BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

Agricultural Policy Forum 2024

Reassessing of Agricultural and Rural Development Policy in South Eastern Europe and challenges ahead: Food Sovereignty, Climate Change Impact, Demographic Renewal of rural areas

Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Demographic renewal of rural areas – future prospects and policies for rural regeneration in Southeast Europe

Emelj Tuna, PhD, Professor

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food – Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

04 - 07 June, 2024

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

CIHEAM BARI

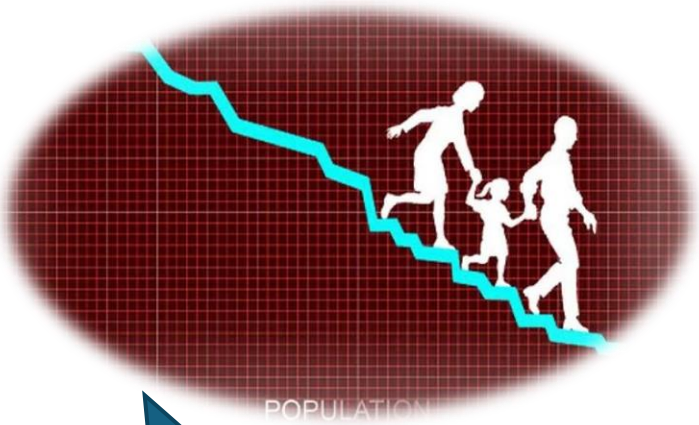
The problem of rural areas?

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024
Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

Many rural areas worldwide are experiencing significant population and economic decline



Challenges such as an aging population**, youth out-migration, limited employment, and education opportunities, and unattractiveness of agriculture**... contribute to these difficulties

Life in the rural areas is becoming increasingly challenging:

infrastructure is missing, shops and services face economic pressure, healthcare facilities are hard to maintain, community support is diminishing, and government investments are decreasing.

To break this cycle which affects not only people's lives but also the spatial quality and sustainable development of rural areas, we need innovative initiatives with a broad impact!

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

Each rural region is different and therefore needs a specific, tailored approach!

- region-specific strategies to enhance rural development.
- More specifically:

1. Identify **challenges and trends** in the rural areas
2. **Structural change of the population**, looking at dimensions such as **age, gender, and ethnicity**, are important aspects to map when assessing the population of particular rural regions.
3. Analyze issues of population and **access to jobs, services accessibility of resources, infrastructure and land**
4. Discuss **practices of rural development with a focus on younger generations and the role of rural women**
5. **Determine the development potential** of the rural regions
6. **Develop regional strategy** with actions for rural development

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

Often difficult to assess the potentials of rural areas!

- because of lack of statistics concerning the rural areas, and scientific research is still too scarce on certain economic and social issues in rural areas

RURAL YOUTH STUDY

General method: A cross-country mixed-method approach

INTERVIEWS & FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Different representatives

(policy-making institutions, NGO's, local community, academia...)

Total: 42

Different groups

4 groups x min 7 participants (in 6 countries)

- 2 groups of 15 – 24 years old (male/female)
- 2 groups of 25 – 40 years old (male/female)

Total: 191

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

Often difficult to assess the potentials of rural areas!

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

One of the first comprehensive studies on the role of rural women in the WB context

Desk research

- National statistical data
- Review on national strategic documents concerning women (rural women)
- Review on national policies

Interviews, FGDs and Case Study

Al = 7	BiH = 12	42
XK = 6	MN = 6	
MKD = 5	SRB= 6	

2 FGD per country and 1 Case Study

Surveys (2466)

- National statistical data
- Review on national strategic documents concerning women (rural women)
- Review on national policies

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024
Jahorina, BiH

Characteristics of rural areas

- Low population density and housing density
- Distance from urban centers and often isolated or remote
- Agriculture main occupation of the population
- Composed of flora, fauna and other natural resources, sometimes protected by law
- Lower cost of living and environmental pollution than urban area

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Population is about the numbers!

Population decline and the need for rural regeneration are closely interlinked.

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

- Population decline trends can show strong patterns if measured over time - fewer people to play an active part in its community.
- When putting population in the context of rural regeneration it is much more than a one-dimensional numbers game.

