

# **Territorial Comparative Document**

## **Agriculture and implementation of EU Common Agricultural Policy in Bulgaria, Italy (Tuscany) and Slovakia**

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## Introduction

NewCAP is a pilot project financed by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. The main aim of the project is to create an interactive educational programme in the field of new reformed Common Agricultural Policy of the EU for rural actors (farmers, agricultural advisors, rural people and especially rural youth seeking their job). Proposed project assumes using of e – learning methods and resources, various forms of auto testing (included into individual modules and multimedia study materials chapters, as well), synchronic and asynchronous communication.

There are 4 partners from 3 European countries (Slovakia, Bulgaria and Italy) who participate on the project. For Italy we choose a Region, Tuscany, the Region of Italian Partner, for Territorial Comparative Document because:

- Italian Institutional system provides for the importance (as described in the constitutional settlement) of the local authorities; Municipalities, Provinces, Regions. From the 1970, Regions acquired ever-increasing responsibilities; Regions are elective institutions with legislative power in many subjects. Constitutional Reform in 2001 defined the subjects Regions are exclusively responsible for (including agriculture), those whose responsibility is Governmental (for example, the environment) and those whose responsibility is “combined”, which means that it is shared by the Regions and the Government.
- Regions as well might assign a part of their responsibilities to the Provinces. Tuscany Region, for example, relied on the Provinces a significant part of its responsibilities, including agriculture.
- In Italy, the national paying Institution is AGEA (Agency for Agricultural Subsidies), but, after asking for permission and showing to be necessarily qualified, Regional paying Institutions have been accredited for a few years. For those reasons, Tuscany has its own regional paying institution; ARTEA, granting payments for both, the Common Organization of the Markets (C.O.M) and for supports from the Rural Development Programme.

**Territorial Comparative Document** is a document analyzing a situation in the EU Common Agricultural Policy principles implementation in individual partner countries and measures taken for implementation of changes within the reformed CAP.

It consists of seven following themes:

1. Introduction to methodology
2. Territorial and socio-economic analysis
  - 2.1. Main characteristics of the area (administrative structure, geographical description, climatic conditions, current state of quality and soil threat)
  - 2.2. Demography – describes basic trends in population as well as share between urban and rural population
  - 2.3. Agricultural production – describes system in animal and plant production in each Partner Country, main crops, area and number of farms in each crop or animal category, amount of production and prices on the market
  - 2.4. Employment in the agricultural sector and its development



3. Implementation of direct payments system in each Partner Country legislation, type of payments, conditions for eligibility
4. Instruments for internal market regulation – quotas, intervention purchase, etc.
5. Cross-compliance – legislation, rules
6. Training system in agricultural sector – main stakeholders, system of education, SWOT analysis of farmers' needs

## 1. Introduction to methodology

Territorial analysis document is elaborated on bases of focus group activity, a group of experts from the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development – Plovdiv and Slovak University of Agriculture - Nitra, various research institutes and other relevant public authorities in Bulgaria.

The focus group was created by:

- expert group leader,
- experts from the university,
- other stakeholders from ministry, payment agency, research institutes, etc.

In Italy (Tuscany) the analysis is obtained by the reading of statistical sources and their elaborations, carried out by the ISTAT (National Institute of Statistics) for the 6<sup>th</sup> General Census of the Agriculture in 2010 and by the IRPET (Tuscany Region Institute for Economic Research). The analysis and the considerations in the final part of the document are the result of a series of meeting with Institutional subjects, technicians of the consultant services and trainers who had a debate about the current situation of the formative systems and the knowledge transfer, focusing on the main needs, and on the objectives to pursue in order to give them an answer; on the criticalities and strengths to start from in order to elaborate future strategies of intervention.

