
- ✓ Informed: Project manager/advisor SWG/GIZ/Ministry representatives

National Reports Timelines

Task	Responsible	Deadline	Note
First draft national report, in line with the agreed national report outline	NRTE	31 May 2019	Outline will be delivered to NRTE till February 28 th 2019, align with the final version of the agreed methodology which will include worksheets (checklists, quest. etc.)
Feedback on the first draft national reports	RRTE supported by IRTE	30 June 2019	
Second draft national report, based on the feedback of the Regional Expert on the first draft	NRTE	30 September 2019	
Feedback on the second draft national reports	RRTE supported by IRTE	31 October 2019	
Final draft national report	NRTE	31 December 2019	Will be used for completing the final cross-country synthesis report by RRTE supported by the IRTE