



Activities preformed in the period May – September 2015

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SWG
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**Ministry of Agriculture,
Rural Development and
Water Administration**

International Conference on Soil, Tirana, Albania

- Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG) support the International Conference on Soil held in the period 4th – 7th of May in Tirana, Albania with participation of the representatives from the Western Balkan countries



Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies

- 3rd Working Meeting of the Heads of the Managing Authorities and 2nd Working Meeting of the Heads of the IPARD Agencies from SEE held on May 27th, 2015 in Podgorica, Montenegro
- The meeting was attended by the IPARD operating structures – Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies from SEE on senior level positions - Heads of Managing Authorities and Directors of Paying Agencies/Heads of Financial Departments

Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine

- The First working meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group held on 12th of June, 2015 in Arandjelovac, Serbia
- The meeting was attended by the Head of departments/sectors from the Ministries of Agriculture member institutions of the SWG and experts from the Universities i.e. Faculties of Agriculture/Institutes and other entities that manage wine and viticulture issues



Activities related to analysis of agriculture and RD policies

On-going EU funded project: "**Analysis of the agricultural and rural development policies in Western Balkan countries**" funded by EU JRC IPTS

- **Focus on:** up to date analysis of the characteristics of the agriculture policy instruments applied in Western Balkan (WB) countries and highlight the possible effects of agriculture and rural development policies harmonization of the WB countries with the CAP 2014-2020 on food and farming sector in the rural areas.
- **Time-frame:** January 2015-October 2015



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)



Project on „Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas of South Eastern European region“

- Grant agreement has been signed with GIZ in June 2015
- The project focuses on conceptual and organizational framework conditions concerning the Solid Waste Management in cross-border rural and coastal areas in SEE in three pilot areas:
 - “Sharra Mountain”
 - “Drina-Tara” and “Drina Sava” (SWG)
 - Coastal area of Adriatic sea (NALAS)
- Information and Presentation of the Project to the stakeholders has been presented in the course of June 2015
- Joint Kick off meeting / planning held on 24th-26th of August in Shkoder, Albania
- **Time-frame:** June 2015 – June 2016

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Continuation of activities related to ABDA

As of 2nd of June 2015 new phase of ABDA started with a Project: "Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration - Support to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe"

Focus on: fostering regional cooperation among institutions and stakeholders in the agriculture and food sector, as well as to facilitation of the process of balanced territorial development (CBC) of the Western Balkan countries in the progression towards EU integration.

Time-frame: June 2015-May 2017



ABD
PROGRAMME

Area Based
Development
Programme
in the Western
Balkan countries

Activities related to analysis of agriculture and RD policies

Negotiation for EU funded project: **“National policy instruments and EU approximation process: Effects on farm holdings in the Western Balkan countries”**

- **Focus on:** monitoring and collection of information on agricultural policy developments in the WB countries, as well as exploring the application of appropriate analytical tools for different farm types according to their importance on national agriculture and data availability in particular WB countries.
- **Time-frame:** 20 months (possible start March 2016)



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)

Negotiation for Project on „Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South East Europe

- The project focuses on improvement of the regional capacities for sustainable management of forest and water resources within the framework of developing rural areas
- Orientation phase for the project implementation (4 months) until December 2015
- Expected Project implementation as of January 2016
- **Time-frame: 2 Years**

Meeting with JRC Institute-ISPRA regarding the Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)

- SWG had the preliminary discussions and elaborate the idea with JRC Institute Ispra and CIHEAM Institute, June 2015 in setting up the appropriate national legislation related to the mapping of ANC in accordance with the EU legislation
- first meeting of the involved institution/organizations for preparation of a regional project proposal could be held during the Agricultural Policy Forum 2015 in the period 13th – 16th of October in Bulgaria



Expo Milan 2015

- Award Ceremony for the winners of the “International Call on Best Sustainable Development Practices - BSDP” for Food Security, held on 6th July 2015 in Milnano within the “Week of the BSDP” in the frame of the “Feeding Knowledge Programme”
- SWG had meetings and discussions with CIHEAM IAMB regarding the further collaboration

Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN)

- Facilitation and financial support to BRDN on behalf of the SWG have been accomplished in May 2015 due to the lack of funding
- SWG supported the initiation for application of BRDN for project proposal development “Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2014-2015” and the meeting held on 2nd September 2015, Skopje, Macedonia
- SWG will attempt to further facilitate the BRDN work