

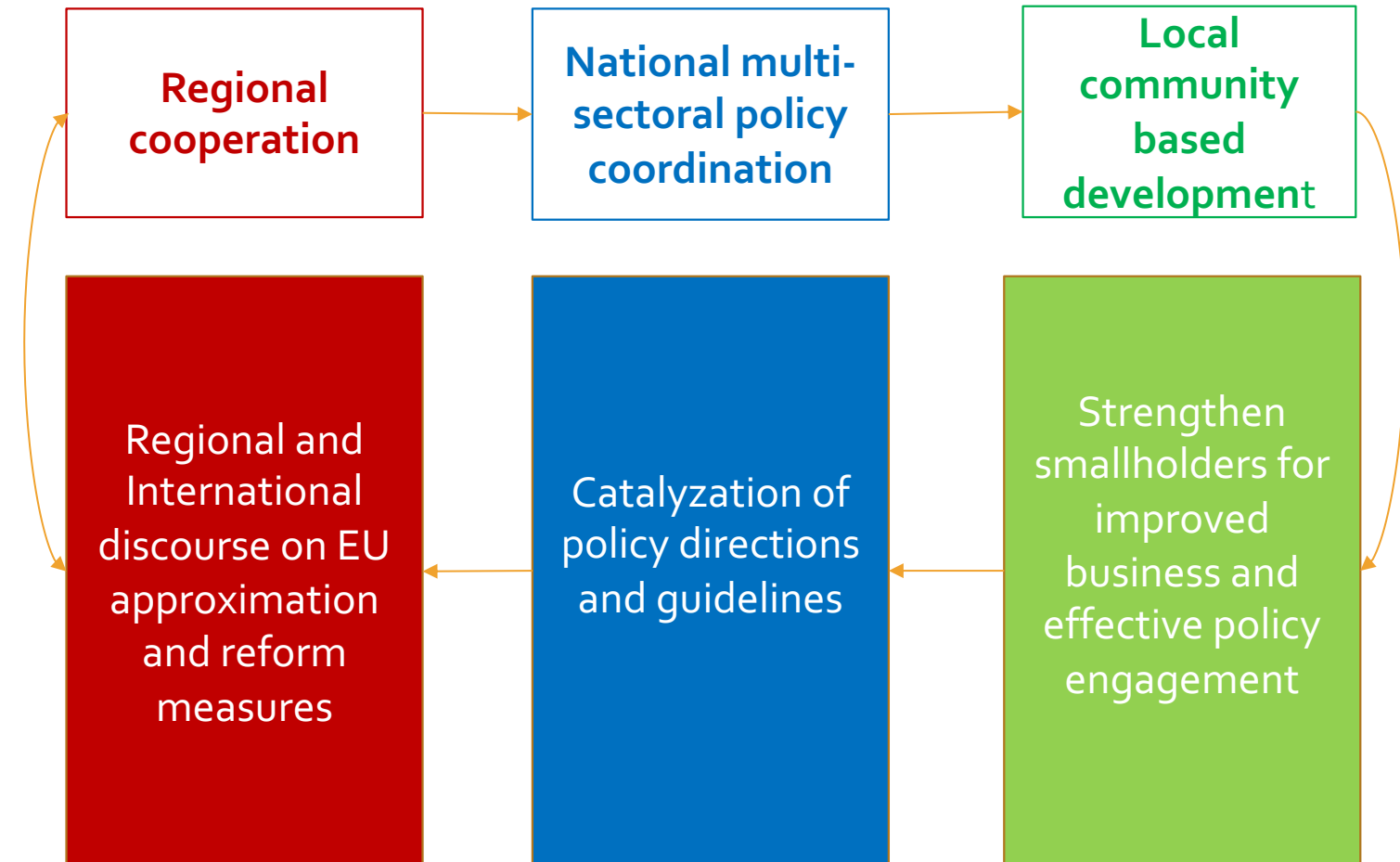
SWG Strategy Outlook 2021-2025

SWG Head Office/Secretariat

Introduction

- The SWG Strategy represents the main areas of work to realize our goals and serves as a tool for compelling the core functions to achieve results;
- Defines the principles of operation and the priority areas of interventions to be achieved in the forthcoming five years, developed in consultation with Governments and responsible Ministries from SEE countries;

SWG outlook



Future outlook

In the next five years SWG will work on:

General Objective:

- **Streamline effective EU accession process for SEE candidate and potential candidate countries**
- **Objective 1:** further enhance regional cooperation processes as a boost to EU integration;
- **Objective 2:** enable inclusive and effective regional policies and knowledge transfer;
- **Objective 3:** improve development and competitiveness for agriculture and rural areas;
- **Objective 4:** environmental innovation towards sustainable rural development

General Objective

SWG Strategy 2021-2025

General Objective: Streamline effective EU accession process for SEE candidate and potential candidate countries

- Promote peace, stability and economic development in the SEE countries;
- Support reform processes for proper implementation of the Enlargement Policy;
- Foster progress in the areas of agriculture and rural development in line with its Member states' and EU priorities.
- Active contributor to the International and Regional Agendas for sustainable development and integration (Agenda 2030 and SDGs, Western Balkan Strategy for Enlargement and Sofia Declaration).

