

SWG RRD



Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of agriculture,
forestry and water economy

Ohrid Agenda



SWG future activities contributing to its implementation

Main topics of the debate

- **IPARD II** in the Western Balkans
- **Diversification** of economic activities in rural areas
- Harmonization of **wine regulations** in the Western Balkans
- **Research capacities** - factor of sustainable development in rural areas



IPARD II in the Western Balkans

- **Recommendations:**
 - More progressive approach helping the IPARD countries improve their administrative capacities
 - Improvements in management systems of processing of applications, increasing human capacity to achieve better absorption of the IPARD funds.
- **SWG actions:**
 - Workshop on IPARD Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies
 - Study of best practices and potential of participation of the smallholders in the short-value chains in the Western Balkans region and Turkey



Diversification of economic activities in rural areas

Recommendations:

- **Adequate rural development policies** aligned with the EU CAP including policy monitoring and evaluation system and reliable data
- **Efficient control systems** and control bodies while providing **flexibility and derogations** on the food safety requirements
- **Inter-sectorial cooperation, public-private partnerships** and coordination among various stakeholders on horizontal and vertical level
- **Involvement of rural communities** and farmers into the planning and implementation of policies, considering territorial approach, LEADER/Community-led Local Development (CLLD) and Area-Based Development Approach (ABDA)
- **Strengthened capacities** of the national and local administrations, advisory services, civil society organizations, farmers/producers and service providers in rural areas
- **Efficient educational and management systems** and improved coordination of rural tourism value chains



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Diversification of economic activities in rural areas

SWG Actions:

- Assessment of rural tourism policies
- Assessment of quality policy
- Guidelines for registration of PDO, PGI and TSG on EU level
- Study on the recent agricultural policy developments in the context of the EU approximation process in the pre-accession countries (in coop with JRC)
- Policy paper on LEADER approach
- High level conference on LEADER



Harmonization of wine regulations in the Western Balkans

Recommendations:

- **Adjust the national legislations** to align with the EU legislation and introduce **electronic systems** in accordance with the EU standards
- **Introduce common standards** related to some regional traditional terms
- **Support regional-wide cooperation** focusing on joint promotion and valorisation of Balkan vine varieties



Harmonization of wine regulations in the Western Balkans

SWG Actions:

- REAWG on wine working on harmonization of the national legislation
- Participation in regional and international fairs



Research capacities - factor of sustainable development in rural areas

Recommendations:

- **Foster** national, regional and international research **cooperation**, networks and partnerships
- **Give** research **higher position** amongst governmental priorities
- Significantly **increase** national **budgets** dedicated to research
- **Enable access** to research resources, research infrastructure, capacity building, transfer of knowledge, and available EU research funds
- **Establish dialogue platform** on research in the Western Balkans to stimulate demand-driven research. SWG should progress this concept.



Research capacities - factor of sustainable development in rural areas

SWG Actions:

- Study on the research, innovation and technology transfer capacities
- Workshop on research in the WB in cooperation with DG AGRI

