

AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORUM

Evidence – Based Agricultural Policy: Enabling Environment for
Developing the Agricultural Sector in the South East Europe

11th – 14th October
Tirana, Albania

2016

South Eastern Europe
SWG *RRD*
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



PARTICIPANTS

- 114 attendees
- 19 countries/territories
- Public institutions, universities and research institutes, international organizations, civil society, chambers.

MAIN ISSUES

- Area - based development approach in the Western Balkans: a tool for rural development with upscaling potential
- Natural resources management in the frame of environment protection policies and sustainable rural development in the Western Balkans
- IPARD and rural development policy evaluation: main concepts, on-going evaluation, policy follow-up
- Strengthening the civil society and promoting multi-national exchange in rural development on regional and EU level



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Forum recognized the need to improve competitiveness of the agri-food sectors and the rural economy and to address the constraints of small farms and rural businesses.
- Due to the small size of the agri-food sectors in the SEE countries, the Forum recommended that they actively pursue to harmonise their trade policies and marketing standards to facilitate regional business cooperation, product development and improvement of the value chains.
- Furthermore, it recommended partnership based cooperation and networking between the rural civil society sector and local and national governments to be enhanced for achieving sustainable rural livelihoods.
- The Forum recommended that policymakers give higher priority to IPARD measures facilitating cooperation among small farmers and businesses.
- It highlighted the need for strengthening water, forestry and soil policy implementation in the SEE region to uphold the progress towards EU.
- The Forum recommended that cooperation of ABD structures in the regions with regional and national authorities should be strengthened for streamlining the planning of financial support to economic development of cross-border areas.

