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# Evidence-based policy assessments and gap analysis

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# REAWG

## Natural Resources Management (NRM)

# Involved parties

- SWG and GIZ
- 12 national experts from the entire WB region - preparing national reports
- 4 regional experts (Forestry Faculty Belgrade) – coordinating the national experts, preparing the national report on Serbia and the regional report
- 2 international expert (BOKU Vienna) – backstopping and advising

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# Meetings in 2017

- **Second interim meeting** – February 2017, Jahorina, BiH
  - progress report
- **Final meeting** - June 2017, Andrevlje, Serbia
  - presentation of the final report
  - concept for the future work

# Summary of policy recommendations

- Build up new **value creation** opportunities
- Improve and harmonize **spatial planning**
- **Clean** contaminated sites
- Create **cross-sectoral platforms** for policy- and decision-making
- Investigate new avenues for marketing and payment for **ecosystem services**
- Improve **law enforcement** and legal security
- Create a **business-stimulating** environment
- Support the organization of **private land owners**
- Develop clear actions plans in response to **climate change**
- Foster integrated, inter-communicating **monitoring systems** for forest, soil, and water
- Foster **investment** in water infrastructure and strategies for a higher efficiency of water use
- Build **professional capacities** in administration and institutions
- Secure national funding for **education** and capacity building in integrated natural resource management

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# Publication and dissemination

Publication and dissemination of the report and translation in WB local languages



# Exposure visit / travelling workshop on governance and management of natural resources in the Swedish Bergslagen-Mälardalen region

- Institutional setup;
- Coordination among relevant authorities;
- Link between research and policy making;
- Innovation.



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# REAWG

## Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)



[www.seerural.org](http://www.seerural.org)



# Involved parties

- **SWG** – requested the study based on the expressed needs of the SWG member institutions
- **GIZ** – financed and coordinated the activities
- **20 national experts** from the entire WB region - prepared national reports
- **1 regional expert and 1 international expert (CIHEAM)** – coordinated the national experts and prepared the regional report

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# Meetings in 2017

- **Final meeting** – March 2017, Zlatibor, Serbia
  - Final Report: Areas with Natural Constraints in SEE: Assessment and Policy Recommendations
  - Concept for the future work of the REAWG

# Main Regional Policy Recommendations

- Facilitate **data sharing** and flow of information among all stakeholders
- Conduct additional **soil surveys**, maintain and improve national **meteorological service**
- **ANC Policy** has to be part of the national Rural Development Policies
- **New laws** on Agriculture and Rural Development should have a special article on ANCs
- **Rural development strategy** must address all aspects of rural life: infrastructure, access to internet, public schools, health facilities, water supply, in addition to the ANC payment schemes
- **Land tenure** issues have to be solved by adjusting and implementing relevant legislation
- Develop and implement **specific plans** for different ANC regions and explore options for **income generation** (other than agricultural use of land)
- Implement **payment schemes for ANC** areas based on natural and socio-economic conditions, with priority on areas with high risk of abandonment
- The **IPARD** funding mechanisms need to be adjusted to reflect ANC payment schemes

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# Dissemination

Dissemination of the report and translated versions in WB local languages



# Concept for the future work of the REAWG

- Building legal and institutional capacity for ANC implementation
- Standardizing ANC related data on regional level and development of the GIS system for ANC delineation / assessment (EU methodology validation for the SEE countries)
- Establishment of the ANC web-based GIS system
- **Agroecological zoning** and crop suitability
- Establishment of relevant datasets for climate change assessments

# Assessment of the application of the LEADER approach in the Western Balkan Countries

February – December 2017

40<sup>th</sup> SWG Assembly Session

# Objectives

- Overall objective:
  - To improve understanding of the current state and the barriers for effective implementation of LEADER initiative
- Specific objectives:
  - To present the current state of LEADER in country / territory in WB from the perspective of:
    - *cross-country comparative analysis of the policy, regulatory and institutional framework;*
    - *To assess the available funds from public sources and donors;*
    - *Review practical activities already undertaken to identify good practice from previous actions and initiatives and lessons learned;*
  - To draw conclusions by generalizing from the findings on the specific national needs, challenges and constrains

# Methodology

- **Desk research** was used to collect existing secondary data and information on LEADER initiatives in project countries
- **Interviews with identified resource person** were carried out in order to obtain primary data and to ensure that all relevant information was covered
- **Case studies** used to illustrate the diversity of institutions, policy approaches, types of partnerships and practices related to LEADER in WB countries and experiences gained by *policy* makers, experts and stakeholders.

