



SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany–South East Europe

The APD supports the regional cooperation, the EU accession process and the sustainability transformation of agriculture



PROJECT TITLE
Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany – South East Europe

TIMEFRAME
07/2021 to 12/2025

AS OF
December 2024



Wine Law



Organic Farming



Climate Adaptation and Climate Protection



Rural Development

Agriculture in South East Europe

Agriculture is of great economic and social importance in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) as well as Moldova. It is characterised by small-scale structures and heterogeneous climatic and geographical conditions, and holds great ecological potential, e.g. in terms of agrobiodiversity. However, climate change and migration pose particular challenges. Agricultural policy management is hampered by insufficient financial and technical capacities.

The Project

The ministries of agriculture in the partner countries are members of the inter-governmental organisation SWG. In cooperation with the SWG, the APD provides substantial technical and financial support for the work of regional working groups on the following topics: agricultural policy monitoring, climate change adaptation, agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS), organic agriculture, wine, soil, women and youth, forestry. The project also supports conferences, exposure visits and studies on overarching topics and promotes exchange at the political level.

Project Goals

The policy framework for agriculture and rural development in South East Europe will be strengthened with a view to implementing the EU's "Green Agenda for the Western Balkans" and harmonising with the EU Common Agricultural Policy, including the EU regulations on agriculture and rural development.

Results and Successes

Based on a comprehensive regional study on climate change adaptation in the areas of crop production, animal husbandry, water, soil and economy, national climate adaptation plans for the agricultural sector will be developed for the first time in all six Western Balkan states in 2025. Since 2024, the project results of all working groups have been directly incorporated into the Berlin Process at the highest political level.

With support from



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and Agriculture

by decision of the
German Bundestag

The APD supported the preparation of the Skopje Declaration on Food and Agriculture which provides a basis for regional cooperation until 2030. The Declaration was endorsed by the Heads of Government at the Berlin Process Summit on October 14th 2024.





PORTRAIT SOUTH EAST EUROPE

The region's climate ranges from temperate to Mediterranean and is strongly characterised by the mountain ranges. The predominantly small-scale agriculture is of great economic and social importance. The high level of agrobiodiversity is unique in Europe. Despite considerable progress, political conflicts continue to hinder integration into the EU.

The APD SEE contributes to the full EU harmonization of the legal framework related to Food and Agriculture by 2030. The project also supports regional initiatives such as the establishment of a regional Soil Partnership under the FAO's European Soil Partnership, a cultivation trial of fungus-resistant grape varieties, as well as advanced trainings related to wine and organic production.

Project Partners and Cooperations

- Ministries of Agriculture and Environment of partner countries
- Universities and research institutions in South East Europe and Germany

Operational Partner

- SWG – Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development in South East Europe

Implementing Organisation

- The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South East Europe
- IAK Agrar Consulting GmbH



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**Bilateral Cooperation
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