Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkan

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Jahorina, 05 June 2024

Central Focus of SWG Work

1. Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans actions:
   - Definition of indicators in relation to the Green Agenda;
   - Monitoring of the Green Agenda for the western Balkans.
2. Preparation of Climate Change Adaptation and Agriculture, preparation of Strategic Road Maps.
3. Continuous monitoring of the development of agricultural policy in SEE.
4. Assistance of the negotiation process.
5. Incorporate the private sector into our work.

Action Plan for the GAWB – actions under responsibility of SWG

Action 42:	Soil partnership and degradation					
Action 44:	Quality standards - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Wine	Quality standards – Meat and Dairy	Plant health (phytosanitary)	Animal health and welfare (veterinary)	Manure and plant waste management
Action 45:	Traceability and Labelling for animal food stuff	Traceability and Labelling for non - animal food stuff				
Action 46:	Organic Agriculture	Synthetic Chemical Products (pesticides and fertilizers)				
Action 47:	AKIS					
Action 48:	Solid waste and floating debris management					
Action 49:	LEADER					
Action 50:	Climate change adaptation measures					
Action 53:	Forest Landscape Restoration					
Action 57:	Agrobiodiversity (info hub)					

Overall relevance

Agricultural Policy Monitoring

IPARD MA/PA

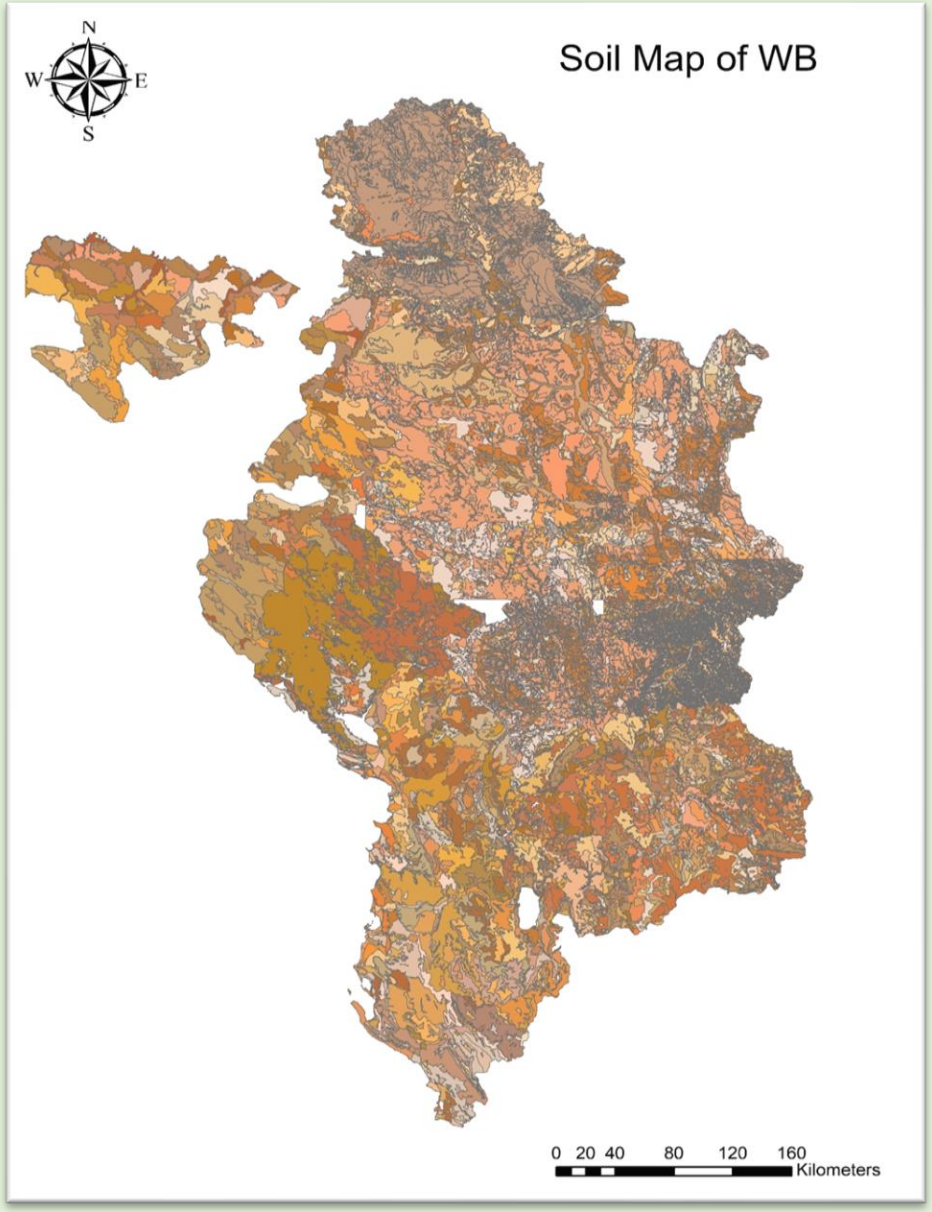
Legend:

Actions for which resources are partially secured until 2024

Actions for which resources are not secured

GAWB Action 42: REAWG Regional Soil Partnership

- **Regional Soil Partnership** established
- **Digital Soil Maps** collected
- Assessment of the current situation and **GAP analysis** with recommendations;
- Harmonization of the soil classifications with the WRB classification of soils (Regional soil working group agreed that the **regional soil map** is the main starting point for assessing the state of soil at the regional level);



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GAWB Action 44 REAWG on Wine

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Fostering **regional cooperation** to establish **harmonized regulatory framework** aligned with EU legislation

Aim: full **EU harmonization** in all WB 6 by 2024

Strategic goals for **market development** i.e. small producer support, wine tourism, digitalization, sustainability, organic wine production;

REAWG **provides support** to the Western Balkans in their efforts to **align the wine regulations** among each other and with the **EU and regulations and quality system**

Introduction of **fungus-resistant grapevine varieties** for a sustainable approach to wine production in the WBs

Mix of **local and traditional varieties** as well as **disease-resistant** grapevine varieties

GAWB Action 44: REAWG Market Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Market Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – Achievements

- Assessments and a State of the Art of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Market Standards in Western Balkan prepared:
  - **The main finding -** The EU accession process is the only actual driver for marketing standards implementation in Western Balkan
  - **Guidance** of postharvest handling for the most economically important species of fruits and vegetables ongoing.
  - The **REAWG** on Market Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables completed work.

Market Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – Way Forward

- Transposition and implementation of the **REGULATION (EU) No 543/2011** (Common Market Organisation – **CMO)** as part of the EU accession process but also the EU market access
- Implement legislation in the areas of marketing standards **via the standardisation body**:
  - Specific marketing standards for 10 priority crops
  - General marketing standards for other species

GAWB Action 46: REAWG Organic Agriculture

- **Action plan** for transposition, implementation and enforcement of the **EU Regulation 2018/848** with implementing and delegated regulations prepared for the Western Balkans 6
- **Law on Organic Production** and essential **secondary regulations** drafted and submitted to the competent institutions in each of the Western Balkan 6
- **Accelerate the process of adoption** of the Draft Law on Organic Production and secondary regulations
- Strengthen **organic market development** - domestic/regional
  - ✓ *Develop a **strong Organic Action Plan*** with the organic sector and market actors
  - ✓ ***Build institutional capacity in the organic sector*** *(control bodies, laboratories...)*
  - ✓ ***Support capacity in organic NGOs*** *as catalysts for market action and partnerships, forcing retail platforms for market growth*

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GAWB Action 47: REAWG Agriculture Knowledge Innovation System (AKIS)

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AKIS Strategic roadmaps and Action plans prepared for all WB6 Need for their implementation.