Period (2012 -2021)	ALB	BIH	XK*	MN	MK	SRB
Total area km2	28 748	51 197	10 905	13 812	25 713	88 499
Population (000) 2021	2 830 decreasing	3 475 decreasing	1 774 decreasing	620 stable	1 837 decreasing	6 834 decreasing
Population density (inhabitants/km2) 2021	98 decreasing	51.2 unchanged	162 decreasing	45 unchanged	71 decreasing	77 decreasing

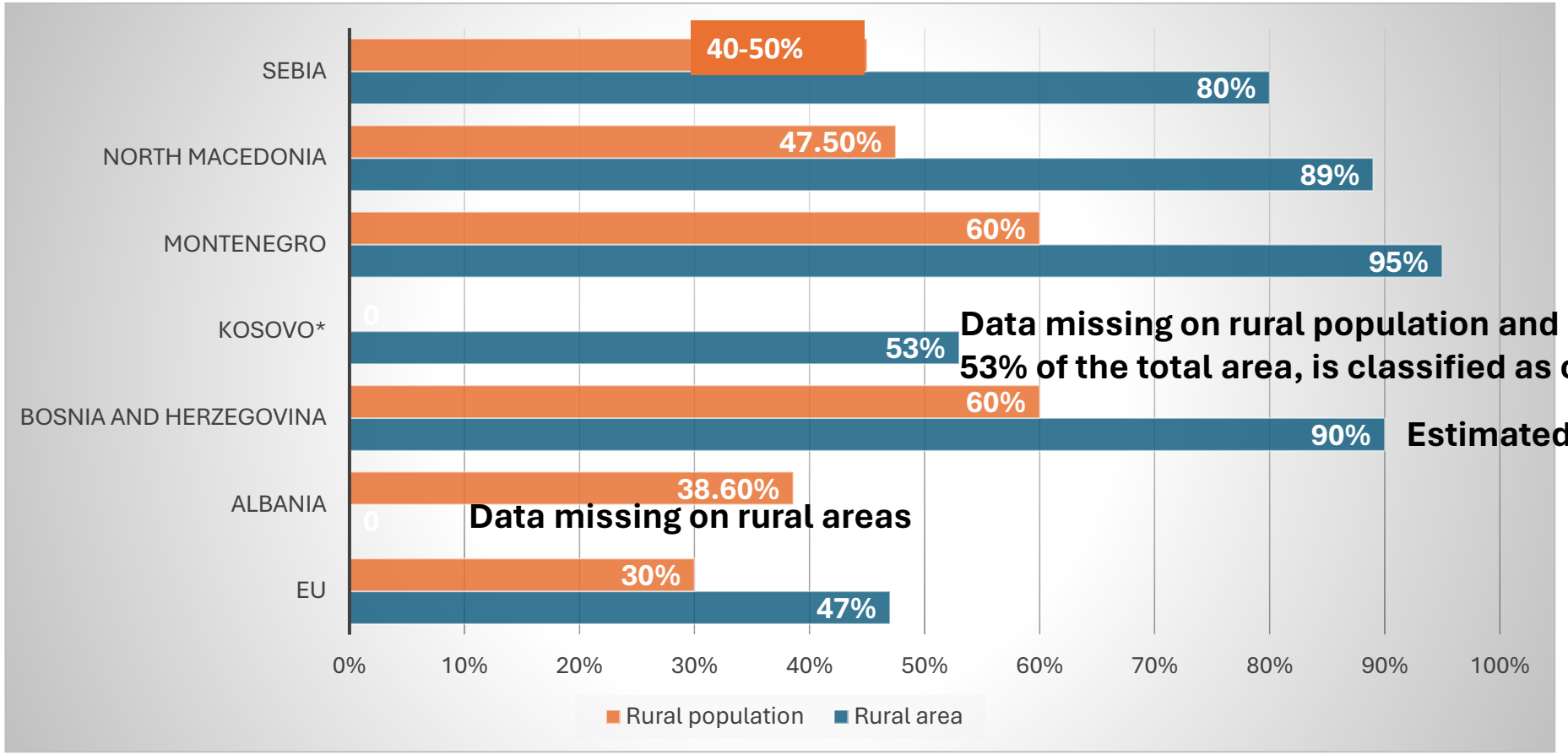
german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Rural areas are dominating in the WB countries

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



Data missing on rural population and areas – 53% of the total area, is classified as cultivable land

