

44th Meeting of the Assembly of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe

REPORT



8 – 9 April 2019

Becici, Montenegro

1. Introduction

The 44th SWG Assembly Session was held in Becici, Montenegro, and attended by SWG delegates from the member institutions from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and representatives from observer institution from Croatia. The full list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

The purpose of the meeting was to present accomplishments in the period December 2018 – April 2019, upcoming major SWG events (Agricultural Policy Forum 2019 and Annual Meeting of the Ministers from SEE 2019), cooperation with other international organizations and institutions. The program of the event is provided in **Annex 2**.

2. E-registration of seasonal workers in agriculture

Ms. Amira Omanovic from GIZ Open Regional Fund SEE presented the sub-project “Municipal services for the creation of employment opportunities for vulnerable groups” and its component “E-registration of seasonal workers in agriculture”. The motivation for such an initiative comes from the great number of seasonal workers in agriculture that are undeclared, which is an important source of grey economy. The full presentation is provided in **Annex 3**.

3. Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier

Mr. Jean-Paul Pellisseir from CIHEAM presented the work of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier and their interest to foster activities with the Western Balkans since it was a region of main concerns regarding agriculture and rural development policies in the Mediterranean area. The full presentation is provided in **Annex 4**.

4. Summary of the SWG - GIZ: “Support to economic diversification of rural areas in Southeast Europe” - SEDRA Inception Phase

Mr. Benjamin Mohr provided a general overview of the SEDRA project, whose inception phase was completed in January 2019. The full presentation is provided **Annex 5**.

5. Overview of the realized activities

Short overview of the realized activities is provided below:

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

	Activity	Date	Place
Dec'18	Kick-off meeting REAWG Wine	11 - 14 Dec'18	Struga, Macedonia
Jan'19	Global Forum for food and agriculture 2019	17 - 19 Jan'19	Berlin, Germany
	Ad Hoc Ministerial Meeting 2019 GFFA	20 Jan'19	Berlin, Germany
	Kick-off meeting of SEE REAWG on economic diversification through rural tourism	23 - 25 Jan'19	Macedonia, Skopje
	Kick-off meeting of SEE REAWG on PDO PGI TSG	28 - 30 Jan'19	Macedonia, Skopje
	HNV - Link Final Conference	31 Jan'19	Montpellier, France
Feb'19	Kick-off meeting of SEE REAWG on LEADER	28 Feb - 1 Mar'19	Skopje, Macedonia
Mar'19	ProWein	17 - 19 Mar'19	Dusseldorf, Germany
	Policy recommendation dissemination - Serbia	20 Mar'19	Belgrade
	11th Meeting of the SEE2020 Coordination Board	21 Mar'19	Sarajevo, BiH
	First Interim Meeting SEE REAWG on Wine	26 - 28 Mar'19	Podgorica, Montenegro

As part of SEDRA support will be provided to organisation of regional and local events for networking, establishment of business contacts, promotion of value chain products/service and exchange of experiences - P2P activities. Application procedures are developed and call was opened on 20 March. Considering the experience of the previous years when important ad-hoc events came along, a small portion of the budget will be reserved to be available for financing ad-hoc P2P events of regional importance. The decision for such financing will be made by the SWG management.

More details on the activities completed are given in **Annex 6**.

As part of the capacity building program for extension services in the WB (KEP), implemented jointly with AREA Science Park from Trieste and co-financed by CEI, 4-day centralized training will take place in September in Belgrade. It will gather 42 representatives on senior positions from all involved countries/territories. It will be followed by a series of workshops (one in each country/territory) with program adjusted according to the specific needs. Delegates' responsibility is to nominate participants for the workshops. Details on the KEP are given in **Annex 7**.



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