



Regional Expert Advisory Working Group (REAWG) on the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food and rural areas in the Western Balkans

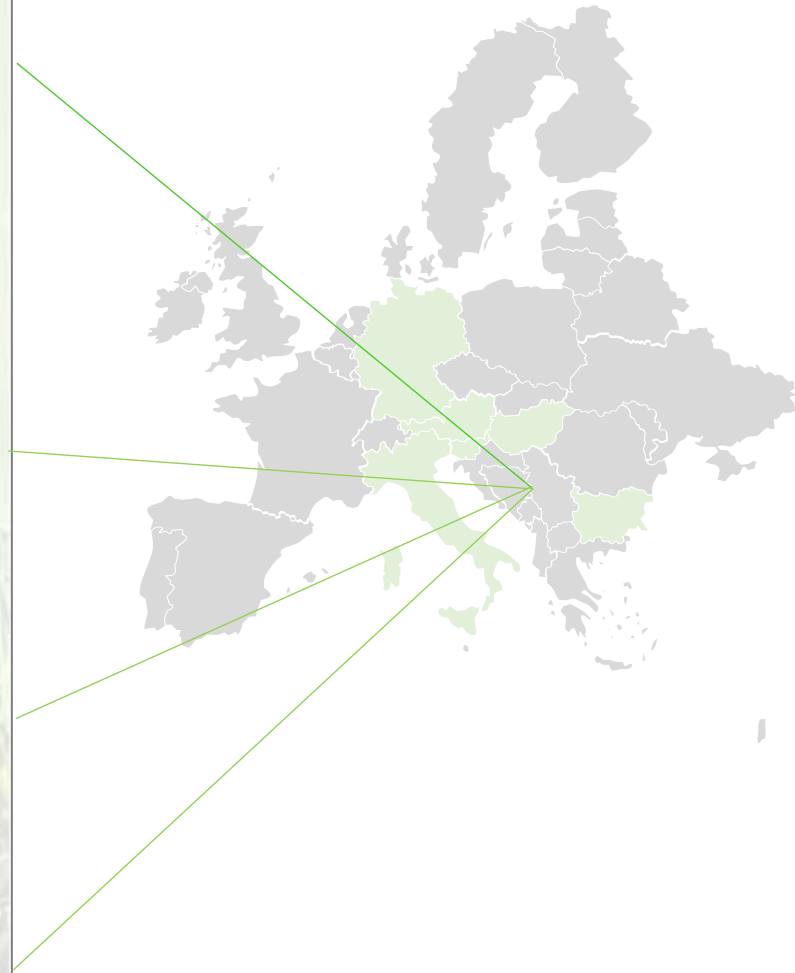
Kick-off meeting



South Eastern Europe
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group
"SWG" = **Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe.**

International Intergovernmental Organization, consisted of governmental institutions responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective countries and territories of Southeastern Europe.

Managing and coordinative body - the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, in Skopje, North Macedonia.



Member Institutions

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, **Albania**
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the **Republic of Srpska**, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **Kosovo***
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, **North Macedonia**
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, **Montenegro**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, **Serbia**

