



**PREPARE Gathering 2010,  
Ohrid, Macedonia**

**Forestry & Rural Development**

**SNV**

Connecting People's Capacities

# Forestry & Rural Development

## General practices and general situation

- SNV Forestry has long term forestry development programme in the Balkan region
- Sida - SNV Forestry Development Project in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia

## Forestry Situation in the region

- Forests cover 40 – 60% of the total land area in the different Balkan countries
- Forests are important for rural communities
- Many citizens depend on forest (natural) resources for their livelihood (40-70% rural population, high unemployment)
- Forest provide products & services to people especially from decentralized & private forests
- Forest often integrated in farm systems

# EU Rural Development

## Four axis

- Competitiveness in agriculture and forestry
- Improve nature, environment and landscape via land management
- Diversification of rural areas
- LEADER

All have links with forestry

# Forest in EU Rural Development

- Increasing the added value of agriculture and forestry products
- Forestry support regional economies, through:
  - Wood production (timber and firewood)
  - NTFP
  - Small scale industries
  - Other products such as country side hotels
- Forestry is important to regional economy
- Farmers are in general also forest owners!

## Forest in EU Rural Development (2)

- Producer groups, collaboration and innovation in value chain includes also forestry
- Agro forestry systems on agricultural land
- Afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land
- Increase the nature value
- Environmental protection comply to EU standards
- Land development including forest land
- Forest important to secure wider services (biodiversity, soil stability and conservation, landscape and recreation)

## Forest in EU Rural Development (3)

- Many EU countries have forestry activities indentified in their measures
- Examples: afforestation, improve quality and diversity of forests (forest enrichment), agro-forestry, landscape and biodiversity improvement, forest production value chain improvements, including safety standards
- Increasingly focus on climate change and bio-energy
- Forest land also included in land consolidation, to support nature conservation and efficiency

# Current forest in Rural Development in the region

The situation in the region is however different:

- Within RD main focus on agriculture only
- Forest neglected in rural development (e.g. no specific activities specified for forestry in IPARD programme in Macedonia)
- Forestry sector often operates independent from other sectors (agriculture, RD, environment), this hampers integration
- Society is however demanding a diversified products and services from forest



# Thank you for attention

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