

Working group 2

Rural development via Natural
resource management

Main objective

- Improvement of the regional capacities for the regional sustainable management of forest and water resources within the framework of developing rural areas

- The three central fields of action:
 1. Regional intersectoral coordination at the interface between rural development, agriculture, forest and water
 - » Contribution to multi-stakeholder, regional strategy processes
 - » Active involvement concerning ministries and institutions
 - » Policy level dialog platforms on natural resources management among the countries on agricultural development as a cross-cutting issue
 - » Emphasize the interlinkages among the sectors (water, forestry, agriculture, environment → preservation and use of natural resources for rural development)



2. National policy analysis
 - Integration of environmental and economic objectives into national rural development and agriculture policies in line with the targets of the EU accession processes
 - » Development of evidence-based policy papers and/or study to address the current situation and to provide policy recommendations in respect to the EU accession process and harmonization
 - » Comply the environmental and socio-economic objectives within agriculture policies

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3. Implementation of integrated forest and water management measures in cross-border regions for the purpose of income generation and diversification based on the use of natural resources in cross-border regions
- » Measures of integrated water and forest resources management
 - » Civil society has to be included in the whole process
 - » Decrease emigration of the local communities → to foster traditional way of life through innovation
 - » Mapping/case studies in cross-border area
 - » Develop methodologies to compensate the restrictions in the protected areas
 - » Income generation by sustainable use of natural resources (cultural events, traditional products → branding local products and giving it added value)

