



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS



XI MINISTERIAL MEETING
Ministries of Agriculture
from South East Europe 2017
16th - 17th November, Bosnia and Herzegovina



11th Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture in South Eastern Europe (SEE), 17th November, Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina



SWG RRD



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- **5 (five) Ministers** of Agriculture from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and the **6 (six) Heads of Delegations** and representatives from international organizations gathered on 17th of November 2017 in Jahorina at the 11th Annual Working Meeting
- **11th Annual Working Meeting** was organized under the joint auspices of the **Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina** and the **Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-Eastern Europe**.
- Grounded on the **initiative of founding a regional platform** and convening an Annual Ministerial Meeting, the representing delegations **reviewed the achievement of the objectives set during the last meeting in November 2016** and recommitted themselves to the pursuit of a more sustainable development pathway in the field of agriculture and rural development.





The topics discussed during the Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE:

- EU approximation of the candidate and potential candidate countries from SEE in agriculture and rural development;
- Regional Cooperation and way forward in the region;
- Results and the Agenda from the Agricultural Policy Forum 2017.

The cooperation of the Ministries of Agriculture from SEE remains evident through successful implementation of regional activities and initiatives instigated within the SWG, as an intergovernmental platform for regional cooperation and networking





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Conclusions:

- Reiterate the value of the European Union (EU) integration process for the Western Balkan countries, principally the reformative path of agriculture and rural development, and implication of successful enlargement policy that abides by the Copenhagen criteria and the conditionality of the Stabilization and Association Process;
- Remain devoted to the efforts in aligning our agricultural and rural development policies with the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
- Recall the dedication on crafting rural development programs and managing funds through the implementation of the IPARD instrument in the pre-accession period, predominantly on resourcing the operating structures and resolving national obstacles for IPARD implementation;
- Stress the need to actively pursue harmonization of trade policies and marketing standards to facilitate regional business cooperation, product development and improvement of the value chains of the agri-food sectors in the SEE countries;
- Welcome the need to improve competitiveness of small rural businesses, by investments as well as increasing their level of knowledge and skills in managing their businesses and forming partnerships or other types of cooperation, thus improving their ability to integrate in short value chains;

SEERD
SVM





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Conclusions:

- Confirm the importance to streamline policy instruments and management of natural resources, along with creating synergies for multi-functional use of land and ecosystem services as innovative approaches towards new levels of business development;
- Acknowledge the need for strengthening the cooperation and enhance the exchange of experience on the implementation of IPARD in the pre-accession period, concentrate on policies improving the competitiveness of agriculture sector and to facilitate access to markets, both domestic and foreign;
- To accelerate harmonization of the relevant regulation of the Western Balkan countries/territories with the EU legislation to overcome trade barriers;
- Welcome the importance to put more effort in setting up the required legislative and administrative procedures for making the LEADER approach operational under the National Rural Development Programmes and/or IPARD
- Endorse the report of the Secretary General on the achievements and results of the SWG work for the year of 2017.

IPARD
SWG

