

AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORUM

Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development for
Accelerated EU Integration of the Western Balkans

11th – 12th October
Pogorica, Montenegro **2017**

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



PARTICIPANTS

- 130 attendees
- 16 countries/territories
- Public institutions, universities and research institutes, international organizations, farmers, civil society organizations, chambers.

MAIN ISSUES

- 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 in the Western Balkans
- 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



HIGHLIGHTS

- Improve competitiveness of small rural businesses by investments, and by increasing their level of competence for business management and cooperation, thus improving their ability to integrate in short value chains.
- Strengthen cooperation and exchange of experience among WB countries/territories on the implementation of IPARD, giving higher priority to measures facilitating cooperation among small farmers and businesses.
- Continue working on the introduction of LEADER by strengthening capacities of relevant institutions, awareness raising for the LEADER approach and setting up of local action groups.
- Enable employment and investments opportunities in the rural areas, as well as proper use and management of natural resources to reduce rural outmigration.
- Accelerate harmonization of the relevant trade regulation with the EU and conclude regional/bilateral agreement/s about mutual recognition of certificates.