Objective 1

SWG Strategy 2021-2025

Objective 1: further enhance regional cooperation processes as a boost to EU integration

- Facilitate regional policy/political dialogues and platforms on topics of need among the SEE countries (APF, MM);
- Develop declarations and political statements to foster cooperation practices;
- Increase political commitment to multi-stakeholder approach governing and efficient EU approximation processes;

Objective 1:		
Aim	Target Measures	Tools
<p>Further enhance regional cooperation as a boost to EU integration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate regional policy/political dialogues on agriculture and rural development; Develop joint approaches to foster reconciliation and address multilateral thematic subjects; Increase political commitment to multi-stakeholder inter-regional and intra-regional policy approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Policy Forum; Annual Meeting of the Ministers and Heads of Delegations; Declarations and Statements as guidelines for reform processes; SWG Assembly sessions;
<p>Result: Strengthened regional cooperation and collective action ensures solutions to common sustainable development challenges creating more value-added than national-level interventions</p>		

Objective 1

Objective 2

SWG Strategy 2021-2025

Objective 2: enabling inclusive and regional policy and knowledge transfer

- Improve evidence-based decision making via research and analysis;
 - Develop of reliable agricultural data and indicators;
 - Conduct studies on relevant emerging issues;
 - Identify ad-hoc issues and creation of relevant studies.
- Implement knowledge transfer and capacity building measures to policy and program development in line with EU approximation process.

Objective 2:		
Aim	Target Measures	Tools
Enable inclusive and effective regional policies and knowledge transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve evidence-based decision making via research and analysis; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy recommendations and their adoption by Governments; Facilitate Regional Expert Advisory Working Groups; Development of assessments and reports on agro-environmental and agro-economic topics; Development of reliable agricultural data and indicators as per requests of the SWG member countries and territories; Creation of studies on relevant ad-hoc issues.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement knowledge transfer and capacity building measures to policy and program development in line with EU approximation process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge transfer network is established; Facilitate local community development with Balkan and National rural networks: Facilitation of capacity building measures (trainings, workshops, study tours and coaching sessions).
<p>Result: Improved knowledge and institutional capacities create capable institutions and effective policy making for proper administration of EU reform processes</p>		

Objective 2

Objective 3

SWG Strategy 2021-2025

Objective 3: improving development and competitiveness for agriculture and rural areas:

- Encourage commitment to local community development and partnerships ;
- Mobilizing investment support (IPARD. Like) for business models in value chain to increase productivity and value added to agriculture and non-farm activities;
- Support to development and use of digital tools;
- Increase involvement of women and youth in entrepreneurial initiatives and start ups;
- Include aquaculture in the rural development cross-cutting measures.

Objective 3:		
Aim	Target Measures	Tools
<p>Improve development and competitiveness for agriculture and rural areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage commitment to local community development and local partnerships; Promote the Farm-to-Fork 2030 strategy on value chains; Develop inclusive and efficient value chains; Mobilizing investment support (IPARD. Like) for business models in value chain to increase productivity and value added to agriculture and non-farm activities; Support development and use of digital tools; Increase involvement of women and youth in entrepreneurial initiatives and start-ups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and coordinate regional stakeholder groups (SHGs); Implement grant scheme support program on value chains; Facilitate workshops on IPARD measures; Support People-to-People events; Facilitate active cooperation structures and B2B networking.
<p>Result: Rural businesses and entrepreneurs in selected value chains are more competitive on the local and regional markets due to increased technical support programs and measures</p>		

Objective 3

Objective 4

SWG Strategy 2021-2025

Objective 4: Environmental innovation towards sustainable rural development

- To achieve the target measures for its strategy, SWG is keep on following the framework for **European Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork 2030**, in particularly focusing on:
 - a) Sustainable use of natural resources;
 - b) Conservation of biodiversity and provision of Ecosystem services;
 - c) Circular economy in rural areas (solid waste management) .

Objective 4:

Aim	Thematic subjects	Target Measures	Tools
<p>Environmental innovation towards sustainable rural development</p>	<p>Conservation of Biodiversity and provision of Ecosystem Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create policy documents and assessment reports on EU compliant environmental measures for updating existing and developing new policies and legislation as well as with creating municipal and regional land-use plans; Strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue to improve policy coordination and avoid overlapping; Getting ahead with circular economy, waste management plans developed- to be implemented; Support the implementation of Green Deal Communication Document; Develop the approach for multifunctional land use and assessment of ecosystem services; Encourage" green initiatives" as added value in business model development to generate permanent income (ex. honey, ecotourism, timber). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate policy dialogues and recommendations on the thematic subjects; Facilitation of REAWG on NSM and Environment; Develop assessments and feasibility studies; Preform case studies and testing mechanism; Integrate indicators on green initiatives in Grant Scheme support programs.
	<p>Sustainable use of natural resources</p>		
	<p>Circular economy in rural areas (waste management)</p>		

Result: Environmental policy measures harmonized and integrated into the rural development programming frameworks for improved socio-economic development of rural areas

Objective 4

Levels of engagement

In achieving the goal and objectives of the Strategy, the SWG will enhance its engagement at three complementary levels:



Approach

In achieving the goal and objectives of the Strategy, the SWG will enhance its engagement at three complementary levels:

Depend on fundamental know-how and experience

Power qualified advantages

Apply a more comprehensive and inclusive approach

Adapt frameworks, upgrade skills and deepen partnerships

Implementation

- The Secretary General is responsible for facilitation of the work on the Strategy and lead the implementation process, coordinate the Secretariat and the regional offices and foster joint actions among the Member institutions.
- The implementation period from 2021-2022 will give the SWG an opportunity to align and amend the activities proceeding with the Strategy and initiate some other actions that will better suite the needs of the SWG members and stakeholders.

At the end of 2022, during the SWG annual Assembly the Delegates will determine if the Strategy is following the right path and needed target measures of the SEE countries or if modifications are needed. If changes to be applied, a new draft Strategy is to be proposed on the next SWG Assembly.

Thank you