



**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**FOR ACCELERATED EU INTEGRATION OF
THE WESTERN BALKANS**

11 – 12 October 2017

Verde Complex Hotel
Podgorica, Montenegro

WELCOME

TO THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORUM 2017!

Agricultural Policy Forum (APF) is a two-day event on regional agricultural policy in the South-East Europe organized by SWG, involving relevant regional and international stakeholders, resulting in regional policy recommendations. It has been organized on an annual basis since 2001 to serve as a wide platform for discussions and recommendations on regional policy issues in agriculture and rural development in SEE. The Forum is comprised of a plenary session and a working groups session, ending up in a joint final session to endorse common policy recommendations. Every year it is organized in the country/territory which holds the SWG Assembly presidency for the year, in partnership with the ministry of agriculture and rural development from the respective country.

APF 2017 is organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro and will be held in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 11 and 12 October at Verde Complex Hotel. It will once more serve as a platform for international dialogue on policy settings and perspectives of common interest to agricultural policy makers and stakeholders. The APF 2017 will address the need for improving competitiveness of the rural economy considering the farm structure in the Western Balkans. Closely related to that, it will stress the existing agricultural products trade barriers in the region. Policy recommendations related to the management of natural resources and the LEADER approach in the region will also be part of the APF 2017. Finally, it will tackle the new orientation of IPARD in function of sustainable rural development in the region.

SWG and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro have the immense pleasure to welcome you at the Agricultural Policy Forum 2017!

TOPICS

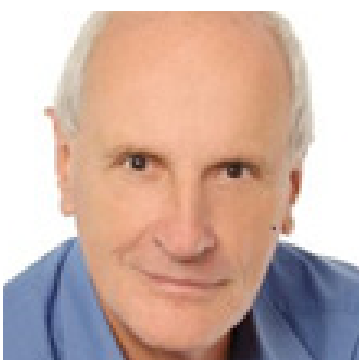
- Improving competitiveness of the rural economy considering the farm structure in the Western Balkans
- Agricultural products trade barriers in the Western Balkans
- Rural Development and migration
- Management of forest, water and soil within the framework of environmental and rural development policies in the Western Balkans
- Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans
- IPARD as an instrument in sustainable rural development in the Western Balkans
- Rural policy 3.0 paradigm in the SEE

SPEAKERS



Mr. Liam Breslin,
Head of Pre-Accession Assistance
Unit, European Commission

Liam BRESLIN is from Co-Westmeath in Ireland and studied Agricultural Sciences at University College Dublin. He has worked in the Irish Department of Agriculture and Food and the National Farm Advisory Service. He joined the European Commission in 1984 and from 1984-1990 he worked in FEOGA Guidance Fund – dealing with Structural Funds and support for Marketing and Processing of Agricultural and Fishery products. He was responsible for grant aid to the Irish Food Industry. In 1990 he joined DG Research and worked as a scientific officer on food and agricultural research programmes in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Framework Programmes. In 1999 he became Head of Unit with responsibility for key actions “Food, Nutrition and Health” and “Environment and Health” in the 5th Framework Programme; and for “Food Quality” in the 6th Framework Programme. In 2004 he moved to the Transport Directorate of DG Research – responsible for Aeronautics Research. During 2008-2009 he was interim Director – responsible for the interim phase and launch of the “Clean Sky” Joint Technology Initiative. Since 2011 he has been responsible for “Surface Transport” in FP7 and Horizon 2020, within DG Research and Innovation- responsible to the research programmes on automotive, waterborne and rail transport. In January 2017- he moved to DG Agriculture and Rural Development—where he is Head of Unit for Pre-Accession assistance.



Mr. Theo Rauch
PhD, Associate Professor, Center for
Development Studies (ZELF), Free
University of Berlin, Germany

Mr. Theo Rauch, PhD, is Associate Professor at the Center for Development Studies (ZELF) at Free University of Berlin. His field of specialisation is rural development, rural transformation and regional development planning. In that context, he is engaged in studies about the nexus between development policy and migration. Besides his academic research he has spent many years in the field of development cooperation in various African and Asian countries.



