



Support of core functions of the SWG Secretariat

SWG Head Office/Secretariat

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 Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies

- The meeting was focused on the update on preparations for implementation of IPARD II: overview of the programmes and entrustment process;
- The Ministries of Agriculture i.e. Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies from the participating countries provided a short overview i.e. state-of-play in each country on the activities and actions taken in the Ministry structures



General conclusions from the meeting

- Regular communication related to the notable issues with the European Commission;
- Networking and cooperation among the Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies in the region should be strengthened on national and regional level with aim to be accelerate implementation of IPARD Programs;
- The members of the EAG on Managing Authorities and Paying Agencies expressed the need to further continue regional exchange of experience and strengthening the work of the group.



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Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine

- The initiative for establishment of the Regional Expert Advisory Group on Wine is preceded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Serbia
- 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



Discussions on the possibilities for regional cooperation

- Willingness for establishment such an Expert Advisory Group in SEE within the SWG;
- Networking and regional cooperation as a tool of exchanging experience and strengthening the viticulture and wine sector in the region;
- Discussions focused on finding a regional approach for priorities of common interest;
- EAG on wine focus on strategically most important issues with regional potentials and possibilities such as:



Listed priorities for regional cooperation of the EAWG

- **EU integration process**
 - assistance in preparation of national legislation and harmonization with EU legislation;
 - TAIEX assistance for EU support measures in wine sectors;
- **Valorization of autochthonous and new created varieties of region**
 - setting up of scientific and professional institutional network, exchanging of scientific research and professional information related to clonal selection and certification of vine plant material;
 - screening of legal background and institutional set up and procedures;
 - identification, genotyping, conservation and utilization of autochthonous and new created wine varieties, as well as clonal selection of autochthonous and new created wine varieties and certification of vine plant material.

Listed priorities for regional cooperation of the EAWG

- **Balancing of the criterion related to sensorial characteristics of wine within the SEE**
 - uniformity of the criteria for wine categorization to be done;
 - screening of existing legislation in SWG member countries with aim for harmonization of sensorial parameters that are crucial for quality categorization of wine in context of EU/OIV requirements.
- **Joint promotion of wines from SWG members**
 - creation of calendar of relevant promotional events;
 - identification of common potential for promotion (local varieties etc.);
 - elaboration of promotional material, participation with joint presentation on local, regional and international fairs and festivals

General Conclusions of the EAG

- The foreseen activities of the working group on wine will be also present to GIZ, CIHEAM, EC and other relevant organizations/institutions as a proposal for future cooperation;
- TAIEX assistance for EU support measures in wine sectors, producer associations and PDO/PGI system to be also consider to apply on regional level;
- willingness and need for further continuation of the regional cooperation of the EAG as a tool of exchanging experience and strengthening the viticulture and wine sector in the region;
- next official meeting of the EAG on wine, to be organized in the course of November or December 2015



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



Collaboration with CIHEAM IAM Bari

- SWG was involved in preparing a map of innovation processes in rural and agro-food sectors for the purpose of startup of a project "Creation of a model of rural entrepreneurship oriented towards social innovation"
- Project intends to create an International Network on social innovation in rural areas among researchers, managers and scholars focused on finding new economic models that can meet social needs and markets for the new rural economy;
- SWG collected data and innovative ideas regarding new economic models and best practices in Balkan countries about the institutions described as Incubators, accelerators, technology parks, technology transfer offices, start-ups etc.

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

Balkan Rural Development Network (BRDN)

- The meeting was attended by the Balkan rural Development Members as well as members from the Prepare Network, Development Foundation of Turkey and Rural Network from Albania;
- Main focus of the meeting was discussions regarding the condition of Call for proposal, defining the working packages and activities of the project and budgeting;
- Discussions and defining the role of partners;



Agricultural Policy Forum 2015

Date:
13th – 16th October 2015

Location:
Bulgaria

Venue:
Pravetz

Key not speeches:

- Implementation of Common Agricultural Policy 2015-2020 in MS
- Implementation of IPARD
- Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries for EU accession
- South East Europe Strategy 2020
- Integrated economic development in rural cross-border areas
- Bulgarian experience in the EU integration process
- Application of rural development programs and measuring results in EU member states (Irish example)

SWG
IPARD



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Working Groups:

- *Integrated economic development in rural cross-border areas*
- *Rural development via Natural resource management*
- *Analysis of agriculture and rural development policies in Western Balkans*
- Invitations sent by the SWG head Office/Secretariat
- Deadline for submission of the applications – September 18th, 2015

Discussion by SWG Delegates / things to be done

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9th Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE

Date:
11th – 13th November 2015

Location:
Albania

Venue:
Tirana

Topics to covered:

- EU approximation of the candidate and potential candidate countries from SEE in agriculture and rural development;
- Regional Cooperation and way forward in the region;
- Possibility for establishment of Technical Working Group within the SWG related to agri-business, food trade in cooperation with CEFTA and Regional Cooperation Council;
- Results and the Agenda from the Agricultural Policy Forum 2015.
- Invitations sent by the Ministry of Agriculture of Albania
- Deadline for confirmation of attendance – **October 15th , 2015**

34th SWG Assembly Session

Date:

2nd – 4th December 2015

Location:

Italy

Venue:

IAMB Bari

Invitations to be send by the SWG Secretariat in the course of
October

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