WB6 at different levels of implementing the AKIS approach (from elementary to well advanced)

Proposed to create Coordinaton body in the countries for implementation of AKIS policy

Need for stronger collaboration of all stakeholders in the agricultural sector (farmers organization, advisory services, Chambers of commerce…)

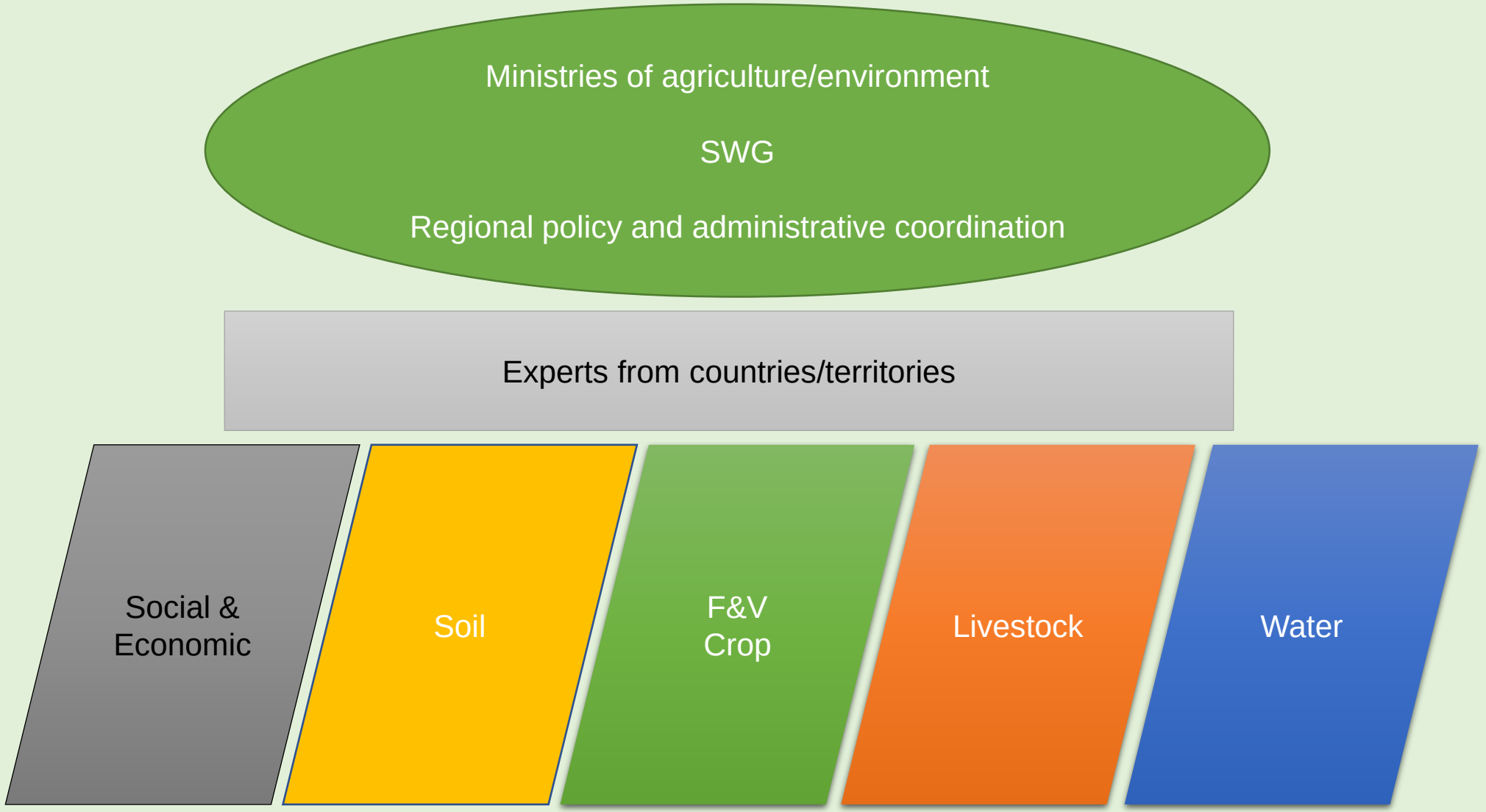
Need for legislative involvement of AKIS approach into national legislation

Work on AKIS repository for the Western Balkans in the following period.

