



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Agricultural Policy Forum

Tirana, Albania

18th – 20th
OCTOBER
2022

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GREEN AGENDA
FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS:
OVERCOMING THE IMPACT OF
THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES**



Welcome to the Agricultural Policy Forum 2022!

Agricultural Policy Forum (APF) is a two-day event on regional agricultural policy in Southeast Europe (SEE) organized by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE, 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.

APF 2022 is organized by SWG in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania. APF this year places a special focus on the impacts of the climate change on agriculture in the Western Balkans and the recommended policy actions towards mitigation, including enabling and stimulating organic agricultural production as well as sustainable wine production and finding respective markets for it, sustainable forest management, developing functional Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems, and Regional Soil Partnership in the Western Balkans. Rural youth has a special place in APF 2022 due to its potential to be the major driver of sustainable rural development.

SWG and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development of Albania have the immense pleasure to welcome you at the Agricultural Policy Forum 2022!

Topics

- Impacts of climate change on agriculture and recommendations for adaptation measures in the Western Balkans
- Green Agenda for the WB and IPARD III implementation
- Agricultural policy developments in the Western Balkans
- Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in the Western Balkans
- Regional cooperation on legal harmonization and market development in the wine sector
- Organic Agriculture in the Western Balkans
- Towards the Regional Soil Partnership in the Western Balkans
- The role of youth in the rural development in the Western Balkans
- Sustainable Forest Management in the Western Balkans

Program

Tuesday, 18 October 2022

17:00	On-site registration begins
20:00	Welcoming reception

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

09:00 – 09:15	Official address – Ms. Frida Krifca , Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Albania
09:15 – 09:30	Official address and introduction to the APF 2022 objectives and the program – Mr. Boban Ilic , Secretary General, Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE (SWG)
09:30 – 09:50	Green Agenda for the WB and IPARD III implementation – Mr. Krzysztof Sulima , Neighborhood, Enlargement and Pre-accession assistance Unit, European Commission, DG AGRI
09:50 – 10:10	Impacts of climate change on agriculture and recommendations for adaptation measures in the Western Balkans – Mr. Daniel Müller, PhD , Professor, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)
10:10 – 10:30	Agricultural policy developments in the Western Balkans – Mr. Dragi Dimitrievski, PhD , Professor, Association of Agricultural Economists of North Macedonia
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break and family photo</i>

11:00 – 11:20	Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in the Western Balkans – Mr. Edvin Zhllima , PhD , Associated Professor, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania
11:20 – 11:40	Regional cooperation on legal harmonisation and market development in the wine sector – Mr. Bekim Hoxha , Wine Expert, Kosovo*
11:40 – 12:00	Ensuring export of organic goods from WB to EU market according to new organic rules – Mr. Branislav Raketic , Head of Department for Food Labelling, Quality Schemes of Agricultural and Food Products and Organic Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Serbia
12:00 – 12:20	Towards the Regional Soil Partnership in the Western Balkans – Ms. Dragana Vidojevic , PhD , Head of Section for Indicators and Reporting, Environmental Protection Agency of Serbia
12:20 – 12:30	Introduction to the working groups topics
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 18:30	Working groups (Coffee break 16:00 – 16:30) <i>WG1: Regional cooperation on legal harmonisation and market development in the wine sector</i> <i>WG2: Sustainable Forest Management in the Western Balkans</i> <i>WG3: Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in the Western Balkans</i> <i>WG4: The role of youth in the rural development in the Western Balkans</i>
19:00	Dinner

Thursday, 20 October 2022

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	Presentation of working group results WG 4
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Discussion and formulation of the Tirana Agenda 2022
12:30 – 13:00	Official closing of the Forum
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 19:00	Field trip
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Friday, 21 October 2022

	<i>Departure after breakfast</i>
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Plenary Session Speakers



**Mr. Krzysztof
Sulima**

**Pre-Accession Assistance
Unit, European
Commission, DG AGRI**

Krzysztof joined the European Commission after completing his studies in the fields of international relations and European politics and policies.

