

REAWG

Economic Diversification through Rural Tourism (ED-RT)

Progress report

September – December 2019

Progress

- **Second interim meeting** – 7 – 8 Oct, Ohrid, North Macedonia
 - progress report (preliminary recommendations)
- Engaged **new expert** for Kosovo*
- **Dissemination** of preliminary findings
 - APF, MM



Preliminary recommendations

- **Legislation** related to agriculture and rural development should be carefully reviewed to ensure realistic transitory periods for smallholders and provide technical assistance for compliance with regulations;
- **Taxation policy** should encourage rural tourism;
- **Institutional capacities** need to be improved;
- **Statistical office** should organize data collection and analysis on rural tourism, at local, regional and national level according to international standards.
- **The extension service** should be more active in raising awareness of farmers and the rural population about economic importance and opportunities from the rural tourism development;
- **Cooperation among relevant institutions** in the area of rural tourism needs to be more efficient and effective;
- **Rural infrastructure** should be improved;
- **Regional organizations** (DMO and LAGs) should contribute to implementation of standards for tourists' security and safety, management, marketing, and branding of rural tourism in close cooperation with local entrepreneurs, farmers, regional municipalities, and nongovernment organizations.
- **Technology use** in marketing and promotion should be emphasized;
- **Agriculture-tourism value chains** need to be shortened and greened;
- **Regional (cross-border) cooperation** needs to be improved;
- **Education** in rural tourism business needs further improvement;
- **Public awareness** should be raised through further promotion of rural heritage and cultural identity of the villages and lifestyle among locals and urban residents;

Workplan

Activity	Deadline/Place	Responsible	Status 7 October 2019
Methodology for assessment of the policies for economic diversification in rural areas and relevant frameworks	23 January 2019	RE supported by IE	Completed
Participation at the Kick-off Meeting	23 – 25 January 2019, Skopje, Macedonia	All	Completed
Cross-country synthesis report outline	28 February 2019	RE supported by IE	Completed
National reports outline (provided to national experts)	28 February 2019	RE supported by IE	Completed
Participation at the First Interim Meeting	18 – 20 June 2019, Pogradec, Albania	All	Completed
First draft national report, in line with the agreed national report outline	5 July 2019	NEs	Completed (except for Kosovo*)
Feedback on the first draft national reports	19 – 21 July 2019	RE supported by IE	Completed (except for Kosovo*)
Second draft national report, based on the feedback of the Regional Expert on the first draft	30 September 2019	NEs	Completed (except for Kosovo*)
Participation at the Second Interim Meeting	6 - 8 October 2019, (Ohrid)	All	Completed (except for Kosovo*)
Feedback on the second draft national reports	31 October 2019	RE supported by IE	Completed (except for Montenegro and Kosovo*)
Final national reports	31 December 2019	NEs	Pending
First draft cross-country synthesis report	January 2020	RE supported by IE	Pending
Participation at the Final Meeting	February 2020	All	Pending
Final cross-country synthesis report	28 February 2020	RE supported by IE	Pending

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

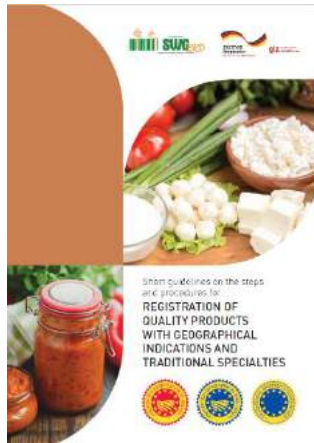
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Guidelines for Registration on EU level

SWG RRD



- **New edition** of the Guidelines is being finalized
- **Full assessment** expected to be finalized in the next reporting period

Dissemination of Policy Recommendations

- IAE Conference, 12 – 13 December, Belgrade, Serbia



Upcoming policy recommendations dissemination events

Country/territory	Date in 2020	Responsible person	Responsibilities of the responsible person
Republic of Srpska	Feb - Mar	Ostoja Sinik	<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)
Montenegro	April	Darko Konjevic	
Albania		Lauresha Grezda	
North Macedonia	March	Tome Mojsovski	
Serbia	May	Branislav Veljkovic	
BiH	Feb - Mar	Hamdija Civic	