Mr. Petar Gjorgievski

President of the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia

Petar Gjorgievski is the president of The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia. His experience of near 20 years is in the area of agriculture and rural development with an up-to-date knowledge of National and EU rural development policy programmes. He is an expert in community development, utilizing participative tools for local community actions and cooperation between communities at local, regional, national and international level. In the past 10 years Petar works on transferring experience to help others understand the complexity of rural development challenges driven by a large number of factors, and which requires multi-disciplinary and team-work response. Currently he is focused on, rural CSO capacity building, networking and EU LEADER approach as a model for local economic development and enhancement of the capacity of rural civil society organizations in sustainable development.



Mr. Peter Wostner

PhD, chairman of the OECD's Working Party on Rural Policy

Dr. Peter Wostner is the head of the Smart Specialisation Unit responsible for coordination of innovation related activities within the Slovenian Government. Dr. Wostner is an expert on development policies, EU budget and EU Cohesion Policy where he has been, for last 15 years, directly involved from the EU budget and regulatory negotiations to setting up of the programming framework and implementation arrangements. He is a lecturer and a moderator and also author of number of articles, especially as regards EU budget and development policy. Dr. Wostner is the chairman of the OECD's Working Party on Rural Policy and Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee.



Mr. David Mezei

PhD, Deputy State Secretary
for Rural Development, Prime
Minister's Office, Hungary

Dr. Peter Wostner is the head of the Smart Specialisation Unit responsible for coordination of innovation related activities within the Slovenian Government. Dr. Wostner is an expert on development policies, EU budget and EU Cohesion Policy where he has been, for last 15 years, directly involved from the EU budget and regulatory negotiations to setting up of the programming framework and implementation arrangements. He is a lecturer and a moderator and also author of number of articles, especially as regards EU budget and development policy. Dr. Wostner is the chairman of the OECD's Working Party on Rural Policy and Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee.



Mr. Genti Kromidha

PhD, President of the board of the
Institute for Nature Conservation in
Albania (INCA)

Dr. Genti Kromidha, is the President of the board of the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) and a senior expert on protected areas and natural resource management. Dr. Kromidha holds a PHD in ecological forest management from the Agriculture University of Tirana. He has more than 20 years of experience working in projects related to protected areas and natural resource management in general, with a particular focus on forest resource management. At his position as chief of Forest Management Department under the Directorate General of Forests and Pastures, he has played a key role in the improvement of forest management methodologies in Albania by contributing and supervising the development of new forest management guidelines. At INCA he has been directly involved in and provided guidance and precious expertise for many projects related to forests and protected areas biodiversity assessment, participatory management plans development, capacity building, management effectiveness assessment, etc. Dr. Kromidha is a member of the Expert Group on Natural Resources Management of the SWG RRD.



Ms. Aleksandra Martinovska Stojcheska,

PhD, Associate Professor, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food – Skopje

Dr. Aleksandra Martinovska Stojcheska is an Associate Professor in Farm Cost Management and Farm Business Analysis at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food – Skopje, Institute of Agricultural Economics. Her research interests are in the area of costs of production, crop and livestock enterprise budgets, economic and technical performance of Macedonian farms, and lately her work focuses on efficiency and productivity analysis, and farmers' behavior. She has participated in a number of national and international research projects. She was member of the National FADN Committee (2009-2012) and Secretary General of the Association of Macedonian Agricultural Economists (2011-2013)



