



Study on the research, innovation and technology transfer capacities and on the recent agricultural policy developments in the context of the EU approximation process in the pre-accession countries

Task 2: Study on the research, innovation and technology transfer capacities

INTERIM REPORT



Recruitment and contracting

- **Senior Adviser** – Boban Ilic
- **Regional Project Coordinator** – Dori Pavloska Gjorgjieska
- **Technical Assistant** – Oliver Pop - Arsov
- **Senior Researcher**
 - Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia
- **National Experts**
 - Edvin Zhlima – Albania
 - Sabahudin Bajramovic – Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Zeljko Vasko – Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Mirsad Spahic – Montenegro
 - Mihone Kerroli - Kosovo*
 - Association of agricultural economists of North Macedonia, AAEM
 - Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia



Workplan – revised due to pandemic crisis

Task	Activity	Who	Original deadline	New deadline
2	Organization of kick-off meeting	SWG	29-Nov	
2	Draft structured interview questionnaires and country report outline	SR T2	29-Nov	
2	Final structured interview questionnaires and country report outline	SR T2	13-Dec	
2	Provide a per-country inventory and description of all relevant agri-food research capacities, advisory and extension services, business incubators and the description of the relative strength of these capacities in the WB countries (especially research capacity).	NE T2	31-Jan	5-May-20
2	Provide a summary inventory and description of all relevant agri-food research capacities, advisory and extension services, business incubators and the description of the relative strength of these capacities in the WB countries (especially research capacity).	SR T2	20-Feb	22-May-20
2	First draft country reports	NE T2	15-May	25-May-20
2	Interim report	SWG	5-May	11-Jun-20
2	Organization of interim meeting	SWG	26-28 May 2020	26-Jun-20
2	Feedback to the National Experts on the first draft country reports on WB (Task 2)	SR T2	15-Jun	30-Jun-20
2	Second draft country reports	NE T2	10-Jul	31-Jul-20
2	Provide cross country synthesis report	SR T2	14-Aug	15-Oct-20
2	Final report	SWG	1-Sep	29-Oct-20
2	Organization of final meeting	SWG	15-Sep	12-Nov
2	Presentation of the findings in the Agricultural Policy Forum 2020	SR	Oct-20	

Completed activities and preliminary results

- **Kick-off meeting** - 27 November 2019, Krusevo, North Macedonia
 - Detailed workplan presented and agreed upon, scope of the work refined, research questions agreed upon, overall approach discussed
- **Templates**
 - Interview questionnaires – research institutions, education and knowledge transfer institutions, policy makers
 - Standard outline for national reports
- **Preliminary results**
 - Draft inventory and description of all relevant agri-food research capacities, advisory and extension services, business incubators and description of its relative strength
 - Research capacities of the Western Balkans are significantly lower than EU member countries
 - Research and innovation capacities not equally distributed through the region
 - Serbia - highest number of published papers, highest H index and overall rank among WB countries
 - North Macedonia - highest number of citations per paper



Issues and deviations

- **COVID-19 pandemic** - Restricted mobility and closed institutions
 - Reduced ability of data collection and reduced response rate
 - Disabled physical presence in meetings
 - Two-month no-cost extension approved by JRC
- **Extensive and detailed questionnaires**
 - Reduced response rate



Next steps

Activity	Who	Original deadline	New deadline
First draft country reports	NE T2	15-May	25-May-20 20 July (Albania + N. Macedonia)
Feedback to the National Experts on the first draft country reports on WB (Task 2)	SR T2	15-Jun	30-Jun-20 30 July (Albania + N. Macedonia)
Second draft country reports + half a page summary	NE T2	10-Jul	31-Jul-20 15 August (Albania + N. Macedonia)
Provide cross country synthesis report	SR T2	14-Aug	15-Oct-20
Final report	SWG	1-Sep	29-Oct-20
Organization of final meeting	SWG	15-Sep	12-Nov
Presentation of the findings in the Agricultural Policy Forum 2020	SR	Oct-20	

