



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany - Western Balkans

51st SWG Assembly Meeting in Kranj/Slovenia, 20th of August 2021

Agricultural Policy Dialogue

- Since 2018: BMEL and SWG are cooperating in the *technical dialogue on wine*
- 2019/2020: Adoption of the EU Green Deal / Farm to Fork Strategy as well as the EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans / Sofia Declaration
- Spring 2021: Evaluation of wine project and planning of enlarged cooperation
- July 2021: Start of the APD with three pillars:
 - Wine
 - AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems)
 - Green Agenda
 - "Women and youth in agriculture" as cross-cutting issue

Project set-up

- SWG is the key partner for organizing Regional Expert Advisory Working Groups (REAWGs) and other platforms (e.g. Agricultural Policy Forum)
- Representatives of BMEL and other German public institutions actively engage in APD through active participation in the REAWGs or targeted expert missions
- A consortium of IAK/Geisenheim University/IAMO provides additional expertise from private sector, academia and organizes study tours to Germany
- GFA as General Agent of the BMEL for the Bilateral cooperation Program coordinates the inputs from all partners

Wine

- Continuation of successful work on harmonizing wine regulation with EU standards
- Integration of marketing topics and other issues with relevance for the private sector (e.g. regional GIs). Further development of virtual events.
- 13th to 17th of September 2021: study tour of REAWG to Germany
- Informal target: full EU harmonization in all WB countries/territories by 2024.

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

- AKIS refers to a system of authorities, institutions from consultancy, research, education and agricultural organizations.
- AKIS has the purpose to collect, create, organize and disseminate knowledge to support the agricultural sector to meet economic, social or ecological challenges
- AKIS strategies include four main groups of actions:
 - Strengthening the link between research and practice.
 - Strengthening all agricultural extension services
 - Promoting cross-thematic and cross-border interactive innovation
 - Supporting the digital transformation in agriculture

AKIS

- Built on the ongoing SWG project with EU-JRC and Wageningen (until 10/2021)
 - AKIS mapping and SWOT analysis is available for all WB countries/territories
 - A core working group on AKIS is already established.
- Objective in the framework of the APD: "***Development of regional and national strategic plans for AKIS development***" by 2023.
- Various German experts are ready to support the work of the REAWG:
- Dr. Wolfram Schaecke, Head of Section Research & Innovation in Bavarian MoA, Dr. Ivan Duric (IAMO) and Dr. Martin Schneider (IAK)
- Study tour to Germany from 8th to 12th of November 2021

AKIS

- Further goals in the framework of the APD project:
- - ***"Establishment of a regional innovation network, including ministries, academia, advisory services, private sector"***
 - ***"Upgrading of selected formal and non-formal educational programs to address innovation in agriculture"***.
- Multilateral, open network to exchange ideas, network and generate spill-overs
- Suitable Formats? Partners? Concrete topics?

Green Agenda

- In the EU, the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy proposes a comprehensive sustainability transformation of agriculture.
- It proposes concrete ecological goals (e.g. 50 % reduction of pesticides), a full legislative review and new instruments (e.g. carbon farming, data platform, ...).
- The new CAP integrates F2F objectives, e.g. through the following measures:
 - Mandatory Eco-schemes (at least 25 % of direct producer support)
 - Conditionality of area payments and enhanced GAEC and SMR standards
 - Implementation of an Area Monitoring System in the IACS
 - Expansion of support for agri-environment-climate measures and organic farming under the 2nd pillar (at least 30 % of all pillar II funds)
 - A results-based rather than measure-based approach (“new delivery”)

Green Agenda

- The Green Agenda for the WB /Sofia declaration is not quite as detailed as F2F, but goes in a similar direction. In particular WB leaders confirmed to
 - *promote environmentally friendly and organic farming and reduction of synthetic chemical products used in food production: pesticides, veterinary medicines and fertilisers;*
 - *integrate soil protection in other policy areas and establish a regional soil partnership in order to improve knowledge exchange and identify examples of best practice for soil protection from pollution and degradation;*
- BMEL is ready to support high-level exchange on concrete implementation of the Green Agenda and offer best practices and impulses from German institutions
- Concrete goals, activities and partners can be discussed in the REAWG

Cross-cutting issue: Role of women and youth in agriculture

- Young farmers, especially women may be key actors for realizing the sustainability transformation of agriculture
- A regional study shall serve as evidence based guideline for further actions in the three pillars of the APD
- The study should be designed in cooperation between WB universities and IAMO (Dr. Judith Möllers)
- BMEL and the Thünen Institute (Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries) are ready to support and share German experience

Key dates

- August 20th: Nomination of REAWG members during 51st SWG Assembly
- September 13th to 17th: Study tour for REAWG on Wine
- October 18th to 20th: meetings of all 3 REAWG during the Agricultural Policy Forum in Serbia
- November 8th to 12th: Study tour for REAWG on AKIS
- early 2022: Study tour for REAWG on Green Agenda?

Bilateral Cooperation Programme of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Dr. Tilman Reinhardt

GFA, General Agent for the Bilateral Cooperation Programme of BMEL