

REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING GROUP (SWG) IN SEE

SWG RRD



**“Importance of the regional cooperation
between the Western Balkan countries -
Role of the SWG in the EU integration of
the Western Balkan”**

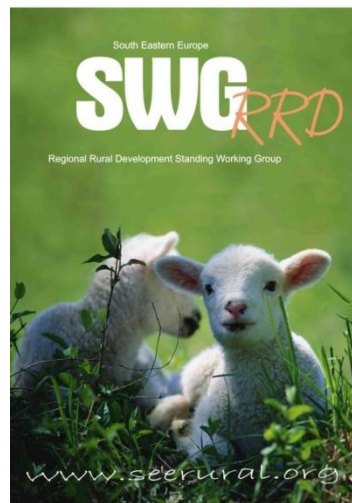
Aleksandar Bogunovic

Our Organization

SWG RRD



- The “**SWG**” stands for **Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe.**
- It is an **International Intergovernmental Organization**, consisted of governmental institutions responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective countries and territories of South-Eastern Europe.
- Its managing and coordinative body is the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, based in Skopje, Macedonia.



Our Mission

SWG
RRD



- To increase horizontal collaboration among respective countries and territories of SEE, coordinating regional initiatives related to agriculture and rural development and
- support the process of economic development in rural areas of South-Eastern Europe.



Our General Objective

To facilitate close **cooperation** among the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development and to support the **EU integration** of the Western Balkan countries.






SWG Member institutions

SWG RRD



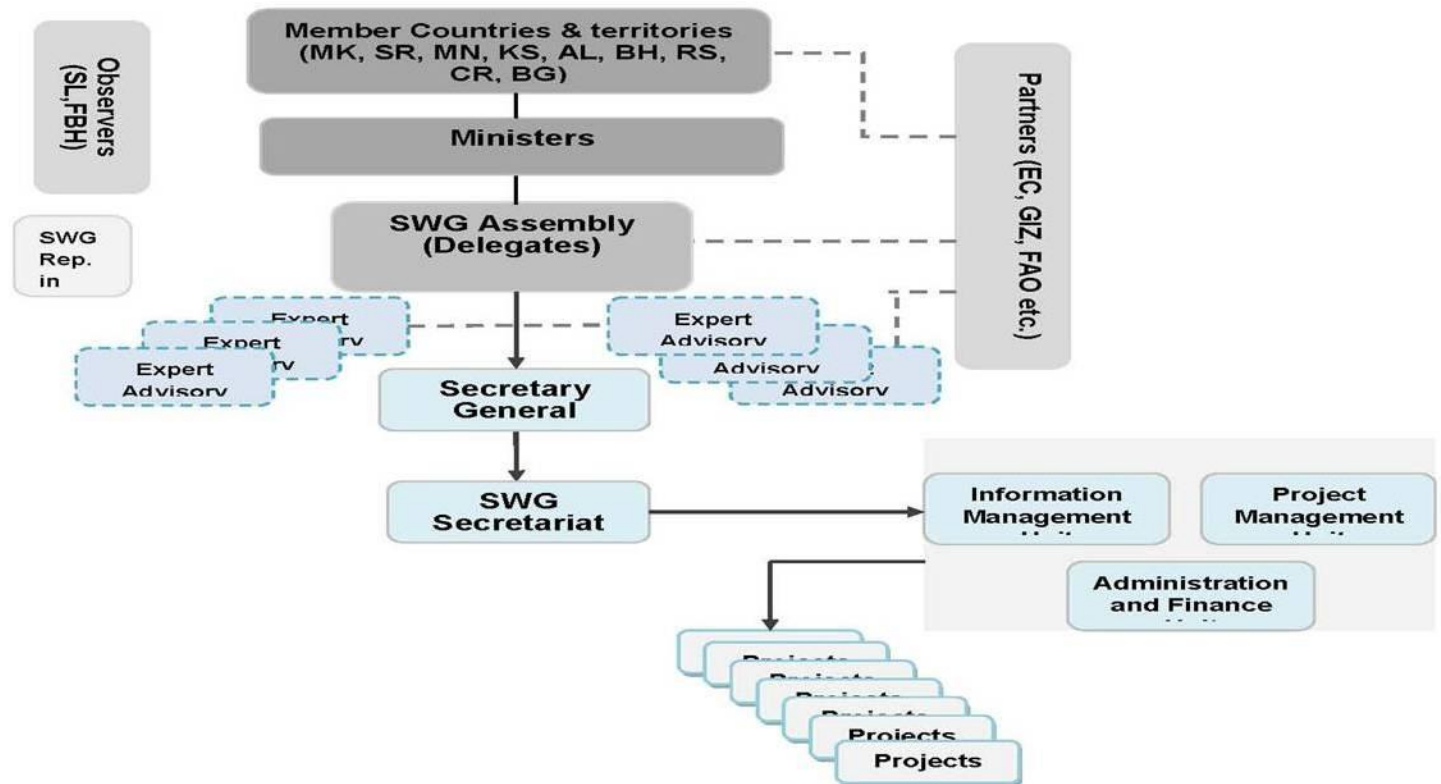
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, **Albania** 
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the *Republic of Srpska*, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** 
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food, **Bulgaria** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, **Croatia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, **Macedonia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, **Montenegro** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, **Serbia** 
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **Kosovo** *(UNSCR1244)* 