Mr. Umut Ergezer

Senior Expert for Trade Facilitation in the CEFTA Secretariat

Umut Ergezer was born on 26 February 1974 in Turkey. A graduate in Political Science and Economics and expert in international trade, he joined the Secretariat of Turkish Private Sector Association in 1997, in which he served as Chief of Section on Company and Industrial Affairs dealing with trade, anti-trust, WTO issues, and EU-Turkey Customs Union Agreement until 2001. Between 2001 and 2011 he worked for the European Commission at its Delegation in Turkey as Trade Officer and Deputy Head of Section on Trade, Economy and Agriculture directly responsible for monitoring the implementation of EU-Turkey Customs Union Agreement. Later, Ergezer joined CEFTA Secretariat in 2011 as Technical Expert for customs and rules of origin. He was tasked to develop CEFTA Trade Facilitation Agenda which has then turned into CEFTA Additional Protocol 5 on Trade Facilitation adopted by CEFTA Parties in May 2017. He moderated the negotiations of AP 5 between 2014 and 2016. Ergezer actively contributed to the drafting of SEE 2020 Strategy and the Multi-Annual Action Plan for Regional Economic Area in Western Balkans. He served as Acting Director of CEFTA Secretariat between September 2015 and May 2017. He is currently Senior Expert for Trade Facilitation in the CEFTA Secretariat.

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE ROOM CELEBIC

Tuesday, October 10th, 2017

- 09:00 – 09:10 Official address, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro – H.E. Milutin Simovic, Minister

Wednesday, October 11th, 2017

- 09:00 – 09:10 Official address, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro – H.E. Milutin Simovic, Minister
- 09:10 – 09:20 Official address, Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE (SWG) – Mr. Boban Ilic, Secretary General
- 09:20 – 09:30 Introduction to the APF 2017 objectives and the program
- 09:30 – 09:50 Rural policy 3.0 paradigm in the SEE – Mr. Peter Wostner, PhD, Chair of the Working Party on Rural Policy of OECD
- 09:50 – 10:10 Rural development and migration – Mr. Theo Rauch, PhD, Associate Professor, Center for Development Studies (ZELF), Free University of Berlin, Germany
- 10:10 – 10:30 Management of forest, water and soil within the framework of environmental and rural development policies in Southeast Europe - Mr. Genti Kromidha, PhD, President of the board of the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:50 Panel session – Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development for Accelerated EU Integration of the Western Balkans
- Improving competitiveness of the rural economy considering the farm structure in the Western Balkans – Ms. Aleksandra Martinovska Stojcheska, PhD, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, Skopje, Macedonia*
- Agricultural products trade barriers in the Western Balkans – Mr. Umut Ergezer, CEFTA Secretariat*
- IPARD as an instrument in sustainable rural development in the Western Balkans - Mr. Liam Breslin, Head of Pre-Accession Assistance Unit, European Commission*

Rural development policy and the LEADER approach – the Hungarian experience - Mr. Dávid Mezei, PhD, Deputy State Secretary for Agricultural and Rural Development Strategic Affairs of Hungary

Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans - Mr. Petar Gjorgievski, President of the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia

- 12:50 – 13:00 Introduction to the working groups topics
- 13:00 – 13:15 Family photo
- 13:15 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 18:00 Working groups (Coffee break 16:00 – 16:30)
- WG 1 Improving competitiveness of the rural economy considering the farm structure in the Western Balkans
- WG 2 Agricultural products trade barriers in the Western Balkans
- WG 3 Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans
- 19:00 Dinner

Thursday, October 12th, 2017

- 09:00 – 09:30 Presentation of working group results WG 1
- 09:30 – 10:00 Presentation of working group results WG 2
- 10:00 – 10:30 Presentation of working group results WG 3
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Formulation of the Podgorica Agenda 2017
- 12:00 – 12:30 Official closing of the Forum
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 19:00 Field trip
- 19:00 Dinner

Friday, October 13th, 2017

Departure of participants

OBJECTIVES

OF THE WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP 1 - **Improving competitiveness of the rural economy considering the farm structure in the Western Balkans**

- To understand the current situation of the rural areas in the Western Balkans
- To determine its impact on competitiveness and migration
- To present the role of IPARD in the rural development of the Western Balkans
- To provide recommendations for improvement of the competitiveness of the rural economy

WORKING GROUP 2 - **Agricultural products trade barriers in the Western Balkans**

- To identify the main agricultural product trade barriers in the Western Balkans
- To propose ways for overcoming the barriers
- To provide policy recommendations for an enhanced agricultural products trade in the Western Balkans

WORKING GROUP 3 - **Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans**

- To understand the potentials of the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans
- To learn from the European experience on rural development policy and LEADER approach
- To provide recommendations for a successful application of the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans

STUDY VISIT TO PLANTAŽE:

Over half of the century, Montenegrin company 13 jul-Plantaže represents one of the greatest and most remarkable producers of grapes, wine and grape brandy in Southeastern Europe, owning a unique vineyard, covering the impressive surface of 2.310 ha as a single complex.

