

SWG
RRD



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗА ЗЕМЈОДЕЛСТВО,
ШУМАРСТВО И ВОДОСТОПАНАСТВО
на Република Македонија



XII MINISTERIAL MEETING
Ministries of Agriculture
from South East Europe 2018
14th - 16th November, Struga, Macedonia

South Eastern Europe
SWG RRD
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

12th Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture in South Eastern Europe (SEE), 15th November, Struga, Macedonia





- **3 (three) Vice Prime Ministers**
- **5 (five) Ministers** of Agriculture from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and the **8 (eight) Heads of Delegations** and representatives from international organizations gathered on 15th of November 2018 in Struga at the 12th Annual Working Meeting
- **12th Annual Working Meeting** was organized under the joint auspices of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Macedonia** 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 2017** 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 2018
- Fast green lines at the borders (Trade facilitation)

Key note speakers:

Mr. Tassos Haniotis, Director - Strategy, simplification and Policy Analysis; European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development – “The future of the Common Agricultural Policy post 2020”



Mr. Colin Wolfe, Head of Western Balkans Regional Cooperation, European Commission, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, tbd – “A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans”



SWG
RDRD



XII MINISTERIAL MEETING
Ministries of Agriculture
from South East Europe **2018**
14th - 16th November, Struga, Macedonia

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.

Struga Declaration 2018 on “Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Growth and Economic Prosperity in South Eastern Europe” have been signed between the Ministers of Agriculture and Heads of Delegations of South Eastern Europe from SWG Member Institutions





XII MINISTERIAL MEETING

Ministries of Agriculture
from South East Europe

2018

14th - 16th November, Struga, Macedonia

Conclusions/Recommendations:

- Recall the previous Declaration for agriculture and rural development in South East Europe, convened in Kopaonik, Republic of Serbia on 15th November 2013 and appraised the regional cooperation objectives and common interests achieved under the SWG RRD.
- Acknowledge the persistent efforts made on behalf of SWG RRD at national and regional levels, and the positive performance results that our agricultural and rural development sectors have been registering in recent years.
- Reaffirm our dedication towards EU enlargement agenda, following up to the objectives of the criteria of Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and the Copenhagen criteria, along with meeting the membership conditions for comprehensive and convincing reforms on competitiveness, regional cooperation and reconciliation.
- Recognize the significance of the region's economic potential and continue to devote our efforts for aligning our policies towards Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) model and respective measures that contribute towards economic adjustments and increase of competitiveness of the SEE economies, particularly the Western Balkans (WB).
- Retain committed to the reform framework and affiliation of national structures for proper implementation and management of Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), particularly the IPA for rural development (IPARD), in order to prepare our countries for successful participation and implementation of CAP of the EU after accession.

SWG RRD
SWG RRD





XII MINISTERIAL MEETING

Ministries of Agriculture
from South East Europe

2018

14th - 16th November, Struga, Macedonia

Conclusions/Recommendations:

- Highlight the importance of balanced socio-economic development of rural areas via implementation of the Area Based Development Approach (ABDA), and strive towards its operational upkeep and financial support for ensuring competitiveness and local economic growth in the targeted border areas.
- Appel to the European Commission on the prominence and necessity for continuous technical and financial support to SWG RRD in lieu of the ongoing regional cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Rural Development of Western Balkan Countries, as well as territorial cooperation and implementation of the ABDA in rural areas. The support will further upkeep the EU integration processes of the Western Balkan Countries, retaining regional rural agenda, ensuring participatory policy-development process and equivalent socio-economic growth cross all regions of Western Balkan Countries.
- Welcome the Agricultural Policy Forum (APF) endorsements and the Jahorina Agenda 2018, held on 16th -18th October 108 in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina under the theme: “Agricultural Policy: Determinant of the Regional Rural Development and EU Perspectives of the SEE”.
- Emphasise that the well-established regional work on agriculture and rural development policy and socio-economic outlook in rural areas on behalf of SWG RRD should remain a high priority on the regional agenda of SEE and be complemented by further support and cooperation by its member states. Under the SWG RRD umbrella we commit to undertake greater ownership of regional cooperation, which is key for stability and sustainable development.

SWG RRD