GAWB Action 49: REAWG on LEADER

- Update and **Follow up on the six Road Maps on LEADER** with regards to the Legal and Institutional Framework in the WBs and the real state of play in the WBs
  - ➢ Follow-up on the actions to be undertaken by the relevant public institutions as defined within the LEADER Road Map
  - ➢ Follow-up on the actions to be undertaken by the rural development networks and LAGs
- **One regional summary assesment** will be conducted providing regional conclusions and recommendations.
- Facilitation and continuous **exchange of dialogue and networking** of the REAWG on LEADER, policy makers, governmental and academic representatives for rural development and **LEADER approach**,
- Identified civil society and non-governmental organizations for tailor made policy implementation.

GAWB Action 50 REAWG CCAA
Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture



GAWB Action 50:
REAWG CCAA Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture

"Adaptation to climate change in agriculture - status, gaps and recommendations in Western Balkans"

- Provide an **overview of the status of adaptation to climate change in agriculture** in the Western Balkans, with focus on the main developments in socio-economic context, natural resources (soil and water), crop and livestock sector in the relevant countries.
- Preparatory work of the Strategic Action plans and Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture as of 2024 onward.

GAWB Action 53 REAWG on Sustainable Forest Management

- **Facilitating regional and national** policy dialogues to coordinate a comprehensive approach to **sustainable forest management** in the WB region
- Strengthening the **policy framework for sustainable forest management** in the Western Balkans regarding implementation of the EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the EU Forest Strategy for 2030.
- The **Close to Nature Forest Management (CNFM)** concept identified as a cornerstone for increasing biodiversity value and strengthening forests' resilience to climate change
- **Forest management guidelines** for improved Sustainable Forest Management under Climate Change (CNFM) will be produced through formal dialogue process by the REAWG

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GAWB – cross cutting subject: REAWG
Agricultural Policy Monitoring

Continued process of **monitoring the agricultural policy development** in the Western Balkan and **updated** the agricultural policy **data** for the latest available years for the WB (**2022**).

Presented and discussed the **policy analysis** for the latest available years for WB.

Work on identifying the major recent **changes** introduced to the **agricultural policies** in the WB and their implications for the EU accession process.

Provide **information** relevant for the implementation of the **Green Agenda for the WB**.

Provide **evidence – based recommendations** to steer WB policies towards stimulating sustainable Ag and RD and smoother EU approximation.

Although at different level, there is an **increasing budgetary transfers** to agriculture in all WB6

GAWB –cross cutting subject:
REAWG Rural Youth Study

- **24 focus groups discussions** with **187 participants** from the Western Balkans were conducted:
  - **41 interviews**, **7** in **each WB6;**
  - **2158 surveys** were **completed;**
  - **First draft of the regional study was completed**, based on the national reports and the data collected from the focus groups, interviews and surveys.
- **Regional Study** will be **completed at the beginning of 2024**.

GAWB Subjects to be focused on in the future

- Action 44 – Quality standards – Meat and Dairy; Plant health (phytosanitary); Animal health and welfare (veterinary); Manure and plant waste management
- Action 45 – Traceability and Labelling for animal food stuff; Traceability and Labelling for non - animal food stuff
- Action 46 – Synthetic Chemical Products (pesticides and fertilizers)
- Action 48 – Solid waste and floating debris management
- Action 57 - Agrobiodiversity (info hub)

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