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

Observer Institutions

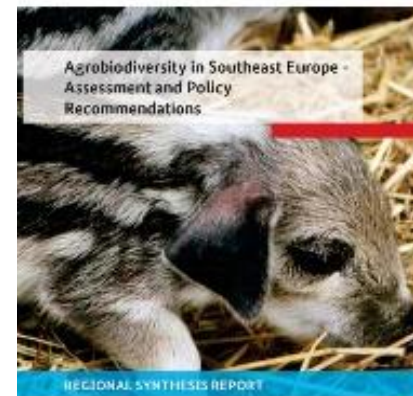
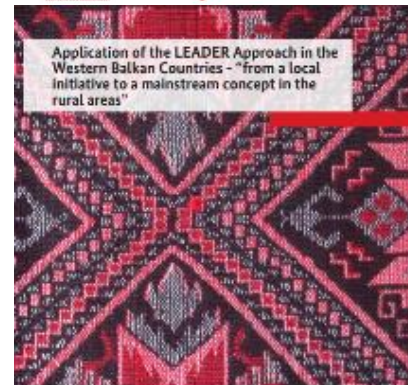
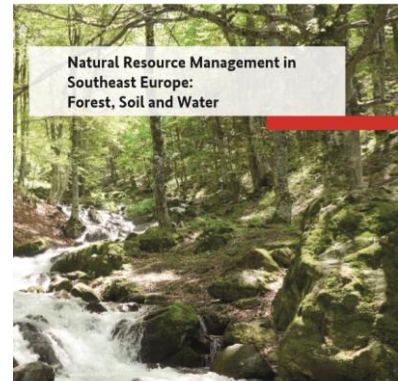
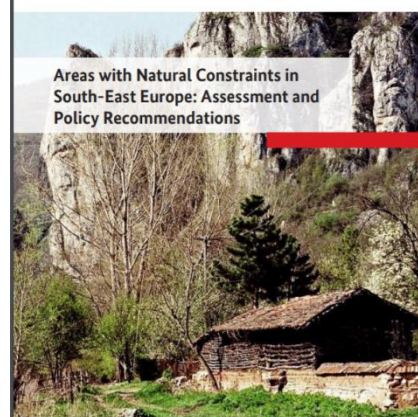
- Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, **Austria**
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food, **Bulgaria**
- Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, **Germany**
- Ministry of Rural Development, **Hungary**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies, **Italy**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, **Slovenia**
- Ministry of Agriculture, **Croatia**
- Provincial Secretariat of Agriculture Water Management and Forestry, Autonomous Province of **Vojvodina**, Serbia

Regional Expert Advisory Working Groups (REAWGs)

- Permanent part of the SWG structure
- Comprised of relevant national, regional and international experts, representatives of relevant authorities
- Analyze specific agricultural and rural development policy issues, provide national and regional policy recommendations
- Contribute to enabling evidence-based policy making in the agricultural sector in Western Balkans.



Recent research & policy assessment activities



Specific situation/scope of the assignment

- COVID-19 pandemic - global health crisis with potential to create devastating social, economic and political disturbances
- Objective:
 - to assess the multiple impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture, food and rural areas, on respective policies in the Western Balkans, national actions and measures taken for coping with the crisis
 - to propose respective strategic approaches and policies, joint actions for overcoming the consequences providing stimuli to accelerate the recovery and to build resilience.



Major outcomes

- **Six national reports** on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the agriculture and rural development, respective policy measures taken and their effects, as well as future policy recommendations for overcoming the consequences of the crisis in the Western Balkans' countries/territories;
- **One cross-country synthesis report** summarizing the common issues, approaches and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for agriculture and rural development in the Western Balkans and policy recommendations for regional cooperation and for mitigating the effects of the pandemic;
- **Proposed protocol** and agreed actions among the governments of the region and the ministries of agriculture for coping with the crisis.



Experts

Name	Position
Natalija Bogdanov	Regional Expert + National Expert Serbia
Zeljko Vasko	Regional Expert + National Expert BiH
Liljana Jonoski	National Expert North Macedonia
Basri Hyseni	National Expert Kosovo*
Etleva Dashi Muca	National Expert Albania
Mirsad Spahic	National Expert Montenegro



Workplan

Activity	Timeframe/Deadline
Mobilization of the REAWG	23 June 2020
Kick-off meeting	6 July 2020
Provide Info on availability of data on self-sufficiency (NEs)	13 July 2020
Finalized methodology for national reports and regional cross-country report (add as many more months as possible) (REs)	15 July 2020
Data collection on national level and first draft national reports (NEs)	15 September 2020
Presentation of preliminary findings at APF 2020 (REs)	14 October 2020
Interim meeting (as part of APF 2020) all	14 - 15 October 2020
Feedback on the first draft national reports (REs)	15 October 2020
Second draft national reports (NEs)	15 November 2020
Policy recommendations and proposed declaration/ protocol presented at Ministerial Meeting 2020 (REs)	15 November 2020
First draft regional cross-country report (REs)	25 December 2020
Final report (REs)	5 February 2021
Final meeting	5 February 2021
Editing and proofreading	30 April 2021