He first worked in the Directorate for Environment from where he moved to the Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development to focus on the aspects of the EU rural development policy. After that he has joined the Neighbourhood, Enlargement and Pre-Accession assistance unit in this Directorate which is also responsible for IPARD (instrument for pre-accession assistance for rural development).

Thanks to these professional experiences, Krzysztof has gained a valuable insight into different perspectives on shaping of the Common Agricultural Policy (the CAP) and in particular on the aspects of integration of environmental concerns into this policy. His work on this integration has been reflected in developing agri-environment-climate relevant instruments as well as in setting workable solutions to the interactions between those instruments and the CAP mandatory requirements of cross-compliance and greening requirements. He has also been involved in work related to the European Green Deal and Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.



Mr. Daniel Müller

**PhD, Professor, Leibniz
Institute of Agriculture
Development in Transition
Economies (IAMO)**

Daniel Müller is deputy head of the Department Structural Change at the Leibniz-Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) and lecturer in geography at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The overall goal of his research program is to identify pathways towards more sustainable land use. Dr. Müller and his team contribute towards better understanding the causes and consequences of land-system changes, options to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the land-use sector, and the impacts of climate change on crop production. His methodological portfolio includes a wide range of quantitative tools, including spatial statistics, econometrics, remote sensing, and machine learning, which he uses to combine his expertise in resource economics and natural sciences. The geographic focus of his research are the countries of the former Soviet Union, is Southeastern Europe, and China.

Publications:

<https://scholar.google.com.tr/citations?hl=de&user=WFyNEUoAAAAJ>

Website: <https://www.iamo.de/en/mueller>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DanielMu11er>



**Mr. Dragi
Dimitrievski**

**PhD, Professor, Associate
of Agricultural Economists
of North Macedonia**

Dragi Dimitrievski is full professor and former Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food within the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. He teaches several courses among which Agricultural Policy at all study cycles, and his research focuses on agricultural policy analysis, farm management, rural development, employment and human resources analysis, and sustainable regional development. He has participated in the development of national strategic documents, and is author and co-author of more than a hundred articles and studies in the field of agricultural economics. He has been a coordinator and national expert in national and international projects funded by SIDA, FAO, GIZ, SDC, UNDP, USAID, UNWOMEN, etc. He is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Association of the Agricultural Economist of the Republic of North Macedonia (AAEM), and has participated at the Agricultural Policy Forum since its very beginning in 2001.



Mr. Edvin Zhllima

**PhD, Associate professor,
Agriculture University of
Tirana, Albania**

Edvin Zhllima is a researcher and lecturer of Agricultural University of Tirana since 2003. He has earned the PhD in Agri-Food Economics and Policy at University of Bologna and the academic title “Associated Professor” from Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT). During this period has conducted research in several fields of study such as resource economics, behaviour economics and gender economics, contributing to more than 40 scientific publications. Edvin has a long experience on agriculture policy consultancy and development assistance in agriculture and rural development. He is a senior practitioner and serves as a consultant for various international organizations namely FAO, UNWOMEN, UNDP, GIZ, USAID and Swiss Cooperation, etc, contributing to various technical reports.



Mr. Bekim Hoxha

**Regional cooperation on
legal harmonization and
market development in
the wine sector -Wine
Expert, Kosovo***

Bekim Hoxha, Master in Viticulture and Oenology and also in Rural Development and Environment. Since 2006 he has been working at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development. Moreover, since 2014 he is the Director of the Department for Viticulture and Oenology in the ministry indicated above. During this period, he participated in the drafting of several publications on agricultural policy, as well as leading the drafting of legislation in the wine sector and leading the drafting of the national strategy for the wine and viticulture sector. At the same time, he participated also in the drafting of a several of laws and strategic documents in the MAFRD. Bekim has long experience in the wine and viticulture sector and is one of the creators of the platform in the management of vineyard cadaster and wine control in Kosovo*. He is cooperating close with several international organizations such as EU, SWG-RRD, GIZ, USAID, FAO, WPO etc.



