



**Regional Initiative on Empowering  
Smallholders and Family Farms  
for improved Rural Livelihoods and Poverty  
Reduction (RI-1)**

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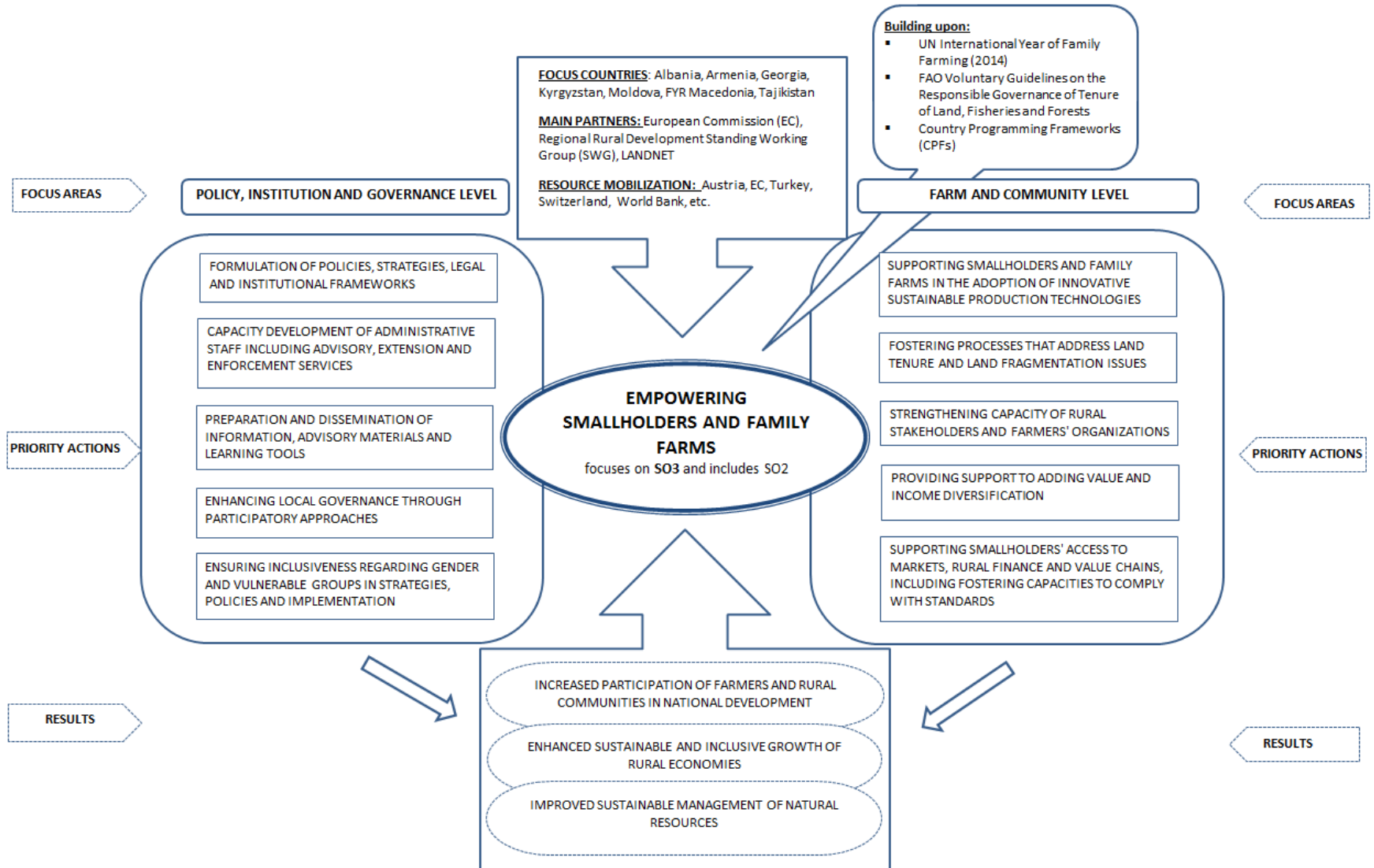
## Some key issues

- In many countries in the region, one side effect of land reform is the agricultural structures with small holding and farm sizes and fragmentation of land parcels;
- After the land reforms of the 1990s, transition countries in the region often have dualistic farm structures characterized by a small number of large-scale corporate farms and a large number of small subsistence and semi-commercial family farms;
- The highly fragmented land ownership hinders the development of competitive agriculture production;
- Adjustments in the agro-rural sector are required at policy and local level:
  - Improve sustainable production technologies;
  - Create better access to value-chains for agro producers;
  - Develop new employment opportunities;
  - Increase the representation of rural people.