Estimated

Data missing on rural areas

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

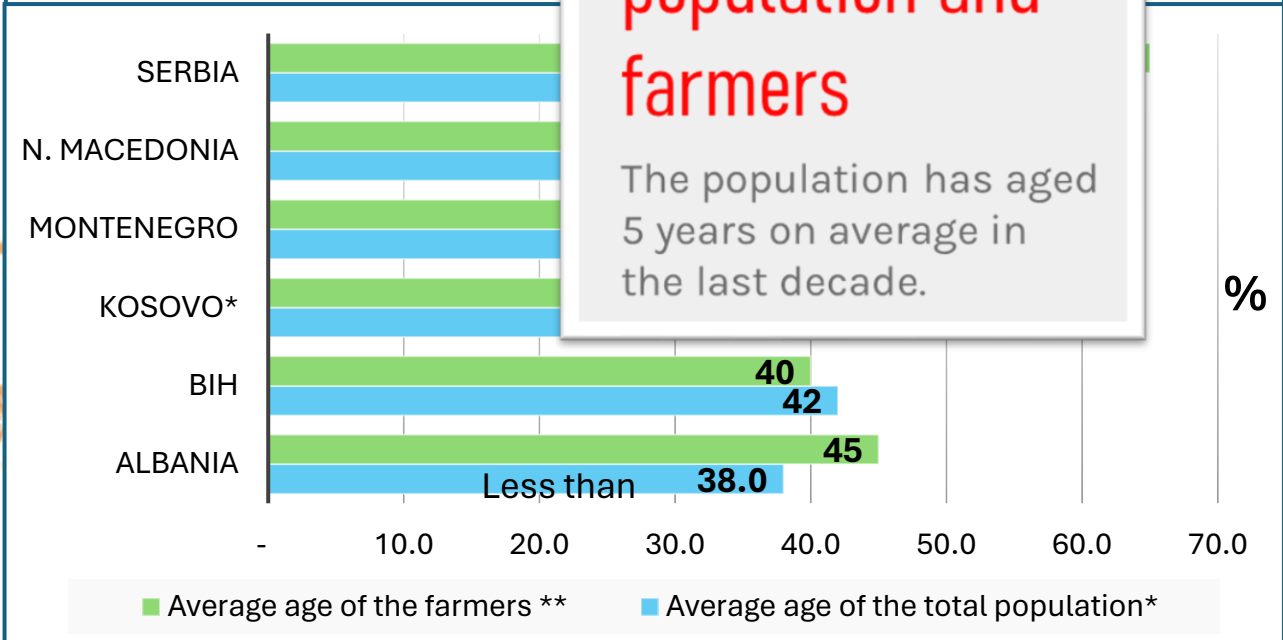
CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Retaining and attracting a younger population into rural areas also than becomes important for rural regeneration!

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

- Renewing of the younger rural population is part of the idea behind the concept of a **'ruralisation' process**
  - so the **age structure of the rural population is a very important indicato**
  - If a region has a large … s can mean the local labou … ase is weak as the working … v.



Average age of the total population and the average age of farmers

Aging of the population and farmers

The population has aged 5 years on average in the last decade.

Percentage share of rural youth population (15-40 years old) in the WB

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ALBANIA	61%	61%	61%	59%	59%
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	DATA NOT AVAILABLE				
KOSOVO*	DATA NOT AVAILABLE				
MONTENEGRO	37%	38%	36%	37%	37%
NORTH MACEDONIA	48%	37%	36%	36%	35%
SERBIA	11%	11%	10.6%	11%	11.2%

- ✓ Young people play a crucial role in ensuring sustainability and development of rural communities, as well as in agriculture and food security
- ✓ To ensure the future sustainability of the farming profession, it is essential to increase the number of younger farmers.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Rural areas are unattractive!

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

WHY?

Because there are less jobs, less opportunities for young people and women in the rural areas!

"mismatches between educational programs and the real sector's needs, compounded by a lack of vocational education" For young people of both genders, the major driving force for out-migration is the **lack of educational and economic prospects in the rural areas, not only for themselves but also for their children**

Limited or NO accessibility of resources, infrastructure (daycares, care centres for elderly....)and transport, as well as limited mobility of the people from the rural areas

Agriculture, is the primary source of income in the rural areas, and the sector is in crisis!

Younger generations avoid agriculture due to its poor reputation.

low profitability, lack of access to land, limited access to finance, and the perception of agriculture as hard manual labor

Stereotypes and traditions impede the development of the rural households (the transfer of property and land is slow, limiting the opportunities for youth and women)

- Informal institutions such as family/gender norms change very slowly?

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024
Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

MIGRATION

Population decline and the need for rural regeneration are closely interlinked.

- **MIGRATION = fewer people to play an active part in its community**
- Social networks and connections are weakened = then weakens the local cultural capital base of the rural community
- fewer people are at work in the rural economy = This can have further knock-on effects in the economy

- **Migration from rural areas is common.**

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Migration trends in WB

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024
Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

- **Emigration has long been a prominent feature of the Western Balkan region!**
- In 2020, nearly **4.77 million individuals from the region resided abroad**, representing more than double the migrant population of 2.3 million in 1990.
- With a regional population of 17.6 million, this translates to an **emigration rate of approximately 21 percent**. **Short-term seasonal migrants are not fully captured in international migration statistics; thus, the actual number of emigrants may be even higher** (OECD, 2022).
- This is a **trend which is anticipated to persist, especially among younger generations.**
- Even more problematic in these continual high emigration rates, is the fact that **skilled and highly educated youth (but also whole families) are moving**, and this presents a significant developmental obstacle for the demographic and economic prospects of the Western Balkan
- It is also resulting to **major disrupt of the labour market with shortages in skilled workers**, consequently discouraging potential investments due to the lack of skilled labour force.

