

SWG AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The sector working group on agriculture and rural development was formed in 2015 and has adopted own rules of procedure that regulate its operation. This sector group is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

In addition to state institutions and donor representatives, CSOs also participate in work of this sector group since 2018. Three (3) civil society representatives are involved in the sector group with the status of members.

In 2019, SWG Agriculture and Rural Development held one plenary session on 24.9.2019.

COMPETENCES:

- implementing and supporting agriculture and rural development policies;
- food quality;
- organic agriculture;
- standards on food safety;
- standards on animal health and wellbeing;
- rural infrastructure;
- small-scale irrigation infrastructure;
- agro-environmental renewal practices;
- preservation and promotion of eco-systems;
- agro-environmental and organic agriculture;
- forest protection; and
- local action groups and agriculture holdings.



ADVANTAGES:

- The sector working group allows civil participation in its decision-making, it develops dialogue and consults with the civil society on important matters by involving their representatives in its work.
- Permanent communication is established among all sector group members for implementation of planned activities and initiatives.
- All members that participate in the work of this sector group efficiently apply the rules of procedure.

CHALLENGES:

- In regard to implementation of IPA funds, efforts are needed to publish annual reports (instead of the current practice for publication of periodic reports on IPA implementation), and they should include precise information on the number of contracts signed on annual level.



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