## Objective of the Regional Initiative

- Excellent opportunity for creation of region-specific strategic approach building on regional priorities and development needs;
- focus on the **key problems** of rural people
- achieve **improved livelihoods**
- improve the **resilience of rural population** focusing on smallholders
- inclusive **growth of rural economies** based on the sustainable use of natural resources





# EXAMPLES OF WORK UNDER REGIONAL INITIATIVE 1



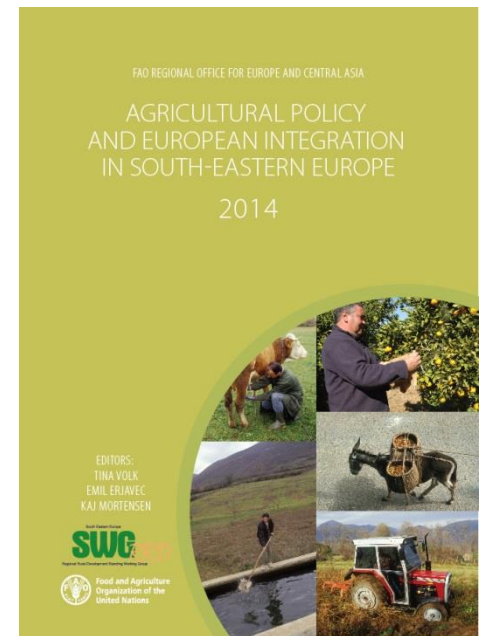
# Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of South-Eastern European (SEE) countries for EU accession

## Common problem:

- The lack of dialogue between policy makers and academics, as well as the lack of a reliable and well systematized database;
- This generates a critical knowledge gap that hinders EU integration;

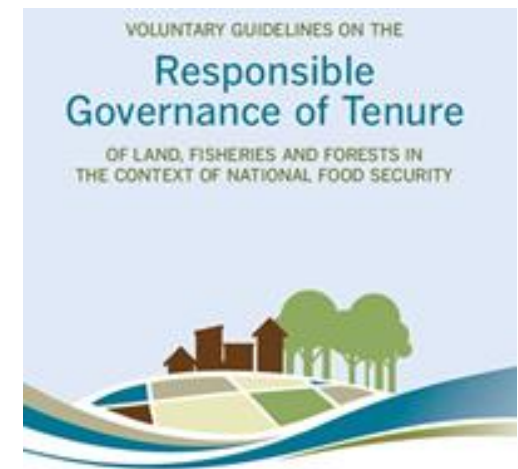
## Result:

- Closer cooperation and stable relationship between policy makers and academics, and between the SEE countries;
- Book titled *Agricultural Policy and European Integration in South-Eastern Europe*.



## More examples of results under the Regional Initiative

- National strategies for agriculture and rural development were supported in Albania, Georgia and Macedonia.
- Regional LANDNET Conference is organized every year to discuss technical issues related to land consolidation.
- Seven awareness raising workshops on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in RI 1 focus countries in 2015.





# **FOCUS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE 1 IN 2016-2017 – EXAMPLES**





## Capacity Development of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia: Improved Policy Making and Effective Implementation of the Strategy for Agricultural Development

- Improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector through supporting the elaboration of the **National Rural Development Strategy** and facilitating the **inter-ministerial discussion**.
- Provide **capacity development** to the Ministry of Agriculture on specific topics on rural development, monitoring, land consolidation, etc.
- **Local Development Strategies** are planned to be elaborated in two pilots with participatory approaches and piloting some identified measures.
- **Pilot measures** were introduced in Racha area for modernization of agricultural holdings through construction and renovation of pig farms and smoking facility for ham production.



# Innovative practices for sustainable agriculture production

- Promotion of good agriculture practices, e.g. on integrated pest management in the region.
- In Moldova training programmes on best irrigation practices through Farmer Field School.
- Promotion of sustainable forest management and wood energy utilization in the region.
- Knowledge sharing on innovative practices for sustainable livestock production and on genetic conservation.



## Policy dialogue and capacity development to support agrarian reforms

- Economic empowerment of rural women through trainings in Kyrgyzstan.
- In FYR Macedonia support to preparation of national land consolidation programme.
- Support to the national programme for plant genetic resources in Armenia and Moldova.
- Regional policy dialogue for priority transboundary diseases prevention and control.
- Regional policy and technical dialogue for land use and land tenure through LandNet Conference.



## Technical Assistance for Land Consolidation in Ukraine

In the Single and comprehensive **Strategy and Action Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development** in Ukraine for 2015-2020:

- Land Reform (Strategic Priority 2) incl. land market development, land consolidation and land administration.
- Rural Development (Strategic Priority 7) incl. community-led rural development.

Introduction of voluntary land consolidation and **design of pilot projects:**

- Review of the draft Law on Land Consolidation and assess the current legal and institutional framework;
- Conduct feasibility study of the options for land consultation through the participatory involvement of local stakeholders in two potential land consolidation pilots;
- Capacity development on land consolidation.



# Thank you

## Contact us

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<http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-perspectives/smallholders-family-farms/en/>