Mr. Raketik Branislav

**Head of department for
Food labeling, Quality
Schemes of Agricultural
and Food Products and
Organic Production,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Water
Management of Republic
of Serbia**

Raketik Branislav has been working in the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management since 2003 and has been the Head of Department for Food Labeling, Food Quality Policy and Organic Production since 2015. In March 2019, he was appointed as the head of the negotiating team for the subgroup “Quality Policy, Organic Production and Promotion” in Chapter 11 “Agriculture and Rural Development” in the negotiations with the EU. Since 2017, he has served as the National Contact Point for Codex Alimentarius in the Republic of Serbia. His involvement in the Ministry focuses on institutional building and alignment of national regulations with the EU acquis in the field of food labeling, quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (PDO, PGI, TSG), and organic production. 2021 has appointed to the Supervisory Board of the Accreditation Body of Serbia. The Supervisory Board is the body that controls the legality of the work and financial operations of the Accreditation Body of Serbia, which is responsible for its work to the Board.



**Ms. Dragana
Vidojevic**

**PhD-Environmental
protection Agency of
Serbia**

Dragana Vidojevic Ph.D. is Independent Advisor in the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Environmental Protection Agency from 2004, and from 2014 Head of Section for indicators and reporting. In 2019 she was appointed the President of the management board of the Soil research Institute, Belgrade. Dr. Vidojevic earned her B.S. and M.S. in biology from Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade and Ph.D. in biotechnology, soil science and agrochemistry from Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad. Her research focused on soil organic carbon and land degradation. Dr. Vidojevic is working as the Primary contact point of the Republic of Serbia for cooperation with the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) for Land and Food systems groups. She has a long experience and expertise in soil research projects and agri-environmental consultancy. She has published almost 100 papers in the field of soil research.

***Agriculture and Rural Development in the context
of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans:
Overcoming the Impact of the Global Challenges***



WORKING GROUP 1:

Regional cooperation on legal harmonisation and market development in the wine sector

MAIN TOPIC: GRAPE QUALITY (AND WINE QUALITY PREDICTION) FROM THE 2022 VINTAGE IN THE SPECIFIC CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Moderator: Bogdanka Gjorshoska

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

14:00 – 14:10 Introduction of the objectives of the working group, presentation of participants (tour-de-table), appointing rapporteur for the group – **Moderator**

14:10 - 14:15 Progress update on the work of the REAWG since June 2022 and ongoing activities on the project “Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany – Western Balkans”

Ms. Bogdanka Leveska Gjorshoska, SWG

Representatives of the Project

14:15 - 14:30 Informing about the latest EU and OIV regulations

Mr. Lutz van Elk, German Federal Ministry of Agriculture

14:30 - 14:45 Presentation of activities on regional cooperation in the wine sector

- Reporting on joint scientific paper at the 2nd ClimWine Symposium – 14th International Terroir Congress in Bordeaux, France;
- Reporting on the meeting related to the project “Balkans Wine Network” - FAO/EBRD activities; wine event of Albania-Nort Macedonia-Serbia in Belgrade “Wine Vision by Open Balkan”

Mr. Darko Jaksic, Regional Expert

14:45 - 15:00 Presentation of the ideas for a 2023 Summer School
Prof. Dr. Jon Hanf, Hochschule Geisenheim University

15:00 - 16:00 Grape quality (and wine quality prediction) from the 2022 vintage in the specific climatic conditions - 8 slides:

- adopted new legal acts from June to October 2022;
- areas of newly planted vineyards (autumn 2021/spring 2022);
- climatic characteristics of the production year 2022;
- the amount of grapes produced in the 2022 harvest;
- the quality of grapes of white and black wine varieties from the vintage 2022;
- quantity of certified organic grapes in 2022;
- prediction of the future quality of wine from the vintage 2022;
- presentation of import and export of vine seedlings, grapes and wine in the period January-June 2022.

