Agricultural Policy Developments and EU Approximation Process in the Western Balkans Countries (APDAP-WB)

Land Market Development and Small Farms’ Access to Land in the Pre-accession Countries (LMSF-AC)

Kick - off Meeting

14 – 15 December 2017

Skopje, Macedonia
Background and Rationale
SWG

- International intergovernmental organization
- Platform for networking and regional collaboration between government institutions and other stakeholders responsible for agriculture and rural development
- Permanent members - ministries of agriculture and rural development from:
  - Albania
  - BiH
  - Federation of BiH
  - Republic of Srpska
  - Kosovo*
  - Macedonia
  - Montenegro
  - Serbia
- Observers - ministries of agriculture and rural development from:
  - Bulgaria
  - Croatia
  - Slovenia
  - Austria
  - Germany
  - Hungary
  - Italy
- JRC’s invitations to tenders:
  - “Agricultural Policy Developments and EU Approximation Process in the Western Balkans Countries (APDAP-WB)”
  - “Land Market Development and Small Farms’ Access to Land in the Pre-accession Countries (LMSF-AC)”
DG JRC

• Directorate General Joint Research Center (DG JRC) – EC science and knowledge service, supporting policy makers with independent evidence through the whole policy cycle

• Directorate Sustainable Resources (JRC.D) in Seville (Spain) and Ispra (Italy) – serves:
  • Agricultural and rural development
  • Development and cooperation
  • Environment
  • Maritime affairs
  • Fisheries
  • Climate change
  • Growth and trade

• Economics of agriculture (JRC.D4) – scientific support to the EU policy-makers in assessing the development of the agro food sector, including:
  • Rural development
  • Food security
  • Trade
  • Technological innovation
Research Context

- **Two studies** monitoring agricultural policy developments covering the period up to 2015 (funded by JRC, implemented by SWG):
  - “Analysis of agricultural and rural development policies in Western Balkan countries”
  - “National policy instruments and EU approximation process: effects on farm holdings in the Western Balkan countries”.

- **Main achievements**:
  - Up-date on the agricultural policy developments in the WB
  - Analysis of the availability and quality of FADN data in the WB countries
  - Providing the comprehensive data set about the agricultural policy budgetary transfers in the WB as a tool for monitoring the developments and benchmarking
  - Providing the statistical data set on agriculture in WB
  - Elaborating policy recommendation for the ministries including in SWG
  - Strengthening the agricultural policy network and cooperation in the WB including agricultural economists and ministerial representatives
  - Creation and up-dates of the Agricultural Policy Plus (APP) web platform.
Background

- Dominant non-commercially oriented and family-based *small farm* households
- *Disconnected* from the markets
- *Self-sustaining* economic units
- Important source of *regional development*
- Functioning of land markets fundamental in promoting agricultural productivity growth
- Better allocation of land among potential users and usage by more efficient farms
- Promote investment by using land as collateral to access credit
- Land market imperfections significantly constrain farms’ wellbeing
- Key formal constraints:
  - sale and rental restrictions
  - security of property rights
  - missing or incomplete land registration
- Informal constraints:
  - social norms
  - informal pre-emption rights
  - personalized land transactions
Background

• The approximation process with EU one of the main economic and political projects for the WB countries/territories

• Assistance for agriculture and rural development in pre-accession countries through IPARD.

• Required developing approaches for agricultural data collection and analysis

• Provide scientifically-based support to policy making

• Better targeting on both, national support schemes and IPARD pre-accession assistance