## 2. Territorial and socio-economic analysis

### 2.1. Main characteristics of the area

#### 2.1.1. Administrative structure

##### ***Bulgaria.***

Bulgaria is a unitary state. Between 1987 and 1999 the administrative structure consisted of nine provinces (oblasti, singular oblast). In 1999, in parallel with the decentralization of the economic system, a new administrative structure was adopted. It includes 27 provinces and a metropolitan capital province (Sofia-Grad). All areas take their names from their respective capital cities. The provinces subdivide into 264 municipalities. Regional governors are named by the national Council of Ministers, providing for a highly centralized state. Municipalities are run by mayors, who are elected to four-year terms, and by municipal councils, which are directly elected legislative bodies. Subnational jurisdictions are heavily dependent on the central government for funding

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

Italian, as said in Introduction, Institutional, system provides for the importance (as described in the constitutional settlement) of the local authorities; 8092 Municipalities, 110 Provinces, 20 Regions, 5 with special statute of autonomy. From the 1970, Regions acquired ever-increasing responsibilities; Regions are elective institutions with legislative power in many subjects. Constitutional Reform in 2001 defined the subjects Regions are exclusively responsible for (including agriculture), those whose responsibility is Governmental (for example, the environment) and those whose responsibility is “combined”, which means that it is shared by the Regions and the Government. Regions as well might assign a part of their responsibilities to the Provinces. Tuscany Region, for example, relied on the 10 Provinces a significant part of its responsibilities, including agriculture. Capital of Italy is Rome in Lazio Region, Florence is the Regional Capital. Toscana Municipalities are 287.

### ***Slovakia***

Regional and administrative division of Slovak Republic is to 8 regions, 79 districts, 138 urban municipalities and 2752 rural municipalities (to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011). The capital of Slovakia – Bratislava is situated in the south-east of the country very close to the Austrian and Hungarian borders.

## 2.1.2. Geographical description

### ***Bulgaria***

Bulgaria is situated in the South-Eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. The country has a population of 7.36 million and a territory of 110,994 sq. km. It borders Greece and Turkey to the South, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro to the West. The Danube River separates Bulgaria from Romania to the North. Its natural eastern border is the Black Sea

Bulgaria ranks fifteenth in size among the European countries. Its climate is moderate continental. Bulgaria is situated in the center of a region, which is undergoing dynamic transition. Within 500 km of its capital Sofia (1.3 million people) a population of over 60 million is concentrated throughout 10 countries, most of which have only recently embarked on their way to a market economy. This is a large market with one of the most rapidly increasing market demands in Europe. All these regions are only a few hours' drive or a short flight from Sofia. A network of international motorways crosses the country and makes vital connections to Western Europe, Russia, Minor Asia, and to the Adriatic, the Aegean and the Black Sea. Both sea and river transports (the Black Sea and the Danube River) offer convenient communications and transportation to and from the region.

### **Bulgarian forests**

The forest territories of Bulgaria occupy 37% of the area of the country or 4,138,147 hectares, including areas, property of the government - 76.4%, private areas - 10.9%, municipal areas - 12.2%, and forests which are property of religious organizations - 0.56%.

The total amount of wood stock is 642 million cubic meters, the average amount of wood stock per 1 hectare is 172 cubic meters, and the average growth rate - 14.4 million cubic meters. Bulgaria is one of the countries in Europe with relatively well preserved and maintained forest ecosystems. In the national ecological network NATURA 2000 are included 34.4% of the forest fond, including territories exclusively for preservation of the of habitats, areas with wildlife flora and fauna - 29.5%, and areas for bird preservation - 22.6% (most of the territories of these two zones overlap).

Tree communities dominate the forests of Bulgaria, occupying 3,348,000 hectares. This is equal to 86.5 percent of the entire forested territory of the country, or 30.16 percent of the total territory of Bulgaria. The average age of a Bulgarian forest is 42 years. The widest-spread forest communities include the common beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*), the cerris oak (*Quercus ceria*), the frainetto oak (*Quercus frainetto*), the Balkan durmast (*Quercus dalechampii*), the silver pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), the spruce (*Picea abies*), the fir-tree (*Abies alba*) and the black pine (*Pinus nigra*).

Forest management is based on the policy and the legislation related to management of forest resources for a continued period of time, aiming at development, protection and maintenance of the forest ecosystems. In forests with special status or high economic value within Bulgaria high-stemmed trees are cultivated. The type, methods and the way of cutting as well as their intensity and frequency are coordinated with the trees' age and biological requirements, as well as the nature, economic and social conditions. Preventive cutting is taking place in plantations with worsening sanitary conditions, despite the age of the plants and the type of the economy. Every cutting is preceded by active work by foresters who mark the trees envisaged for cutting.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

Presenting mountain, hill and plain, the orography of the territory is heterogeneous; hills make up 66.5% of the forest area, mountains make up 25%, and plains make up the remaining 8.5%. Those geographical and orographic characteristics, as we shall see, heavily affect the dynamics of development and, in particular, the shape of the agricultural and forestry production system. Rural areas in Tuscany cover 95% of the territory. However, over half of the regional territory is covered by woods, making our region the woodiest in Italy.

### ***Slovakia***

The Slovak Republic is situated in the centre of Europe between geographical coordinates 47044"and 49037"of north latitude and between 16050"and 22034"of east longitude. It borders 5 countries: the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Ukraine. The total border length is 1,672 km, of which: with Hungary it is 668.6 km, Poland 547.1 km, Czech Republic 251.8 km, Austria 106.0 km and Ukraine 98.5 km of shared border. Slovakia has 5 408 148 (30<sup>th</sup> September 2012) inhabitants. It spreads over the area of 4,903,347 ha, of which agricultural land makes 2,439,408 ha (49.9%), forest land 2,002,130 ha (40.7%), water areas 92,931 ha (1.9%), built-up areas 222,475 ha (4.4%) and other areas cover 146,403 ha (3.1%). The average residential density is 109.9 residents/square km. Geographically Slovakia is highly diverse and varied country. Its great deal spreads over mountainous and broken country. Highlands and mountains cover the area of 60% and lowland 40% of the country. The altitude ranges from 94 m above the sea level (the town Streda nad Bodrogom) up till 2,655 metres above the sea level (Gerlachovský peak). In all-European viewpoint it has a piedmont to mountainous character.

Altitudinal zones of the surface of SR:

Lowlands 94 – 300 m above the sea level (20,045 km<sup>2</sup> = 41%)

Low highlands 301 – 750 m above the sea level (22,089 km<sup>2</sup> = 45%)

Medium highlands 751 – 1,500 m above the sea level (6,350 km<sup>2</sup> = 13%)

High highlands 1,501 – 2,655 m above the sea level (552 km<sup>2</sup> = 1%).

**Forests** cover a substantial part of the area (circa 41%) and are important eco-stabilizing factor. In terms of forest coverage Slovakia holds the 4th place in Europe. Almost 57% of forests are hardwood forests and 43% is made of coniferous forests. 40 to 45% of the whole forest acreage falls into a class of semi-natural forests which naturally regenerate and their species composition differentiate only slightly from the natural forests

Table 1 - Comparative Physical and Geographical Description (sq KM)

	Bulgaria	Tuscany (Italy)	Slovakia
Total Area sq km	110.994	22.993,41	49.033,47
Agricultural Land	44.755	15.179,43	24.394,08
Woods & forests	41.381,47	11.515,39	20.021,30
lowlands (94-300 m)		1.928,17	20.045
low highlands (301-750 m.)			22.089
medium highlands (751- 1.500 m)		15.294,58	6.350
high highlands (1501—2.655 m)		5.770,74	552
Protected Areas (Natura 2000, SIC, ZPS)		8.695,79	

Table 2 - Comparative Population

	Bulgaria	Tuscany (Italy)	Slovakia
Inhabitants	7.360.000	3.692.433 (2013)	5.408.148 (2012)
inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup>	66,30	160,58	110,29

Considerations:

The three countries have a different percentage of total area / agricultural land: 49% in Slovakia, 66 % in Tuscany, ? in Bulgaria and in total area / wood & forests 37 % in Bulgaria, 50 % in Tuscany and 40 % in Slovakia so we can say that Tuscany is the most agricultural and wooden country then the other ones with a heavy apparent contradiction because Tuscany is also the country most populated 160,58 inhabitants v/s the 110,29 in Slovakia and the 66,30 in Bulgaria.