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# Involved parties

- **SWG** – identified the experts and coordinate the activities of the study requested based on the expressed needs of the SWG member institutions
- **GIZ** – financial support and international backstopping
- **5 national experts** from the entire WB region - prepared national reports
- **2 regional experts** - coordinating the national experts, preparing the national reports on Macedonia and Serbia and the regional report
- **1 international expert** – backstopping and advising

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# Main Meetings

## of the REAWG and core team

- **Kick-off meeting** – March, Skopje, Macedonia
- **First interim meeting** – June, Andrevlje, Serbia
- **Second interim meeting** – September, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Final presentation of results and policy recommendations** – APF October 2017
- **Dissemination and publication of the assessment policy recommendations** - end of 2017

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# Achieved Results

- Assessment of the situation related to application of LEADER in the WB Countries
- National country reports
- National policy recommendations
- Regional synthesis report
- Regional policy recommendations

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# General Recommendations

## Recommendations for institutional set up improvements

Government institutions at all levels should continue to work on development of

- Institutional – weak structures on the field
- strategic (multiannual programming documents , incl. IPARD are not developed/adopted in all countries)
- regulatory framework for introduction of LEADER (Kosovo\*)
- Strengthening human capacities of relevant institutions
  - Engage enlarged number of staff from relevant ministries and Paying Agency
  - The staff of ministries and other stakeholders (municipalities, CSOs, business sector) need more tailor made trainings
  - The staff of the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency will have to be trained to implement that measure
  - Specialized information campaigns and seminars for representatives of local self-governments should be prepared.



# General Recommendations

## Recommendations for policy improvements

- LEADER measures are planned but not implemented - measure fishes should be finalized
  - it is important to re- check the existing ones and to elaborate the missing ones
- Local development policies should be implemented with a bottom-up decision-making process allowing for better connection and coordination of diverse rural actors
- Development of secondary legislation is needed i.e. rulebooks and regulations on Local Action Groups encompassing guidelines on establishment, role, functioning and accreditation of LAGs including start-up toolkits for development of Local Development Strategy (LDS) for potential LAG constituents

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# General Recommendations

## Recommendations for empowering local stakeholders

- Awareness raising campaigns needed - diverse models of networking of various local stakeholders (public, civil and business)
- Exchange of information and transfer of best international practices from EU LAGs.
- Capacity building and training should be supplemented with the design and execution of a broad public awareness campaign for the general population.
- Donor support to be better coordinated

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# Study tour/exposure visit for junior level representatives dealing on LEADER Approach issue in the area of Austria and Italy.

- Institutional setup;
- transfer of Austrian and Italian experience regarding the implementation of LEADER approach;
- Coordination among the relevant authorities
- Link between the civil and public sector;



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# Assessment of the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture in the countries of the SEE

June 2017 – August 2018

40<sup>th</sup> SWG Assembly Session



# Objectives

The aim of the study is assessment of the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture in the countries of the SEE, as well as to provide recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity in the agricultural and land management policies, plans and programmes of the SEE countries.

Summary for the policy makers

Regional (Synthesis report) and recommendations



Plant genetic resources  
Country report (Assessment and recommendations)



Animal genetic resources  
Country report (Assessment and recommendations)



# Methodology

- Assessment and evaluation of the relevant policy and institutional frameworks and provision of policy recommendations for conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity;
- Identification of gaps and necessary reform priorities for the harmonization of policies with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as well as International Conventions and Agreements relevant for agro-biodiversity;
- Identification of key challenges requiring policy interventions;
- Presentation of examples, lessons learned and practices from conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources.

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# Involved parties

- **National experts** – Preparation of national studies for each country;
- **Regional experts-** National study for Macedonia, coordination of national experts, quality control of national reports alignment of the country reports, assurance of the consistency and transparency, support international experts in preparation of regional study;
- **International experts-** Preparation of regional study, quality control and recommendations for national studies, especially related to identification of gaps and provision of recommendations for institutional set-up, legal and policy frameworks in accordance to international conventions and EU policies.

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# Main Meetings of the REAWG and core team

Date	Activity	Task to be completed
July, 2017	Kick-off meeting in Macedonia	
October 2017	First Interim Meeting in Montenegro	Complete national assessment (draft version)
February 2018 tbc	Second Interim Meeting in Albania	Complete national assessment (final version)
March 2018 tbc	Third Interim/Final Meeting of the REAWG on Agro-Biodiversity in Macedonia	Final regional assessment

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