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Progress report

December 2018 – March 2019

Completed activities

	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

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Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and Heads of Delegations of SEE *“Potentials of Agricultural Trade”*

20 January 2019

Participation



- BMEL Federal Minister and State Secretary
- EU Commissioner
- Ministers from BiH, Kosovo* and North Macedonia, State Secretaries from Serbia and Montenegro with their delegations, Head of MA from Albania
- DG Agri Director for International Relations
- DG NEAR Policy Officer
- GIZ, SWG

Conclusions

- All obstacles for agricultural trade in the WB should be removed. Regional trade is of utmost importance for the stability of the region;
- WB countries/territories should align their policies with CAP, and harmonize their quality standards among each other and with EU;
- All WB countries/territories are committed to regional cooperation;
- Digitalization becomes an important topic related to agriculture and rural development in the WB countries/territories, as a way towards increasing competitiveness;
- IPARD is of great importance for the WB countries/territories and each of them mark progress in implementing it.

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REAWG

Economic Diversification through Rural Tourism (ED-RT)

Specific situation

- **Objective of the assignment:** assessment of the policies for economic diversification of the rural areas of the SEE, with focus on rural tourism development, proposing policy framework in line with EU policies.
- **Major tasks:**
 - **Regional methodology** for assessment of policies for economic diversification of rural areas with focus on rural tourism in the countries/territories of the SEE;
 - **Evaluation of the relevant policy frameworks** in place and provision of **recommendations** for their improvement and alignment with EU policies;
 - Regional report consisted of **six national reports** and **one cross-country synthesis report** on the status, gaps and constraints regarding the economic diversification policies with focus on rural tourism and provision of recommendations for an alignment of regional / national priorities with EU policies.

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Experts' team

- **6 national experts** from the entire WB region - preparing national reports
- **1 regional expert** – coordinating the national experts, preparing the regional report
- **1 international expert (Finland)** – backstopping and advising

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Meetings in 2019

- **Kick-off meeting** – 23 - 25 Jan, Skopje, North Macedonia (completed, reps of 4 ministries)
 - methodology, roles and responsibilities, workplan
- **First interim meeting** – 18 – 20 June, Pogradec, Albania
 - progress report
- **Second interim meeting** – 7 – 10 Oct, APF, North Macedonia
 - progress report



REAWG on quality policy – schemes of geographical indications and traditional specialties (PDO PGI TSG)

Specific situation

- **Objective of the assignment:** overview of requirements and implementation of the EU schemes of geographical indications and traditional specialties and of the state of the art in the SEE countries.
- **Major tasks:**
 - Analysis of the **state of the art**
 - Identification of **key problems** and challenges requiring policy interventions
 - Preparation of **guidelines** on the steps and procedures for registration of products with geographical indications and traditional specialties;
 - **Identification of products** from SEE countries which fulfill criteria and have potential to be registered
 - Identification of **good examples** and practices to raise awareness about the importance of the implementation of quality policy.

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Experts' team

- **3 regional experts** – provide inputs on national level
- **1 senior expert** – methodology, coordination, compilation of regional report, guidelines
- **1 international expert (Italy)** – backstopping and advising

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Meetings in 2019

- **Kick-off meeting** – 28 – 30 Jan, Skopje, Macedonia (completed)
 - methodology, roles and responsibilities, workplan
- **Interim meeting** – 15 – 17 Apr, Durres, Albania
 - progress report
- **Final meeting** – 2 – 4 July, Andrevlje, Serbia
 - presentation of the final outputs



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SUGARMS

Dissemination of Policy Recommendations

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade – 20.03.2019

- Over 50 participants (ministry staff, other authorities, academia, civil and private sector)
- Presentation of national reports on:
 - Monitoring of agricultural policy
 - LEADER
 - Agri-environment policy
 - ANC
 - Agrobiodiversity
 - NRM
- Dissemination of publications



Upcoming policy recommendations dissemination events

Country/territory	Date in 2018	Responsible person	Responsibilities of the responsible person
BiH, Trebinje	16 – 18 May	Zeljko Vasko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book a conference room • Invite participants • Provide the number of participants to SWG • Organize the catering service for the end of the event (SWG covers the costs)
Macedonia, Ohrid	?	Dragi Dimitrievski	

Diversification of economic activities in rural areas of Southeast Europe through value chain development

SEDRA II

Update Dec 2018 – Mar 2019

The objective of the intervention is to contribute to the diversification of economic activities in rural areas of SEE through strengthening selected value chains in specific cross-border regions

Outputs:

- Integrated value chain approach has been developed and implemented in selected target cross-border regions;
- Regional economic exchange has been strengthened via further development and implementation of the people2people approach;

Activities

- Performance of detailed baseline assessment of the selected value chains;
- Mapping of relevant stakeholders along the selected value chains;
- Assessment of the local capacities of the stakeholders on business planning, investments, business cooperation within value chains, management etc.;

Status: questionnaires' developed and delivered to stakeholders, data collection in process

- Provision of financial support (grants) for the development and strengthening of the selected value chains in all 7 cross-border regions;

Status: Guideless and manual of procedures in process of development, grant to be divided into 2 separate calls (June and September)

- Organisation of regional and local events for networking, establishment of business contacts, promotion of value chain products/service and exchange of experiences / P2P activities;
- Participation and promotion of the products/services on trade fairs (international, regional).

Status: Application procedure made, call opened 20 March 2019

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Strengthening capacities for supporting rural development in Southeast Europe

SEDRA III

Update Dec 2018 – Mar 2019



www.seerural.org



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The objective of the intervention is to strengthen the capacities of local and sub-regional actors for supporting rural development in SEE.

Outputs:

- Capacities of stakeholders and actors to shape and implement the LEADER and value chain approach have been strengthened ;
- Relevant stakeholders have been enabled to harness project funding opportunities by appropriate capacity development measures.

Activities

- Organization of capacity building measures (trainings/ exposure visits/ coaching/ counselling) of actors and networks (Local Action Groups (LAGs), rural development networks (RDNs), Balkan Rural Development Network (BRON) and institutions/administrations on planning, management, implementation of regional and local development strategies
- Capacity building of managers and board members of LAGs on management of LAGs
- Organization of capacity building measures for integrated value-chain development, improvement of digital skills
- Facilitation of the participation of young people and women in the sustainable regional development processes (meetings, round tables, promotional material etc.)
- Facilitation of active exchange with the REAWG on LEADER.

Status: Activities still in a process of planning