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

MIGRATION IN WB

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

1. Job-related migration and especially emigration to European countries is a very common phenomenon

- stronger tendency among men in comparison to women.

Significant differences in the socio-economic conditions between rural and urban areas - Higher poverty levels, worse living conditions, property rights, small farm sizes…

Danger of losing the vitality of rural areas as a result of large migration – more evident in young people.

- **Key challenge for national policies and institutions dealing with rural environments**

Especially since official data is often missing

2. This is a Great challenge for all of the WB economies and their social development

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Rural youth and demographic renewal

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

ADDRESSING THE CHALENGES OF RURAL YOUTH

1. **RURALIZATION can not happen without investments in the basic infrastructure** (roads for connectivity, mobility and improved quality of life, health care and education services, good internet connection)
2. **ACCESS to resources - Policies and programs that are tailored to meet the needs of young people in agriculture and rural development** (which ensure that access to crucial resources such as land, credit, technology, education)
3. **TRANSFER OF PROPERTY** for demographic renewal - Policies and measures to support and motivate an easier and faster transfer of property and land to the younger generation, accompanied by uncomplicated procedures, administration, and clear directions.
4. **EDUCATION** – Curriculum Revamp: Developing update curricula in rural areas to align with the needs of the job market, promoting vocational and practical skills training. Provide support systems, such as career guidance services, counseling, and mentorship programs.
5. **EMPLOYMENT** - Introducing active employment policies with a modern, fact-based approach in the evaluation and monitoring of such policies - ***Policies that promote entrepreneurship and attract investment in rural areas, but also tailor-made approach for different regions within the countries/territories*.**
6. **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** – active participation In decision making and trust in public institutions, **young people feel excluded** – NEED for rural youth platforms/associations, Unions, youth-oriented hubs, centres, programmes

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The role of rural women in the demographic renewal?

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

ADDRESSING THE CHALENGES OF BEING A WOMAN IN THE RURAL AREAS

1. **Rural women are balancing responsibilities! – Unpaid labour needs regulation!**
2. **Women play diverse roles and have different educational Needs**

   express a strong desire for education and skill improvement, particularly in marketing, sales, and post-harvest activities, to enhance their livelihoods.
3. **Face challenges in Capital Access and Decision-Making**

   ***Access to capital and participation in financial decisions within rural holdings challenging due to* property ownership disparities - affects rural women's financial independence.**

   Need for feasible mechanisms and instruments to make access of rural women to financial services, banking, credit, grants etc easier, supported with appropriate financial literacy trainings.
4. **Diversification for Income Generation -** Rural women are proactive in diversifying income sources through different activities - ***education is required to succeed in these endeavours and enhance financial stability.***

   "Rural youth and woman should not be associated only with agriculture as occupation and a source of income!"
5. **Empowerment and Communication:** through ***association memberships (Lack of awareness and self-confidence hinder leadership skills***, which could be addressed through ***education and group participation)***.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Conclusions

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024
Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

- **Eliminating gender inequality** and empowering women young people could increase the agricultural productive potential, leading to more empowered rural women and young people who could contribute to the development of the entire community.
- **Empowerment of women and youth** is not only goal in itself, but it could reduce rural out-migration
- **Rural youth and rural women entrepreneurs** are a growing market force, serving as a critical source of innovation and job creation and fuelling economic growth = developing an enabling environment for ruralization and demographic renewal of the rural areas.
  - **Measures to change the mentality will contribute to changing the demography!**

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Conclusions

Agricultural Policy Forum 4th - 7th June 2024 Jahorina, BiH

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

- **Rural regeneration and generational renewal is a complex process** which involves many aspects, and different layers and categories of population in the rural areas.
- **RURALIZATION as a counterforce to URBANISATION** will need to offer new rural generations stimulating opportunities for economic and social sustainability.
- The **demographic renewal of rural areas should offer solutions** regarding farming, but also involve a wider range of sectors and cross-cutting activities that can lead to greater rural innovation, entrepreneurship and job opportunities.
- The **complexity of the rural areas** (from remote, peripheral places, to small rural towns) require specific policy interventions to better reflect those difference - solutions specific to the geographic, demographic, production potentials
  - **Inspiring examples of innovative instruments and strategies that support rural regeneration in areas that deviate from the general trend of rural decline!**

german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GFA CONSULTING GROUP General Agent BMEL Berlin Office
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale
CIHEAM BARI