

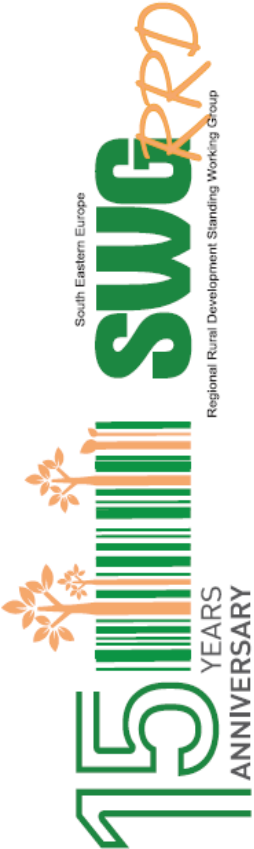


Overview of the regional cooperation in the South Eastern Europe in the agro and food sector within the SWG framework



Regional cooperation during pandemic

- Three Ministerial Videoconferences:
 - 8 April
 - 22 April
 - 27 May
- Some conclusions and actions:
 - Close coordination and cooperation in place
 - New markets penetrated for sale of the surpluses
 - Substantial implications by close-down of the HoReCa segment
 - Opportunity for rural development and rural tourism in particular
 - Appropriate digital capacities and adequate ICT equipment



Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

- 10 Nov 2020, Sofia – **WB Summit** of Leaders from Western Balkans under the framework of the Berlin Process initiative
- Endorsed **Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**
- Commitment to implement actions in the following **five pillars**:
 - Climate, energy, mobility
 - Circular economy
 - Depollution
 - Sustainable agriculture and food production
 - Biodiversity



REAWG: Impact of COVID-19 on agriculture

- Enable **free movement of goods**
- **Crisis committee** to coordinate activities within the region
- Establish and maintain **public reserves of key food products**
- A much **wider scope of policy measures** to various types of producers
- **Data** collection, availability and dissemination need be **improved**
- Disseminate **experiences, information and knowledge**
- Provide **additional cash subsidies and in-kind inputs** to maintain and upgrade agricultural production
- Facilitate **intervention purchase** of surplus agricultural products
- **Relieve credit obligations** of agricultural producers affected by the pandemic
- Implement **wages compensation programs** during reduced work activity for rural entrepreneurs
- Support the establishment of **direct sales channels** for agricultural products
- Provide **assistance to vulnerable groups** of the population in food



SWG Strategy 2021 - 2025

- Developed **in consultation with Governments** and responsible Ministries from SEE countries;
- **General Objective:** Streamline effective EU accession process for SEE candidate and potential candidate countries
 - **Objective 1:** further enhance regional cooperation processes as a boost to EU integration;
 - **Objective 2:** enable inclusive and effective regional policies and knowledge transfer;
 - **Objective 3:** improve development and competitiveness for agriculture and rural areas;
 - **Objective 4:** environmental innovation towards sustainable rural development