SWG observers

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, **Slovenia** 
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, *Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** 
- Provincial Secretariat of Agriculture Water Management and Forestry, *Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, **Serbia** 

SWG RRD

Organizational structure



The Purpose of the SWG- Importance of cooperation

SWG RRD

The organization



Ministries of Agriculture of
SEE countries –
SWG Member Countries

The aim of the organization



Strengthen regional networking

Communication
(Exchange of
information,
know-how and
experience)

Type of activities
IMPORTANCE

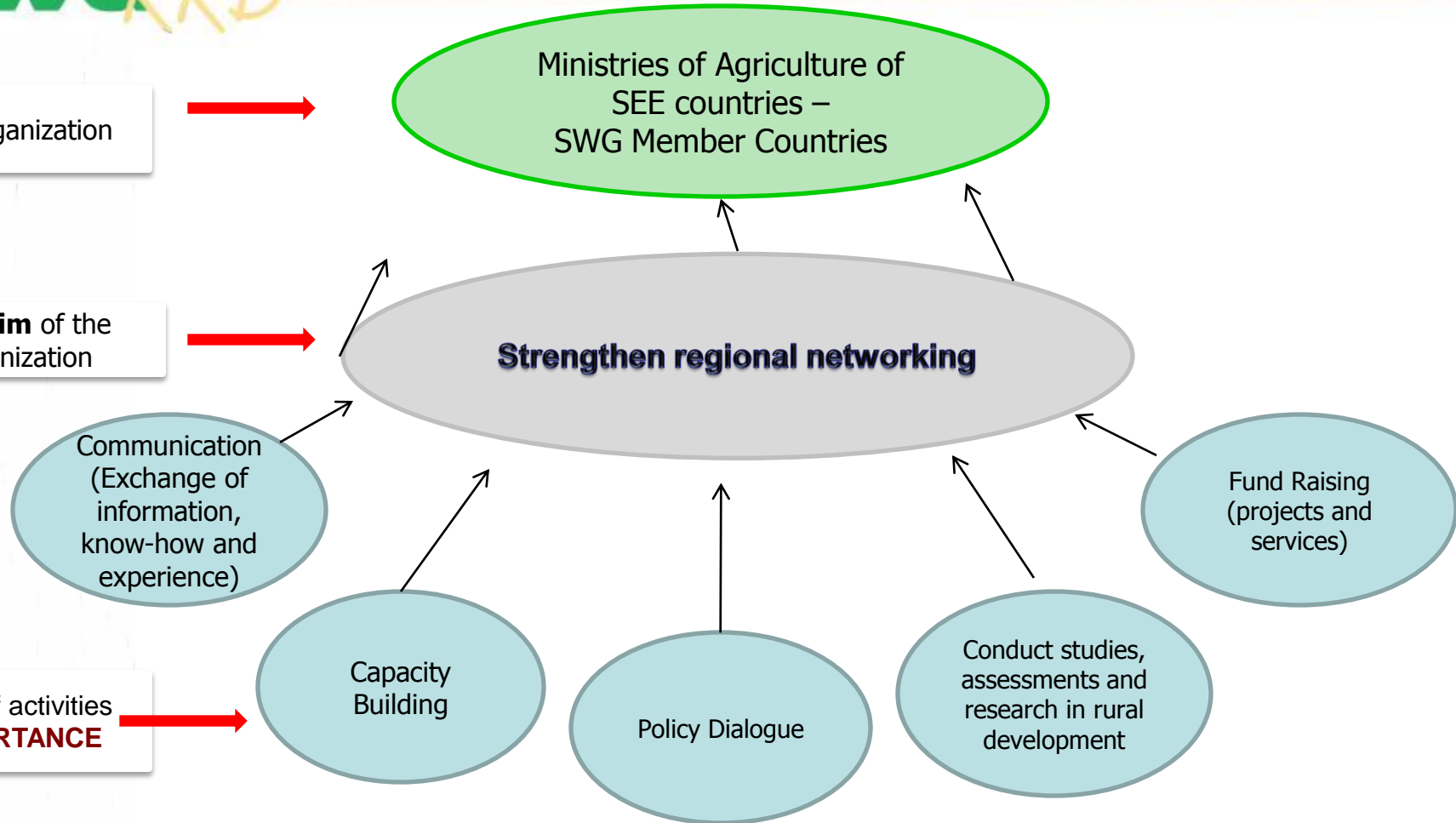


Capacity
Building

Policy Dialogue

Conduct studies,
assessments and
research in rural
development

Fund Raising
(projects and
services)





**HOW DO WE DO IT
and
WHAT HAVE WE
DONE**

Our main activities and achievements

SWG RRD



Policy Dialogue

Annual Working Meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture from SEE

Agriculture Policy Forums

Technical Discussions

Experts` Missions

Capacity Building and Education

Capacity Building for Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Analysis and Implementation

Trainings, Seminars on Agriculture, Rural Development Topics

Young Professional Program for Managing and Leading Regional RD

Creation of Western Balkan Rural Development Network

Networking

Support cooperation of Rural Development Networks in the region

Organization of Conferences, Professional Gatherings

Support and Organization Rural Events

People-to-People Actions for Promotion of Cultural and Rural Heritage

Our main activities and achievements



Support to agribusiness and trade

- Networking of Professional Associations and Markets from SEE countries

Organization of Business-to-Business Meetings with Stakeholders

- Discussions on the CEFTA Agreement

Agro & Food Trade Fair Participation

Area Based Development Approach

Study on the Situation in the Cross-Border Region Drina – Tara

Fund Raising – Donor Conference

Assessments of the Situation and Potentials of the Cross-Border Regions in SEE

Cross-Border Project Implementation

Communication

Web page: info available about events, trainings, seminars, workshops

Joint Statements and Positions

Promotional Material, Technical Material Related to Agriculture and Rural Development

Press Releases and Media Campaigns on Activities

Relevance to **Europe 2020** objectives

SWG RRD



Smart Growth

- Development of partnerships with research and education institutions in the agriculture, food and rural development
- Capacity building
- Promotion of innovative approaches (Area based Development Approach)
- Networking for information, know-how, knowledge sharing



Sustainable Growth

- Development and implementation of Agriculture and rural development policies
- Climate Change and Agro-biodiversity
- Increase of competitiveness through implementation of food quality and food safety systems and standards
- Regional professional and business networking
- Mobilization of EU financial instruments (IPA)



Inclusive Growth

- Empowerment of rural women and youth
- Capacity building related to on-farm and off-farm economic activities in rural areas
- Promotion of people-to-people actions
- Development of modular formal and non formal rural development education



Key challenges Way forward



- Closer cooperation with the European Commission-discussions on CAP 2014-2020 and Pre-Accession Assistance;
- Expend the operations with the Projects in Member Countries;
- Expending the list of partners (Partner Organizations and Governments);
- Stronger fund raising for the countries in the region;
- Profiling of SWG as a partner to the donor community;
- Horizontally addressing other sub-sectors under the authority of the Ministries of Agriculture in SEE.

FAO SWG TCP Facility: "Support to establishment of rural development network in South-Eastern European countries"



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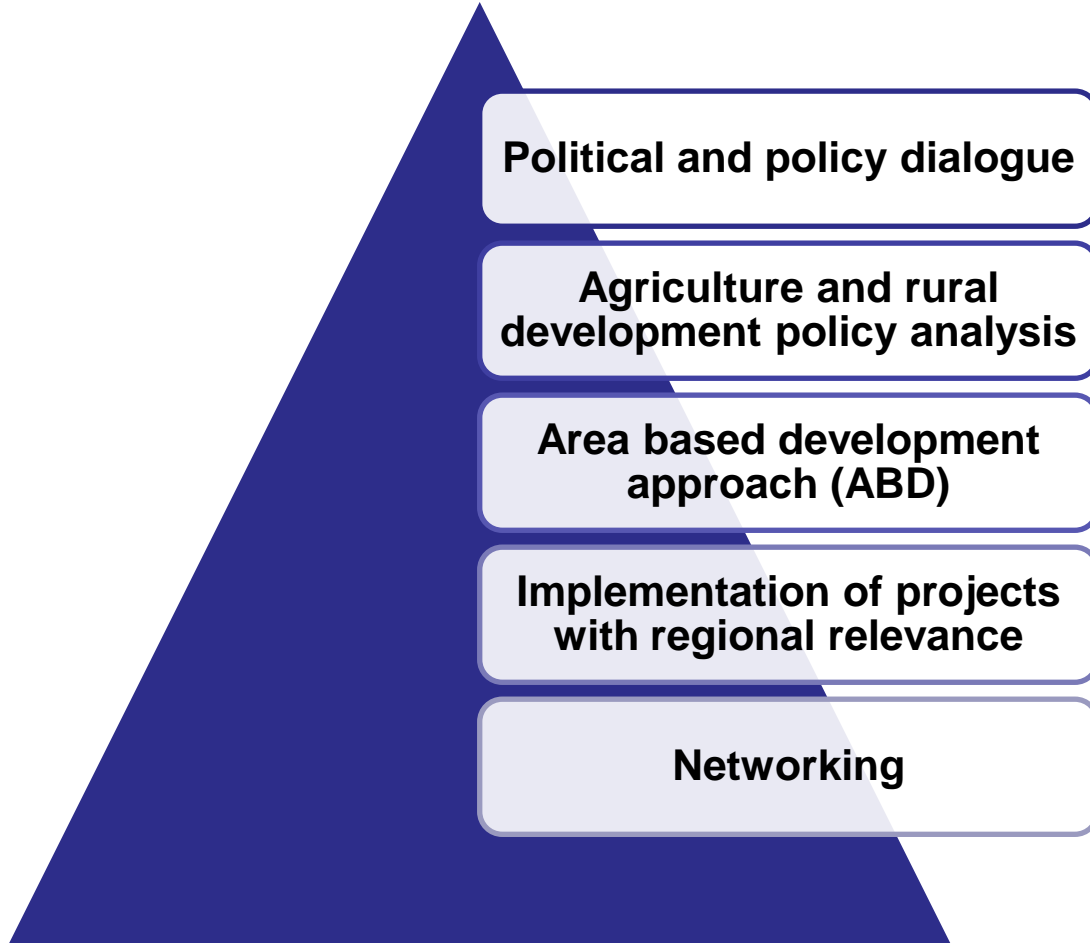
May be relevant info for the gathering event



The project objective is-

- to assist rural development stakeholders in the SEE to provide systematic and decentralized support to the whole rural territory of SEE and help fostering its economic development, through creation of a National Rural Development Networks and regional association of networks— **Rural Development Network of SEE i.e. "Balkan Rural Network"**.

Planned Activities





Thank you!

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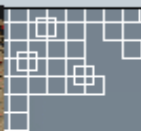
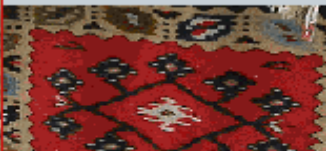
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