

REPORT

4th working meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine in South Eastern Europe

22nd – 24th February 2017
Belgrade, Serbia



Prepared by: SWG Head Office/Sekretariat

With contribution from: Mr. Darko Jaksic and Ms. Jelena Kuzmanovic, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of the Republic of Serbia

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The organization of the 3rd Working Meeting of the REAWG on Wine was co-financed in the framework of the European Union funded project "Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration". The contents of this report are sole responsibility of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



I. MINUTES OF THE SESSION:

The 4th working meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine was organized by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE in the period 23rd – 24th February 2017 in Belgrade, Serbia. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Bogdanka Leveska Gjorshoska, Project Manager, SWG Secretariat and Mr. Darko Jakšić Head of the Group for viticulture and wine production, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. Ms. Gjorshoska provided welcoming address and introduced the participants with the main topics of the agenda.

Meeting programme is presented in Annex I.

VENUE

The 4th working meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine in South Eastern Europe was organized in:

Radisson Blu Old Mill Hotel, Belgrade

Bulevar Vojvode Misica 15,

11000 Belgrade, Serbia

E-mail: info.belgrade@radissonblu.com

Web: radissonblu.com/hotel-belgrade

Target group:

At the meeting head of departments/sectors for wine and viticulture from the Ministries of Agriculture member institutions of the SWG, experts from the Universities i.e. Faculties of Agriculture/Institutes, wine growers, wine producers and development organizations from the Balkan Region, representatives from EU Commission and other entities that manage wine and viticulture issues were present.

List of Participants from the meeting - Annex II.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Current state of play of EU wine legislation

Mr. Rudy Van der Stappen, Senior Expert at DG Agri, European Commission, introduced the participants to the alignment to Lisbonne Treaty and simplification of the EU wine legislation that have been made. As the most important, he emphasized the modification that are being prepared related to the Commission regulation (EC) No 607/2009 (planning of introduction of temporary labelling and discussion related to Annex XV), as well as related to the Commission regulation (EC) No 436/2009 (certificate for the EU exporting wine will be the novelty). The participants were also informed about the activities that EC is doing related to: vine authorisation (with the aim of better system control), National support program (the next programming period) and Articles 15. and 16. of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, as well as related to appropriate fiscal regulation for wine (categories of products and small wine producers) and nominal volumes (discussion related to canceling of the regulated nominal volumes).

More details could be find in Annex III.

Recent development in the wine and viticulture sector in the countries/territories in the period from May 2016 - February 2017

The members of the REAWG from the present SWG Member Institutions presented the updates in wine and viticulture sector from period of last meeting in their respective countries/territories.

Albania: There are two ongoing projects related to wine sector. The new law regulated the wine sector is planned to be drafted in 2018.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: On the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina the new law is still in harmonization procedure (not yet adopted). In the Republic of Srpska there is adopted Law on wine and based on it is planned to adopt 11 rulebooks. In Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina there is adopted Law on wine, as well as appropriate rulebooks. There are no ongoing and planning projects at any level.

Kosovo*: It is planned to draft the new Law on wine in 2018. There is ongoing project (2016-2019) on Vineyard register and managing control of wine. Administrative instruction related to Vineyard register, annual declarations, accompanying documents and winery records has been done, as well as the strategic plan for viticulture, winemaking and table grape (2016-2021). There are planned activities related to: protocol for IPM and BIO production, laboratories and establishment of collection plots and greenhouse with vine varieties collection. (*see Annex IV*)

Montenegro: There are new Law on wine (adopted in July 2016) aligned with Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, Rulebook on wine register and Rulebook on oenological practices. IPA 2011 project related to viticulture zoning of Montenegro (April 2015- April 2017) is in the final phase and the rulebook related to wine GIs will be created as well. Representative of Montenegro presented the national support program and future plans related to adoption of rulebook on labelling and presentation of wine and establishing the procedures and instructions related to it, as well as authorization and accreditation of laboratories and relevant bodies (*see Annex V*).

Serbia: The Law on wine (adopted in 2009) and 15 rulebooks (that are in line with regulation (EU) 1308/2013) adopted based on it were presented. Related to the reporting period there are new: Rulebook on aromatised wine (aligned with Regulation (EU) 251/2014), Rulebook on amendment to rulebook on list of sensorial testers of wine and the proposal of rulebook on control bodies for wine with geographical indications (related to annual verifications and it includes the base for establishing the system of certificated bodies). Serbia has had the strong activities on upgrading the software on Vineyard register (the part with alphanumeric data, as well as the part with GIS data) and it is planned to prepare the data within the software to be appropriate for using for the purpose of EUROSTAT. Serbia also presented the three new PDOs and the portal created as a result of viticulture zoning on which the producer may to see the characteristics of soil and similar data important for their production (*see Annex VI*).

Possibility for aligning the national legislation (agreement on uniformity), export/import procedures of wine within the CEFTA countries/territories

The proposal from the past meeting for introduction of the document for wine import (EU VI 1 like document) that could be recognized by all SWG countries/territories was discussed. The representatives concluded that this kind of document could be generally recognised if the all countries/territories fulfil the following conditions:

- Regulated production of wine in line with OIV/EU oenological practices and restrictions;
- Laboratories accredited according to ISO standard 17025;
- Laboratories performing laboratory testing according to OIV/EU parameters and methods.

