

# Agricultural Policy Developments and EU Approximation Process in the Western Balkans Countries (APDAP-WB)

## Land Market Development and Small Farms' Access to Land in the Pre-accession Countries (LMSF-AC)

**Kick - off Meeting**

**14 – 15 December 2017**

**Skopje, Macedonia**



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

SWG  
RRD

# Background and Rationale



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JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

# SWG

- **International intergovernmental** organization
- **Platform for networking** and regional collaboration between government institutions and other stakeholders responsible for **agriculture and rural development**
- **Permanent members** - ministries of agriculture and rural development from:
  - Albania
  - BiH
  - Federation of BiH
  - Republic of Srpska
  - Kosovo\*
  - Macedonia
  - Montenegro
  - Serbia
- **Observers** - ministries of agriculture and rural development from:
  - Bulgaria
  - Croatia
  - Slovenia
  - Austria
  - Germany
  - Hungary
  - Italy
- JRC's invitations to **tenders**:
  - "Agricultural Policy Developments and EU Approximation Process in the Western Balkans Countries (**APDAP-WB**)"
  - "Land Market Development and Small Farms' Access to Land in the Pre-accession Countries (**LMSF-AC**)"

# DG JRC

- **Directorate General Joint Research Center (DG JRC)** – EC science and knowledge service, supporting policy makers with independent evidence through the whole policy cycle
- **Directorate Sustainable Resources (JRC.D)** in Seville (Spain) and Ispra (Italy) – serves:
  - Agricultural and rural development
  - Development and cooperation
  - Environment
  - Maritime affairs
  - Fisheries
  - Climate change
  - Growth and trade
- **Economics of agriculture (JRC.D4)** – scientific support to the EU policy-makers in assessing the development of the agro food sector, including:
  - Rural development
  - Food security
  - Trade
  - Technological innovation

# Research Context

- **Two studies** monitoring agricultural policy developments covering the period **up to 2015** (funded by JRC, implemented by SWG):
  - “Analysis of agricultural and rural development policies in Western Balkan countries”
  - “National policy instruments and EU approximation process: effects on farm holdings in the Western Balkan countries”.
- **Main achievements:**
  - Up-date on the agricultural policy developments in the WB
  - Analysis of the availability and quality of FADN data in the WB countries
  - Providing the comprehensive data set about the agricultural policy budgetary transfers in the WB as a tool for monitoring the developments and benchmarking
  - Providing the statistical data set on agriculture in WB
  - Elaborating policy recommendation for the ministries including in SWG
  - Strengthening the agricultural policy network and cooperation in the WB including agricultural economists and ministerial representatives
  - Creation and up-dates of the Agricultural Policy Plus (APP) web platform.

# Background

- Dominant non-commercially oriented and family-based **small farm** households
- **Disconnected** from the markets
- **Self-sustaining** economic units
- Important source of **regional development**
- **Functioning of land markets fundamental** in promoting agricultural productivity growth
- **Better allocation of land** among potential users and usage by more efficient farms
- **Promote investment** by using land as collateral to access credit
- **Land market imperfections** significantly constrain farms' wellbeing
- Key **formal constraints**:
  - sale and rental restrictions
  - security of property rights
  - missing or incomplete land registration
- **Informal constraints**:
  - social norms
  - informal pre-emption rights
  - personalized land transactions

# Background

- The **approximation process with EU** one of the main economic and political projects for the WB countries/territories
- Assistance for agriculture and rural development in pre-accession countries through **IPARD**.
- Required developing approaches for **agricultural data collection and analysis**
- Provide **scientifically-based support to policy making**
- Better targeting on both, **national support schemes and IPARD** pre-accession assistance

