



AGRICULTURE DIALOGUE PROJECT



Cooperation between the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Western Balkans

- Bilateral Cooperation Program of BMEL:
 - around 20 projects in strategically important countries
 - different project formats (Technical or Political Dialogue, Demonstration and Training Projects, Cooperation between agricultural associations)
 - GFA coordinates the projects as General Agent of the BMEL
- Cooperation with the Western Balkans:
 - Since 2018: SWG and BMEL are organizing a technical dialogue on wine law
 - 2020: Adoption of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans / Sofia Declaration
 - 2021: Positive Evaluation of wine project and planning of enlarged cooperation

Objectives of the project

- The **development objective** of the project is defined as follows:
To contribute to an effective EU accession process for WB candidates and potential candidate countries in the agriculture and rural development sector.
- The **project objective** is defined as follows:
Policy frameworks for agriculture and rural development in WB countries have been strengthened for the implementation of the EU-Green Agenda for Western Balkans and the alignment with CAP 2020 reforms.

Agricultural Policy Dialogue (from July 2021)

- SWG organizes Regional Expert Advisory Working Groups (REAWGs) on 3 topics:
 - Wine regulation Green Agenda (Working Groups on Organic and Soil Protection)
 - AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems)
 - "Women and youth in agriculture" as crosscutting issue
- Experts from BMEL and other German/EU public institutions actively contribute to REAWGs. Additional expertise from private sector, academia is provided by a consortium of IAK/ Geisenheim University/IAMO
- Support regional cooperation, EU accession and implementation of F2F Strategy