Representatives agreed that once Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Macedonia finish their administrative activities related to above mentioned three points (it is planned to finish it till the end of June), Mr. Darko Jakšić will collect and summarize the data of the situation in all SWG countries/territories, before the Ministerial Meeting in November.

Within this topic, some representatives presented the problem that they have with exporting their wine in Croatia and the conclusion was that having EU aligned legislation in all SWG territories/countries would be very important also for preventing that kind of exporting problem.

Possible establishment of regional body/evaluation committee and/or referent laboratory working on wine super analysis

The representatives of all SWG countries/territories welcomed the proposal for having the common one or two referent laboratory (ies). They agreed to give within the next 10 days the suggestion (each of the SWG countries/territories) of concrete laboratory in some EU country. The representatives of the selected proposed referent laboratories would be invited to participate on the next working meeting of this group in order to discuss and formalize the possibility for future collaboration.

TAIEX assistance for EU support measures in wine sectors

Ms. Bogdanka Leveska Gjorshoska, informed the participants that related to earlier proposed application for TAIEX assistance on PDO/PGI would be possible to apply for a workshop. As a new proposal on initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia it was adopted to apply for assistance related to new EU regulation for wine. Mr. Jakšić expressed the interest to assist in drafting the application by the end of March 2017 and to submit to SWG in order to be further distributed to TAIEX.

Presentation of specific activities and objectives related to the autochthonous and new created vine varieties within the twinning project in Serbia SR14IPA AG0116 about fruit and vine varieties and discussion on autochthonous and new created varieties of vine and common possibility for their promotion and recognition in the Region

Mr. Valter Miceli, Resident twinning advisor of the EU project partner, presented the project components and activities (related to legislation alignment, training related to VCU and DUS trial procedures, training on administrative procedures and updating of database). The participants exchanged the views on importance of the autochthonous and new created varieties of vine.

More details could be find in Annex VII.

Presentation of Concept Note for creation of Balkan Network of Wine Associations

In parallel a meeting of the associations of wine growers, wine producers and development organizations with intention to create Balkan Network of Wine Associations was held. During the second working day, i.e. 24th of February the Regional Expert Advisory Working group had the Joint meeting with the representatives from the Wine Associations from the Western Balkan Region where the proposed idea was jointly discussed and elaborate with aim for possible future regional cooperation in SEE in respect to the EU integration of the wine sector and market.

Mr. Nenad Popović, Director of the Regional Economic Development Agency (REDA) for Šumadija and Pomoravlje presented the REDA and the project that was implemented with Association of

wine producers with PDO Šumadija. He also presented the Concept Note for creation of Balkan Network of Wine Associations to the participants of the SWG Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Wine when he stated that the concept that is planned to become a project proposal is focused on analysing of the level of alignment of the regulation of Balkan countries/territories, identification of autochthonous varieties, wine tourism and promotion. Representatives of the REAWG and SWG Secretariat welcomed the idea generally, EU accession processes, wine GIS system and procedures etc. The participants agreed to have an overview of the proposed activities and split them with the activities of the REAWG in order to avoid overlapping.

More details could be find in Annex VIII.

Visit of BeoWine Fair - Belgrade

The members of the REAWG on Wine and representatives from the Wine Associations from the Western Balkan Region had the opportunity to visit the BeoWine Fair on invitation by the Association of Winegrowers of Šumadija.

III. CONCLUSIONS

- REAWG discussed and proposed the VI1 document to be recognized by the national governments in order to ease the process while exporting to any country/territory once all the SWG member countries/territories fulfil the following conditions:
 - *Regulated production of wine in line with OIV/EU oenological practices and restrictions;*
 - *Laboratories accredited according to ISO standard 17025;*
 - *Laboratories performing laboratory testing according to OIV/EU parameters and methods.*
- Representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia to provide an information to SWG once the administrative procedures for fulfilling the above criteria are finalized by the end of June 2017.
- Mr. Jakšić will collect and summarized the data in all the SWG members by June 2017.
- REAWG recommends this issue to be further discussed during the Ministerial Meeting in November 2017 in order to adopt the VI1 document in all SWG member countries/territories.
- REAWG welcomed the proposal for having one common or two referent laboratories. The recommendation on behalf of each member of REAWG for referent laboratory in EU country to be submitted to SWG by 10th of March 2017.
- TAIEX application on assistance related to new EU Regulation for wine was proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia. Mr. Jakšić to submit the application to SWG by the end of March 2017 in order to be further distributed to TAIEX;
- The REAWG recognize the importance of the autochthonous and new created varieties of vine for all the countries/territories in the region;
- The Concept Note for creation of Balkan Network of Wine Associations was generally welcomed by the representatives of the REAWG and SWG Secretariat;
- As for the next meeting of the REAWG on wine, it was mentioned the possibility to organize it in the course of September/October 2017.

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence*