

## WORKGROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND AGRICULTURE

### FINAL DOCUMENT

*Pescara, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017*

#### ***1. Introduction***

On 8<sup>th</sup> June in Pescara – Chieti, Italy, within the 17<sup>th</sup> Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce was held the Environmental Quality and Agriculture workgroup.

The Workgroup was jointly coordinated by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy; especially the Chamber of Economy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Unioncamere Italy.

Moderator of the Workgroup was Mr. Marko Šantić D.Sc., President of the Chamber of Economy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main topic of the working group was "Advantages and Disadvantages of the Private-Public Partnership and Agriculture Concession Model", and the main lecturer was Ms. Mia Glumuzina Ph.D., FBiH Government Coordinator for European Integration, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Workgroup has gathered about 15 participants who are members of various institutions / organizations, development agencies and entrepreneurs from the agricultural and environmental sector.

#### ***2. Strategic outlines***

Since the overall focus of this year Forum was to find a governance model that would trigger areas in the macro-regional perspective, also Environment Quality and Agriculture Round Table was focused on Advantages and Disadvantages of the Public Private Partnership and Agriculture Concession Model.

**Ms. Mia Glumuzina**, FBiH Government Coordinator for European Integration, Bosnia and Herzegovina, opened a round table with a general presentation through which she underlined the main guidelines that should be followed and which would lead to Public Private Partnership and Agriculture Concession Model development.

In her exposition Ms. Glumuzina provided a successful example of concessions usage in Bosnia and Herzegovina stating that about 95% plantations of immortelle in BiH were planted on a land that was granted to concession, mostly from municipalities to private partners.

Present practice has shown that major problems for agricultural producers, related to immortelle production, were lack of education about immortelle production process, lack of knowledge about immortelle's oil storage process especially about storage place and conditions under which oil can be stored until the moment of sale.

Significant contributions to the work of the Environment Quality and Agriculture Workgroup were also given by examples of good practice presented by other participants:

**Vesna Friedl**, Split Chamber of Economy, took part in the discussion and set out several good practice examples that were used within the of Adriatic - Ionian Chambers, within ITAC project and about education of olive oil tasters. Another mentioned topic was disposal of olive oil nus products such as wastewater and pomace.

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**Ioannis Petratos**, Chamber Of Achaia, talked about similarities between agricultural producers in Greece with immortelle producers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and agreed that the problems that exist with BH producers are similar or the same as in Greece such as small land areas for agricultural production, unknown market, planting material/seeds from import. So according to his opinion agricultural producers should start with a good business policy to sell their planting material and protect domestic production. As product of this kind of business policy it would be a recognizable product, protected, branded and competitive in the market.

### *3. Conclusions*

The conclusions that have been drawn and the activities to be carried out are as follows:

1. Public-Private Partnership and Agriculture Concession Model are suitable for:
  - taking projects that benefit citizens, especially including those that are socially and economically vulnerable,
  - allowing governments to finance projects that are otherwise difficult to finance,
  - provides an initiative to adopt green criteria,
  - allows increase inflow of Private equity.
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina still does not use sufficiently the model of public-private partnerships and concessions (reason - lack of legislation and adequate knowledge about such projects).
3. BIH immortelle producers are good example of concession use. More than 800 ha immortelle plantation, were planted on a land under concession, mostly allocated from municipalities to private partners.
4. The main problems for agricultural producers, related to immortelle production, were lack of education about immortelle production process, lack of knowledge about immortelle's oil storage process especially about storage place and conditions under which oil can be stored until the moment of sale, lack of production experience for new producers and lack of market for some products.
5. It is a positive fact that immortelle producers are associated in the Group of Producers and Processors within Chamber of Economy FBiH, which enables them to exchange experiences, economies of volume and so on.
6. It is recommended to organize training for the immortelle producers, especially regarding to process organization, finding foreign markets and marketing. Although the Republic of Croatia is particularly recognizable by tourism in her coastal area there are also great expectations and agricultural opportunities in this area too.
7. County Chamber of Economy Split, based on the cooperation established within the Adriatic - Ionian Chamber of Economy and the implemented ITAC project has successfully carried out several cycle of education of olive oil tasters.
8. In olive cultivation and olive oil producing are identified many other common topics. Beside olive cultivation, processing and placement of olive oil, important topics are disposal of wastewater and olive pomace as a product of oil production. Also the whole area of wine production.

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9. Through the work of association of wine and olive producers and cooperation with the media house Slobodna Dalmacija Split Chamber will work on new projects, hopefully in the Adriatic-Ionian framework.
10. Starting with projects in the field of education of Herzegovinian immortal producers and certification of their products for the EU market:

The Forum has gathered 50 Chambers and Cities of the Adriatic - Ionian area organized as three-day event through plenary meetings and parallel sessions with thematic working groups.

At the election assembly of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce Ms. Mirjana Čagalj, from the Croatian Chamber of Economy, has been elected president and Mr. Marko Šantić D.Sc. re-elected as member of the Management Board.

The Forum ended with a plenary session during which were presented the conclusions of all thematic working groups.