

# Research, innovation and technology transfer in the agri-food sector in the Western Balkans: Phase II

May, 11-12, 2021 Cross Country Meeting

Wageningen Economic Research

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe



# This meeting: purpose and motivation

- Platform for presentation of project progress to the WB region
- Platform for introducing new perspectives on agri-food innovations for the WB region
- Platform for informed discussion on RITT in WB region with the WB audiences, EC representatives, research organizations, experts in agricultural innovations and others interested
- Platform for adding to and refining policy recommendations on RITT in the WB countries
- Last but not least: a much appreciated opportunity to make closer ties with colleagues and authorities from the WB, EC, and some EU countries

# Project Objectives

Overall **aim:** to enhance RITT in the agri-food sector in the WBC, in order to:

- facilitate RITT capacities related to green and clean technologies in relation to the EC's Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
- enable a gradual approximation of the agri-food sector in the WBC towards EU standards and increasing its competitiveness

Detailed **objectives:**

- to identify needs, capacities and gaps in RITT
- to explore possibilities for the enhancement of RITT
- to facilitate participation of research entities and networks from the agri-food sector in the WB into EU projects and networks
  - particularly within Horizon Europe or COST



# Project Details

- Duration: 15 months (28 July 2020 – 1 November 2021)
- Main deliverable: A final report including:
  - country specific analyses of RITT in the agri-food sector in the WBCs;
  - a comparative cross-country analysis of RITT in the WBCs
- Regional focus: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and some insights from Turkey could be proposed
- Consortium:
  - Wageningen (Economic) Research (WEcR)
  - Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG)
  - WB Country experts and AKIS-like country teams
- Contractor: DG AGRI (**IPARD**) via Engage programme
- Budget: 180.000 euro



# Project Core Team

## Wageningen Economic Research



Lusine Aramyan



Ewa Tabeau



Allard Jellema

## Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in Southeastern Europe



Boban Ilic

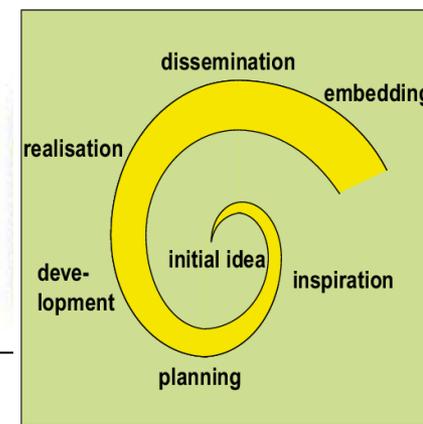


Dori Pavloska  
Gjorgjieska



Charalambos Kasimis

# Theoretical Foundation: AKIS & Spiral of Innovation



# Methodology and Tasks

The project follows a 3-step approach:



## Step 1: Problem Analysis

- Task 1: Development of the Methodology
- Task 2: Providing an assessment of the needs, capacities and gaps of different layers of the R&I system

## Step 2: Designing RITT Strategies

- Task 3: Innovation case studies, proposing improvements and facilitation

## Step 3: Recommendations for Action

Task 4+5: Derivation of policy recommendations (4) and Reporting (5) - ongoing

# Achievements so far

- 7 AKIS-like Country Teams identified, each with 5 - 8 AKIS actors
- A total of 44 interviews conducted by CE in December 2020
- Analysis of the interviews and first draft of 7 country reports
- SWOT analysis of 10 specific examples of innovation cases in the WB countries and in the EU MS (6 WB cases and 4 EU MS cases)
- Completing 7 online AKIS focus group meetings on RITT

## Reports available:

- First cross-country synthesis report (final draft)
- Second draft national reports (available)
- Final cross-country synthesis report – up-coming

# Preliminary Conclusions & Recommendations of regional synthesis report

To be presented by Prof. Charalambos Kasimis, Agricultural  
University Athens

Thank you  
for your  
attention