### 2.1.3. Climatic conditions

#### ***Bulgaria***

Considering its small area, Bulgaria has unusually variable and complex climate. Bulgaria has a temperate-continental climate with very distinct seasons - beautiful blooming spring, dry and hot summer, long and pleasant autumn, and mild winter. Abundant snowfalls may occur throughout the country from December to mid-March, especially if you are in the mountainous areas of Bulgaria. The annual average temperature depends on latitude and ranges from 8°C in the North and 11°C in the South, with temperatures of 2.6°C in the mountains and 12°C in the plains. In general, the warmest areas are in the southern districts of Bulgaria, influenced by the nearby Mediterranean sea. Bulgaria has between 2200 and 2500 hours of sunlight per year. Average temperature (April - September): + 23 °C. The average yearly temperature is 14.7 °C.

Daytime temperatures vary from 0-5°C in the winter and 25-30°C in summer months. In the southern areas it can be warmer, in the northern and eastern mountainous districts of Balkan mountains it can be cooler with moderate daytime temperatures and cool nights in the summer and temperatures far below zero in the winter. Annual average rainfall is about 700 mm, more in the mountains (up to 1000 mm and more) and less on the coast (around 400-600 mm). It can rain throughout the year; in general, winter is the driest season. In summer, showers and thunderstorms are common, especially in the mountains. The climate is exceptionally favourable for growing vines, fruits and vegetables, and oil yielding rose for which Bulgaria has been renowned in Europe for centuries. The Balkan Mountains are the southern boundary of the area in which continental air masses circulate freely. The Rhodope Mountains mark the northern limits of domination by Mediterranean weather systems. The area between, which includes the Thracian Plain, is influenced by a combination of the two systems, with the continental predominating. This combination produces a plains climate resembling that of the Corn Belt in the United States, with long summers and high humidity. The climate in this region is generally more severe than that of other parts of Europe in the same latitude. Because it is a transitional area, average temperatures and precipitation are erratic and may vary widely from year to year. The many valley basins scattered through the uplands have temperature inversions resulting in stagnant air. Sofia is located in such a basin, but its elevation (about 530 meters) tends to moderate summer temperature and relieve oppressive high humidity. Sofia also is sheltered from the northern European winds by the mountains that surround its troughlike basin. Temperatures in Sofia average -2°C in January and about 21°C in August. The city's rainfall is near the country average, and the overall climate is pleasant.

The coastal climate is moderated by the Black Sea, but strong winds and violent local storms are frequent during the winter. Winters along the Danube River are bitterly cold, while sheltered valleys opening to the south along the Greek and Turkish borders may be as mild as areas along the Mediterranean or Aegean coasts.

#### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

Tuscany is characterized by Mediterranean climate along the coast, growing continental towards plains and valleys of the Tuscan hinterland. The highest peaks of the Apennines in Tuscany have the typical high mountain climate. The complex orography is responsible for the strong micro-climatic differences in the hinterland even among close areas, especially depending on the exposure to the prevailing winds.

- Generally, rains are not copious. The proximity of the Corsica Island mitigates the intensity of the disturbances coming from the Atlantic, since they release part of their

humidity upon the island reliefs. Wide parts of the littoral area in Middle-Low Tuscany get annual average quantities around 600mm. The driest area is the Maremma plain around Grosseto where annual precipitations sometimes do not even reach 500 mm. On the contrary, in the northern coastal area rains might reach over 1000mm, especially on the border with Liguria. Precipitations on the hilly strip between the coast and the Apennines vary between 700 and 900 mm. During the winter it snows on the Apennines, whereas on the hilly strip it snows occasionally, as the natural disposition of the mountains reduces the arriving of cold disturbances from the North-East; eventually, it is very unlikely to snow on the central-southern coastal strip and the island of the Tuscan Archipelago. Precipitations reach their peak over middle seasons and their minimum during the summer

- Winds blowing more frequently in Tuscany, mostly come from western and southern quarters and mainly start at the transit of Atlantic depressions. During the winter, cold air masses from the North may occur. During the summer on the coastline mostly blows breeze making the climate sultry during the hottest months.
- Along the coasts of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the sub-littoral areas the temperature is mitigated by the Mediterranean Sea. Summer is hot with temperatures at length reaching 30°C and exceeding 35° C during the heat waves, especially in the inland plans and valleys. Upon the reliefs, the altitude makes the climate mild, with chilly nights and not too hot days, whereas along the coasts breezes have an important role, softening the excessive heat. During the winter, along the coast, the weather is quite mild with a maximum temperature often reaching 10°C and minimum almost always over 0°C. In mountainous and inland areas the frequency of the days where the temperature falls below zero increase as increase the distance from the seaside and the altitude up to the Apennine peaks where during cold waves temperatures falls even below 20°C. Moving to internal areas, also thermic daily and seasonal changes widen.

Climate changes in progress are significantly changing Tuscany, marking some serious phenomenon, both in terms of increased dryness (climate permanent feature, typical of the areas with few precipitations) and recurrent droughts (due to temporary lack of water). Putting in comparison a series of historical meteorological data in our possession, it is evident that between the decades from 1960 to 1990 and those from 1990 and 2000, a significant increase of both index occurred. At the same time, extreme meteorological phenomenon have worsened (heavy rains, floods), causing ever-increasing frequent civil ravages and serious financial losses.

### **Slovakia**

In terms of climate, Slovakia belongs to the temperate climate zone while the climate is significantly influenced by the altitude and the type of relief. In comparison to the Czech Republic on the west and Austria the Slovak climate is expressed by more significant continental features. Winters are 30C colder and summers 20C warmer and this difference grows from west to east. In lowlands the average annual temperature reaches 9 to 10 0C, while in the mountainous regions (over 2,500 m above the sea level) it is only -3.7 0 C. The temperature decreases by higher altitude in average at 0.5 0 C per every 100 m. The south of Slovakia receives about 2,000 hours of sunshine while the north-west only about 1,600 hours per year. The average annual precipitation amount on the entire area is 743 mm whereas 65% of this figure vaporizes and the remaining 35% is made by outflow. The snow cover is not stable and winters in the lower locations are often without a permanent snow cover.

World-wide climate changes make themselves felt in the long-term air temperature and rainfall tendencies in Slovakia whereas in a long-run observation the temperature increase showed by

10C and drop of annual rainfall by 10-15%. On the other hand a higher intensity of rainfall activity occurs in a shorter period of time which is a cause of flood occurrences.

## 2.1.4. Geology

### ***Bulgaria***

Although Bulgaria is not a big country it has very diverse geology. The tectonic settle of the country is presented mainly of four first-order tectonic units and many second and third-order units. Included are the South part of the Moesian platform, folded system of the Balkans, the Rila-Rhodopes massive and the Sakar-Stranja zone. These tectonic units include very diverse stratigraphic complexes ranging from early Paleozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic and Quaternary. Their lithology comprise of rocks with diverse genesis. At the surface sedimentary, volcanic and metamorphic rocks are observed, holding different mineral composition and petrophysical and geochemical characteristics. Regarding natural resources – every rock complex has its potential, which is diverse too. For example in the North Bulgaria, in the Moesian platform, which is build up mostly of sedimentary rocks, sedimentogenetic and hemogenetic resources prevail. Now oil, salt, gypsum, phosphorite, manganese ore; limestone and marlstones for the cement industry; sand and pebbles for building purposes; diverse clays for making bricks; sand for the glass industry are produced. The Balkanids' zone is the most diverse one regarding the lithology and the natural resources. In the West Balknids different types of ores (including polymetallic ores, gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, a little Uranium etc) are produced. From non-metal resources, different rock types and sands are important. They comprise mostly of limestone with beautiful texture, some of them build up of shells, other with higher density and differently colored – from black, to white and with hues of yellow and gray. Despite of the tectonic reprocess they are eligible for big blocks to be gained at relatively low cost. In that zone, some intrusive rocks are produced (granites with rapakivi texture and redish hue, marble breccias and differently colored, mostly Triassic, sands). In the region, there are many modern equipped factories for processing that rocks. In the Central part of the Balkanids mostly copper and copper-gold ore is produced which is relatively poor in metal content, but its low price makes it valuable for many foreign mining companies. Of great importance for Bulgaria are the mines for black and brown coals in the Central Balkan. The biggest open basin in the Balkan Peninsula for lignite coal is situated in the East Srednogorie. The Rhodope tectonic zone is rich of ores: polymetallic ore, lead-zinc ore, gold and silver. Of great importance are the non-ore resources: marble, gneisses, schist and tuffs with Paleogene age. There are some big findings of travertine that are processed. Findings of zeolite and bentonite clay are basic for a whole branch of Bulgarian industry – making filters for water and for the brewer industry. The abundance of mineral springs is a Bulgaria's asset.

### Mineral Exploitation

In the recent years in period of transition from state planed economy to market economy a lot of mines have been closed. The mines still in operation were privatized with exception of coal mines. The only one oil and gas production company in Bulgaria is also state owned. Past production activities and abandoned sites. More than 42 uranium mining sites were closed in 1992 due to the economic and environment reasons . The remediation of these sites is still in progress.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

The region is crossed on the northern side and on the east by the Apennine chain that was formed for the approach and the collision of the euro-Asian plate to the north by plaque African-Adriatic to the south. The structural units derived, originally belonged to the continental margin African-Adriatic, are included in two main groups, the Domain Umbria-Marche (marly-arenaceous flysch) and Domain Toscano, the latter divided into a succession metamorphic below (metasandstones, metalimestones, dolomite, Late Paleozoic and Triassic groups, Hercynian basement) and a non-metamorphic sequence above (external and internal flysch sandstones, shales, marls, limestones and dolomites). The metamorphic sequence is not above is characterized in turn by two smaller structural units, the Tuscan Nappe el ' Unit Cervarola Falterona, with rocky whose extensions are the backbone of the Tuscan Apennines. Above the Domino Toscano is the Domain Subligure transition (sandstones and shales) where there has been overthrust rocks of Domain Ligure-Piemontese, divided in turn into the complex structural units of the Ligurian Domain outer (flysch Helminthoid sandstones, shales, polygenic breccias), Domain Ligure internal succession with non-oceanic metamorphic (flysch sandstones, shales, radiolarites ophiolites) and oceanic metamorphic sequence (calescisti, ophiolites). With the reduction and cessation of thrust faults during the Apennine orogeny, formed sedimentary basins with Epiliguri deposits (marls and limestones). During the most recent occurred marine invasions margins are lower in the chain, called succession basins neoautoctoni and never involved in the phenomena of overthrust between domains and structural units, and later subsidence basins were formed within the chain environments favorable for future fluvial- lakes. At the same time also occurred subvulcaniche acidic magmatic intrusion (Elba, Giglio and Montecristo Island) and pyroclastic extrusive volcanic events (Capraia Island, Monte Amiata and Area del Tufo). The eustatic fluctuations and the additional steps of adjustment of the chain led the levels of rivers and lakes to the actual values of the alluvial deposits of complement and close the geological history of the region.

