

**Head Office / Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group  
in South-Eastern Europe (SWG) – Skopje**

**Terms of Reference**

**for Expert on Situation Analysis and SWOT for the  
National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2021-2027**

**1. Introduction**

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG), as a platform for networking and regional co-operation, has been established during the Agricultural Policy Forum 2005 (“Rural Development Opportunities for Co-operation in the SEE”) held in Macedonia and Serbia in June 2005.

With the International Agreement in March 2009, the SWG is registered as an International Intergovernmental Organization, with its managing and coordinative body – SWG Head Office/Secretariat based in Skopje, Macedonia. On September 7<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Law on Ratification of the SWG Agreement has been decisively completed by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

The main SWG strategic framework is composed of the following elements:

SWG vision is to promote innovative and sustainable agriculture and rural development through regional cooperation, to improve rural livelihoods in the SEE countries.

Mission - to increase horizontal cooperation among respective countries and territories of South Eastern Europe, by coordinating regional initiatives related to agriculture and rural development and supporting the process of social and economic development of rural areas in SEE region.

General objective of SWG is to facilitate close cooperation between the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development and to support EU integration in SEE. The SWG has four specific objectives on which the organization has focused its work:

- To improve the common understanding on agriculture and rural development policies;
- To assist the improvement of implementing structures and systems for agriculture and rural development, with specific emphasis on cross border cooperation;
- To improve the understanding and use of implementation tools for agriculture and rural development;

- To identify and share information and application of good practice in agriculture and rural development to broaden the rural agenda.

## 2. Background

In September 2018 the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development approved the realization of a 3-years regional programme with the title “**Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe (SEDRA)**”.

The project aims at strengthening the institutional capacities of selected stakeholders in Southeast Europe for supporting EU-compliant economic diversification in rural areas.

The renewed EU accession process is the main incentive for harmonisation and adaptation of the rural development policies and instruments of the six Southeast European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) to the needs of their rural regions and the people living there. An explicit aim of the EU is to strengthen economic and social cohesion through its structural policy, its common agricultural policy (CAP) and their accompanying instruments.

The project contributes to improvement of the technical, methodological and implementation capacities for evidence-based rural development policies for economic diversification, facilitates community-led area-based development, as well as, value chain development.

The regional project includes the Southeast European countries/territories and the lead executing agencies are the ministries competent for agriculture and rural development, through their membership in the regional organisation Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development (SWG RRD), which at the same time is the main implementing partner.

The three central project outputs are:

- 1) Regional cooperation and policy advice,
- 2) Sustainable business models, and
- 3) Community-led and area-based development strategies.

## 3. Specific Situation / Scope of assignment

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy is in the process of drafting of new National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development which should cover the upcoming planning period from 2021-2027. The strategy will be consisting of the three major parts: Situation Analysis; Definition of Strategic and Specific Objectives; and Identification of Policy Interventions. The last two parts that relate to the next period strongly depend on the analysis of the situation of agriculture sector, rural areas and management of the natural resources.

The situation analysis should identify the achievements of implemented policies in the previous period reflected in developments and trends of the key economic, financial, social and environmental indicators, as well as to specify the strengths, opportunities, treats, and weaknesses of the sector and rural areas. This represents a basis for formulation of sound national agricultural and rural development policies for the next strategic period.

In regards to the above, the Ministry needs to assure that the policy objectives and actions for the forthcoming period appropriately treat the real deficiencies and needs of the sector.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

MAFWE capacity for conducts profound and evidence-based situation analysis remains limited, thus the technical assistance is required.

Based on the above mentioned, SWG will support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia for conducting the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2021 – 2027.

### General objective

Engagement of relevant technical assistance from the academic or research institutions to contribute in drafting the chapter of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2021-2027 (NSARD 2021-2027) related to situation and overall SWOT analysis of the Macedonian agricultural sector and rural areas.

For accomplishment of the above-mentioned outcomes a Works contract is foreseen.

### 4. Tasks of the Consultant

The expert should provide adequate contribution to the NSARD 2021-2027 in the area of situation and SWOT analysis by performing the following specific activities:

- Analysis of the current situation and trends for the period 2014-2020 in the following subareas:
  - Natural characteristics and conditions in the rural areas;
  - Economic development and competitiveness of the agri-food sector;
  - Agriculture, biodiversity and the environment;
  - Forestry and hunting;
  - Water management;
  - Main weaknesses that hinder the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas and challenges in the next programming period.
- In order to provide firm basis for the forthcoming evidence-based formulation of policy interventions, organize the above subareas following the envisaged general structure of defined strategic goals for the next strategic period 2021-2027:
  - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, economic sustainability and income of agricultural holdings,
  - Application of environmental practices in production that lead to reducing the impact of climate change and adaptation to them, and
  - Ensuring sustainable development of rural areas.

For further organization of the sections, the expert should also refer to the Specific Objectives of the NSARD 2021-2027, as given in the Annex 1 to this ToR.

- The output powered by the official statistics and other MAFWE data should be cross-checked with the findings and contributions in the different areas provided by organizational units of the MAFWE as a part of the strategy preparation process and all integrated into a final text of the report.
- Based on the mentioned MAFWE contribution, various analytical studies and own analysis, SWOT analysis covering the areas of the NARDS shall be prepared.

The expert should rely on the inputs provided by MAFWE, also consult the current and past studies carried out by relevant international and domestic institutions on the agricultural sector and rural areas and/or undertake own research.

The construction of the chapter shall be harmonized as much as possible with the approach applied in the new EU CAP policy for the period 2021-2027 described in the new draft EU regulations, and other relevant policy documents.

The Contractor might be required to perform additional tasks that are deemed necessary for the completion of the defined assignment.

## **5. Reporting and Deliverables**

The expert should deliver the final report in Macedonian language within specified deadline and comprised of sections as requested above. The quality acceptance of the report will be assured by the MAFWE. During drafting, the expert will sustain continuous contacts with MAFWE relevant staff and request for necessary data and documents for the analysis. He/she should duly take into consideration the received comments and suggestions from MAFWE side.

## **6. Place of assignment**

The place of assignment of the expert is the North Macedonia.

## **7. Timeframe**

The expert should accomplish the deliverables from the date on which the last party signs the contract until 30 November 2020. The assignment shall be carried out in a period of 15 – 20 working days.

## **8. Working language**

The working language for the assignment is Macedonian.

## **9. Expert profile**

- Formal education of PhD in the area of agriculture and food sciences, preferably in agricultural economics or closely related discipline relevant to the assignment;
- Extensive knowledge and practical experience in agriculture and rural development economic policy analysis of minimum 10 years professional engagement in high-educational and/or research institution;
- Previous specific experience in drafting of National Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development in the country and other national programmes will be taken as an asset.
- Excellent communication and reporting skills;
- Computer literacy;
- Ability to work in a team.

## Annex 1: Specific Objectives of the NARDS 2021-2027 (in Macedonian)

### Прилог 1. Преглед на специфични цели на НСЗРР 2021-2027

СЦ1. Поддршка на одржливиот приход на земјоделските стопанства и нивната отпорност во насока на подобрување на сигурноста во обезбедување на храна во државата;

СЦ2. Зајакнување на пазарната ориентацијата и зголемување на конкурентноста, со особен фокус на истражување, технологија и дигитализација;

СЦ3. Подобрување на положбата на земјоделците во синџирот на додена вредност на земјоделските производи;

СЦ4. Придонесување кон ублажување на климатските промени и прилагодување кон истите, како и поголема примена на одржливата енергија;

СЦ5. Поттикнување на одржлив развој и ефикасно управување со природните ресурси како што се вода, почва и воздух;

СЦ6. Придонесување кон заштита на биодиверзитетот, подобрување на услугите на екосистемот и зачувување на природните живеалишта и пределите;

СЦ7. Привлекување на млади земјоделци и олеснување на развојот на бизнисите во руралните средини;

СЦ8. Промовирање навработување, раст, социјална вклученост и локален развој во руралните средини, вклучително и био-економија и одржливо шумарство; и

СЦ9. Подобрување на одговорот на земјоделството кон барањата на општеството за здравствените аспекти на храната, вклучувајќи ги безбедноста, нутритивниот состав и одржливоста на храната, храна која завршува како отпад, како и благосостојбата на животните.