

# 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER Agricultural Policy Forum ONLINE EVENT



## PARTICIPANTS



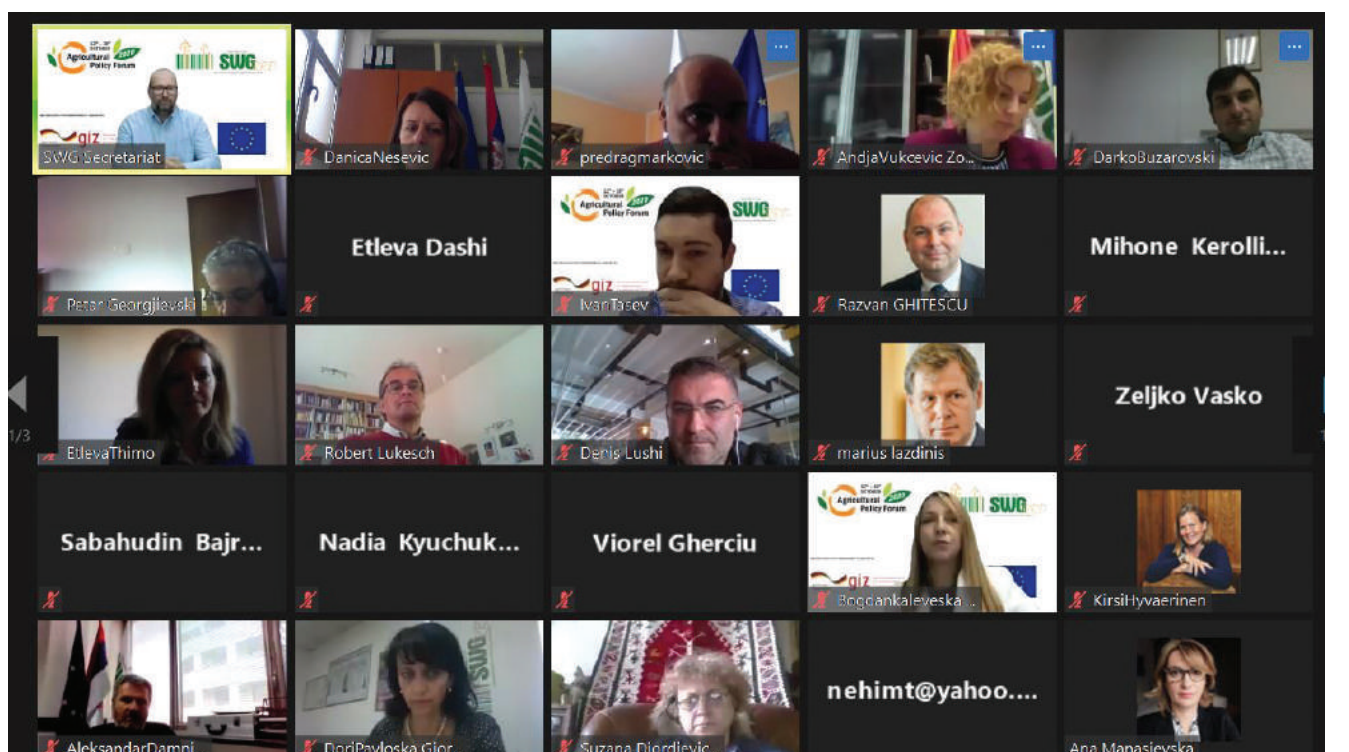
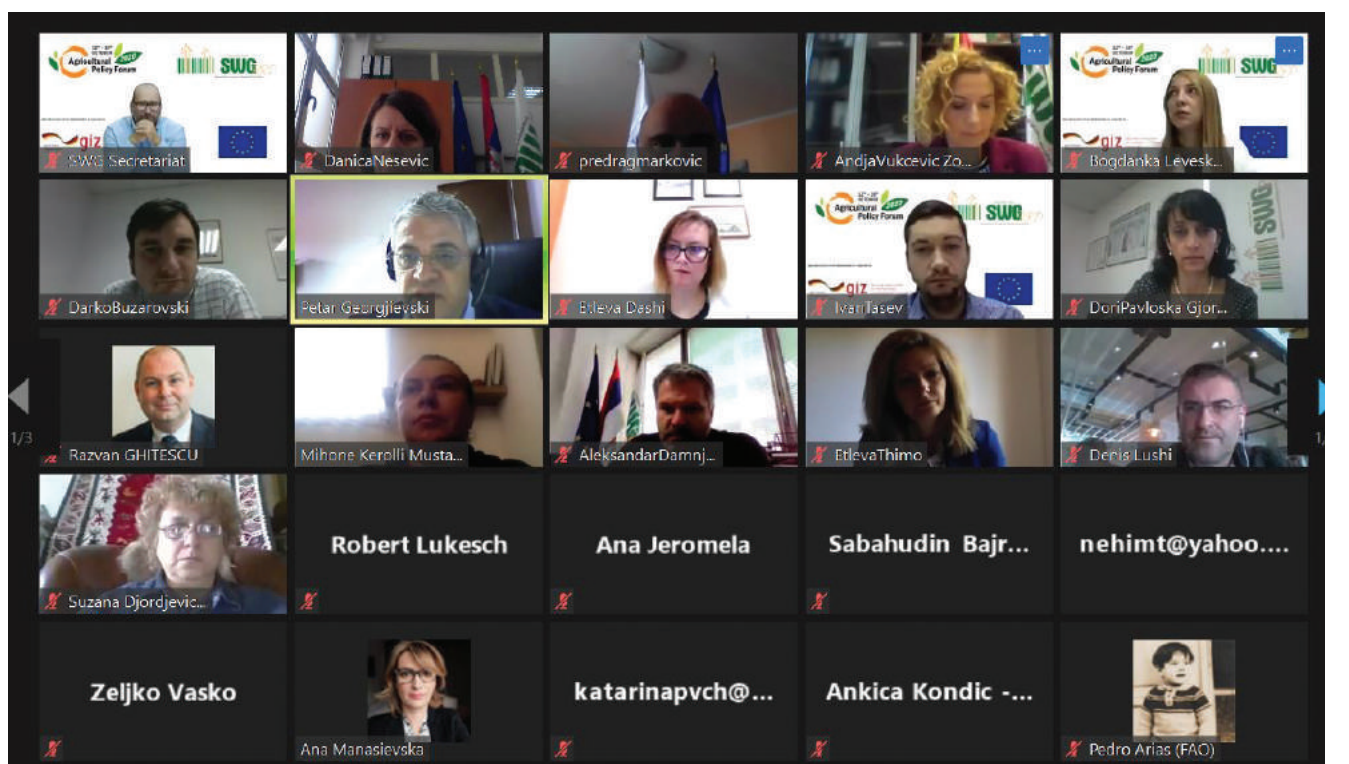
150 online attendees



