



20th – 21st
OCTOBER

Vrnjaska Banja, Serbia

Agricultural Policy Forum 2021

Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Commitments and Reality Check

PARTICIPANTS



150
attendees



13 countries/
territories from
SEE and beyond



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



Sofia Declaration and Green
Agenda for the Western
Balkans

IPARD III

Impact of COVID-19 on
agriculture, food and rural
areas in the Western Balkans



Research, innovation and
technology transfer in the
Western Balkans

Agri-Environmental
aspects of sustainable grape and
wine production in the WB

LEADER approach – from policy
set-up and instruments towards
effective implementation

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Sofia Declaration:

Recommendation for realization of the commitments of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans without further delay. Competent ministries to implement actions in the following five pillars: Climate, energy, mobility; Circular economy; Depollution; Sustainable agriculture and food production; Biodiversity.



Green Agenda for the WB:

The WB governments should: Mainstream environmental and climate protection in relevant policy areas; Create an enabling governance framework; Establish a reliable monitoring system to reduce the chemical input; Proper regulatory framework for waste management; Gradually align national legislation with the respective EU legislation; Strengthen farm advisory services and control authorities; Apply standards for keeping land in good agricultural and environmental conditions; Support short food supply chains, quality products and economic diversification using national development measures and IPARD.

Impact of COVID-19:



High value of regional cooperation and solidarity.

AKIS:

Importance of fully establishing Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in the WB based on national action plans, incorporated into the national strategies for agriculture and rural development and coordinated at the regional level.



Rural women and Youth:



Need for creating favourable conditions for young and women entrepreneurs in agriculture and rural areas.

Wine Sector:

Improving competitiveness and reducing the environmental impact of the wineries to be highest priority for the WB.



Rural Tourism:



Enable cross border cooperation, Area-Based Development (ABD), trade facilitation and easing border crossing to result in regional tourism products of the Western Balkans.

LEADER approach

The roadmaps to LEADER to be followed on three levels: institutional, national rural development network members, and LAGs.

