2021 DEVELOPMENTS IN RESPECT TO KEY SECTOR POLICIES IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2019
1 x meeting:
24.09.2019

2020
2 x meetings:
08.06.2020
07.10.2020

2021
1 x meeting:
17.02.2021

SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SWG FUNCTIONALITY

- SWG Agriculture and Rural Development has own **draft rules of procedure**, but these are the general rules applicable to all SWGs, which should have served as model and should be adjusted to individual sector groups. Hence, **the rules of procedure** need to be amended with a view of better regulation in respect to SWG objectives and better definition of the role of civil society organizations in sector working groups.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

- **Three (3) civil society representatives** participate in this group (13% from the total number of SWG members), with the status of **members**. However, a total of 27 local, national and international organizations were invited to the only plenary session held in 2021, which reflects this group's openness to civil society participation.

CSO CAPACITY

- CSOs believe that **their role could be enhanced in the future**, which necessitates amendments to the rules of procedure and changes to the model for selection of civil society representatives. Particular emphasis is put on the need for **precise definition of civil society expectations and roles in SWG**, as well as possibility for sending replacement representative from the same organization, when the selected one is prevented to attend SWG meetings.

EFFECTS FROM SWG WORK

- In 2021, SWG Agriculture and Rural Development **held only one plenary session**. Such **work dynamics is insufficient** and gives rise to the need to amend the rules of procedure whereby, in addition to the minimum number of annual meetings, provisions should be included for development of annual work plan with detailed SWG objectives and goals.

KEY SECTOR POLICIES

In 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy was focused on internal processes and several draft documents that are closely linked to the sector of agriculture and rural development.

National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2027 was adopted, as well as additions to the Strategy on Forestry. Several programs were adopted, as follows:

- *2021 Program on Financial Support for Agriculture;*
- *2021 Program on Financial Support for Rural Development;*
- *2021 Program on Capital Subsidies for Development of Planning Regions in the Field of Agriculture and Rural Development.*

In response to challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Law on Financial Support to Mitigate Consequences from the COVID-19 Pandemic on Production and Bulk Sale of Agriculture Produce was adopted.

Донесени се измени и дополнувања на неколку други релевантни закони:

- *Law on Agriculture and Rural Development;*
- *Law on Financial Support to Mitigate Consequences from the COVID-19 Pandemic on Production and Bulk Sale of Grapes, and Wine Industry;*
- *Law on Agriculture Land;*
- *Law on Organic Agriculture Production;*
- *Law on Cattle Breeding;*
- *Law on Consolidation of Agriculture Land;*
- *Law on Tobacco, Tobacco and Other Related Products;*
- *Law on Quality of Agriculture Produce.*

Initiated Activities

- Law on Zootechnic (in parliamentary procedure);
- New law on Fisheries and Aquacultures (working group formed);
- New Law on Organic Agriculture Production (working group formed).

*This infographic is developed with financial support from the European Union. The content thereof is sole responsibility of the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia, Eurothink – Center for European Strategies, Reactor – Research in Action and the Center for Civil Communications and does not reflect views of the European Union.

'This project is funded by the European Union