National experts/representatives of ministries:

15:00 - 15:10	Albania
15:10 - 15:20	Bosnia and Herzegovina/entities
15:20 - 15:30	Kosovo*
15:30 - 15:40	North Macedonia
15:40 - 15:50	Montenegro
15:50 - 16:00	Serbia

16:00 – 16:30 ***Coffee break***

16:30 – 17:00 Discussion on the root stock material and distribution formalities

Mr. Berthold Seitz, IAK

- Exchange on practical modalities, esp. phytosanitary and import procedures
- Agreement on next steps and communication modalities

17:00 – 18:00 Formulating policy recommendations to be presented to the wide forum – group discussion

18:00 – 18:30 Discussion and concluding remarks

19:00 ***Dinner***

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WORKING GROUP 2:

Sustainable Forest Management in the Western Balkans

Moderator: Boban Ilic

PROGRAM	
Wednesday, 19 October 2022	
14:00 – 14:20	Introduction of the objectives of the working group, presentation of participants (tour-de-table), appointing rapporteur for the group and update on the progress so far for conducting the Assessment on “Sustainable Forest Management” – Moderator
14:20 – 16:00	Progress report per country/territory, up to 10 minutes each, followed by 10 minutes feedback and discussion: - Albania – Mr. Leonidha Peri, National Expert - BiH – Mr. Bruno Maric, National Expert - RS, BiH – Mr. Dragan Comic, National Expert - Kosovo* – Mr. Faruk Bojaxhi, National Expert
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:20	Progress report per country/territory, up to 10 minutes each, followed by 10 minutes feedback and discussion: - Montenegro – Mr. Darko Dubak, National Expert - North Macedonia – Mr. Ivan Blinkov, National Expert - Serbia – Mr. Nenad Petrovic, National Expert
17:20 – 17:30	Preliminary findings from the conducted national assessments and Next steps: regional assessment – Mr. Nenad Petrovic , Regional Expert
17:30 – 17:40	Feedback from the ministries’ representatives
17:40 – 17:50	Next steps and update of the workplan – Mr. Boban Ilic, SWG
17:50 – 18:30	Formulating policy recommendations to be presented to the wide forum – group discussion
18:30	Discussion and concluding remarks
19:00	Dinner

WORKING GROUP 3:

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in the Western Balkans

Moderator: Dori Pavloska Gjorgjieska

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

14:00 – 14:15 Introduction of the objectives of the working group, presentation of participants (tour-de-table), appointing rapporteur for the group – **Moderator**

14:15 – 16:00 Proposed national AKIS plans (15 min per country/territory):

- Albania – **Mr. Edvin Zhllima**, National Expert
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of BiH – **Mr. Sabahudin Bajramovic**, National Expert
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Srpska – **Mr. Zeljko Vasko**, National Expert
- Kosovo* – **Ms. Iliriana Miftari**, National Expert
- North Macedonia – **Ms. Ana Simonovska**, National Expert
- Montenegro – **Mr. Milan Markovic**, National Expert
- Serbia – **Ms. Ankica Kondic Spika**, National Expert

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30 – 17:00 Discussion and feedback on the presented AKIS national plans

17:00 – 17:15 Proposed Regional AKIS plan – **Mr. Charalambos Kasimis**, Senior Expert

17:15 – 17:50 State of the art of advisory system and education for advisors, certification and accreditation requirements (short input from each National Expert)

17:50 – 18:00 Cooperation between public authorities and commercial sector to support farmers with advisory services: the Swedish model – **Mr. Sten-Rune Lundin**, Senior Adviser, Administrative Board of Dalarna, Sweden

18:00 – 18:30 Discussion and concluding remarks

19:00 **Dinner**

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WORKING GROUP 4:

The role of youth in the rural development in the Western Balkans

Moderator: Natasha Lazovska

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

14:00 – 14:15	Introduction of the objectives of the working group, presentation of participants (tour-de-table), appointing rapporteur for the group – Moderator
14:15 – 14:30	Background, rationale and objectives of the study and progress so far – Ms. Natasha Lazovska, SWG
14:30 – 14:45	Methodology for conducting the study – Association of Agricultural Economists of North Macedonia
14:45 – 16:00	Preliminary findings per country/territory – National Experts (15 min each)
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 16:45	Preliminary findings – National Experts (15 min each)
16:45 – 17:15	Discussion
17:15 – 17:45	Next steps: regional survey – Ms. Judith Moellers and Mr. Thomas Dufhues, IAMO
17:45 – 18:00	Next steps: update of the workplan – Ms. Natasha Lazovska, SWG
18:00 – 18:30	Discussion and concluding remarks
19:00	Dinner