16 countries/  
territories from SEE and beyond



Public institutions, universities and  
research institutes, private sector,  
international organizations,  
farmers, civil society organizations,  
chambers



## AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

### MAIN TOPICS

- Impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food and rural areas in the Western Balkans
- Regional cooperation in times of pandemic: lessons learnt
- Recent agricultural policy developments in the context of the EU approximation process in the pre-accession countries
- Progress with IPARD II / Perspectives for IPARD III
- Best practices and potential of participation of the smallholders in the short-value chains in the Western Balkans region and Turkey
- The role of rural tourism in diversification of economic activities and its implications in times of pandemics
- Research, innovation and technology transfer capacities in the Western Balkans
- The LEADER Approach in the Western Balkans

### HIGHLIGHTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reduced import dependency and improved food self-sufficiency of the region is needed.
- Regional cooperation is a must, especially in times of crisis, such as COVID-19 pandemic.
- Evidence-based and transparent policy making is necessary.
- IPARD II issues need to be addressed while preparing for IPARD III.
- EU Economic and Investment Plan for the WB is a result of the EU efforts to assist the region.
- Participation in short supply chains is an attractive way of adding value and improving farm livelihoods.
- Rural tourism has great development potential, particularly evident in times of pandemic.
- LEADER approach needs to be made operational in the entire Western Balkans.
- Proper implementation of strategic frameworks for Research Innovation and Technology Transfer and appropriate allocation of financial resources is needed.