Over half of the century, Plantaže has tended one thousand-year long Montenegrin tradition of viticulture and wine making, paying the greatest attention to Montenegrin autochthonous grape varieties and authentic Montenegrin wine, reflecting Montenegrin culture and spirit of a unique area, located between the sea and mountains.

Nowadays, Plantaže produces over 40 different wines and four types of grape brandies, made of 26 wine grape varieties. The leading position in the region has been confirmed by the production of cca 22 million kilos of wine grapes and grapes for fresh consumption as well as the sales of over 17 million bottled products annually (out of which 90% are wines) in 35 countries of the world.

The range of wine styles comprises portfolio from sparkling to sweet wines, from fresh and light, white and red to powerful, full bodied wines that have the potential to age and develop by years and even, decades.

WORKING GROUP 1

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE ROOM VERDE

- 14:30 – 14:45 Short intro on objectives and presentation of participants (tour-de-table)
Presentation of core issues to be addressed in regard to the topic.
Mr. Damjan Surlevski, SWG Project manager
- 14:45 – 15:15 How increased competitiveness of small farms and rural businesses can influence the rural economies in the WB?
Ms. Aleksandra Martinovska Stojcheska, PhD, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, Skopje, Macedonia
- 15:15 – 15:40 IPARD – Potential for supporting improvements in the small scale rural businesses in WB
Mr. Liam Breslin, Head of Pre-Accession Assistance Unit, European Commission
- 15:40 – 16:00 Experiences from implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) approach - Improving competitiveness in rural cross-border areas
Mr. Damjan Surlevski, SWG Project manager and Mr. Aleksandar Damnjanovic, SWG Regional manager
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:30 Discussion on potentials and additional actions in improving competitiveness in rural areas (focus on ABD cross-border regions)
- 17:30 – 18:00 Conclusions and recommendations for Podgorica Agenda 2017

WORKING GROUP 2

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE ROOM SITNICA

- 14:30 – 14:40 Introduction of the purpose of the working group and Tour de Table introduction
- 14:40 – 15:00 Report from the Consultative meeting of the food safety authorities of the Western Balkans - Agricultural products trade facilitation in the Western Balkans, held in Tirana on 25.04.2017 – Ms. Dori Pavloska - Gjorgjieska
- 15:00 – 15:20 Update on the CEFTA sub-committee on agriculture and SPS activities and achievements
- 15:20 – 15:30 Discussion on the presented reports
- 15:30 – 16:00 Key barriers and recommendations for enhanced trade of agricultural products in the Western Balkans – group work
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:00 Key barriers and recommendations for enhanced trade of agricultural products in the Western Balkans – group work continues
- 17:00 – 18:00 Group presentations and prioritization of policy recommendations

WORKING GROUP 3

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE ROOM CELEBIC

WORKING GROUP 3.1

Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans – National policy about LEADER and needs to establish LEADER structure

- Explanation objective and working methodology of the WG (5 min.)
- Short presentation of each participant (10 min.)
- Presentation experience with LEADER in each present country (30 min.)
- Discussion about national policy about LEADER and how to improve situation for implement (45 min.)
- Break (15 min.)
- Discussion about potentials for regional cooperation of Western Balkan countries in LEADER implementation (45 min.)

Conclusions of working group (30 min.)

WORKING GROUP 3.2

Sustainable rural development through the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans – How to animate local communities and ensure development rural areas in the Western Balkan

- • Explanation objective and working methodology of the WG (5 min.)
- Short presentation of each participant (10 min.)
- Presentation experience with LEADER in each present country (30 min.)
- Discussion about animation local communities and ensure development rural areas in the Western Balkan thru LEADER (45 min.)
- Break (15 min.)
- Discussion about potentials for regional cooperation and good practice shearing in animation local communities and ensure development rural areas in the Western Balkan thru LEADER (45 min.)

Conclusions of working group (30 min.)