### ***Slovakia***

In geological terms the territory of Slovak Republic falls into a system of Western Carpathian Mountains and only a minor part to the Eastern Carpathians. The Western Carpathians alone divide into inner (geologically older) mainly made of eruptive rocks (Slovak Rudohorie, Kremnica and Štiavica mountains) and outer (younger) made mainly by granite and limestone) creating the skeleton of High and Low Tatras and High and Low Fatra. In the inside of the Carpathian system widespread Lowlands were created (the Small Danube lowland – on west of the country) and the Great Danube Lowland – of which a little part extent to the east of the country of Slovakia. Also for this reason the area of Slovakia is geomorphologically various and its surface is rugged. The Carpathian system arose by orogenesis of Alps.

## **2.1.5. Current state of quality and soil threat**

### ***Bulgaria***

Agriculture is a traditionally strong sector of the Bulgaria's economy. Significant private investments for the past years, including those made through the EU's SAPARD pre-accession program (grants for over EUR 300 mln for a five year period) and other subsidizing programs of the Bulgarian government, stimulate the productivity, the effectiveness and the modernization

of Bulgarian agriculture. The EU Rural Development Programme will boost additionally the agricultural entrepreneurs, which will continue to mark fast improvements of the sector. The land restitution process in Bulgaria began in 1990 and has left an extremely fragmented ownership structure across most of the country. This, along with the relatively small size of plots of agricultural land, created obstacles for effective cultivating of crops which in turn, depressed the value of the land over the last decade.

Facts & Figures:

- 11 mln ha - total of land of Bulgaria;
- Approx 3 mln ha – total arable land in Bulgaria;
- Approx 280 000 ha – belong to the State Land Fund;
- Approx 10 mln registered owners of agricultural land in Bulgaria

Agricultural land in Bulgaria is classified in 10 categories according to the climate, relief characteristics, productivity of the soil, and its suitability for production of different sorts of vegetable products

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

The management of the territory and land in Tuscany is matter of wide and complex debate. Many factors, both anthropic and natural, affect the decisions concerning territorial management and conditioning the development of financial business, especially for rural areas and agriculture. Generally, leverage factors are the following:

- 1) The erosion of the lands provoked by the development of building (residential and industrial).
- 2) The enlargement of the wood, due to the abandonment of the most marginal agricultural lands.
- 3) The erosion of the lands due to different combined causes and to an insufficient defence of the land.
- 4) The uncontrolled growing of the wild fauna, especially boars, deer, fallow deer and roe deer.
- 5) The inadequate water resources management, regarding the necessities of the territory and the perspectives due to the climatic changes.

Plus, must add the strong pressure for preserving natural environment and landscapes of particular value that, despite the understandable purpose, provides for an overabundance of restrictions and limitations for the agricultural activity, that still remains the only real guarantee of protection for the landscape and the environment.

In further detail, on the Tuscan territory, might be found some different types of area:

- *Mountain and high hilly areas*: where the prevailing features are the presence of forests, a low economic activity rate, an intense commuting towards the cities, a strong interest for the second home, the tourist development. The main resource is the environment, mostly poorly urbanized with a low density of population, making them appear isolated. Those territories cover over 40% of the regional surface.

- *Parks or sensitive habitat*: include protected areas and areas of particular environmental interest deriving from the implementation of community legislations. In total, protected areas cover about 8,7% of the regional territory.

- *Suburban agricultural areas* (urban areas having a weak agricultural economy): those areas are characterized by a marginal rural economy and a valuable landscape. The decreases of the

agricultural activity lead to a deterioration of the territory in connection with hydrogeological setting plan and the conservation of the traditional rural layout.

- Areas at risk of strong erosion: areas presenting erosion, instability.
- Ecological networks and corridors: rural landscape made up by mosaic-type wooded areas, no cultural plants, permanent hedges, riparian strips, tree belt. Those areas cover about 4% of the regional territory.
- Redeveloped river areas and hydrographical networks: areas needing an environmental upgrading in terms of increase of biological diversity (steep bank vegetation), image of the landscape and use for recreational purposes (banks of a river); they cover about 1% of the total regional territory.
- Areas at risk of salinization: areas touched by salinization of the ground water, concerning both coastal plains and areas having a quite marked salinization of the ground water, for which it is necessary a proper management of the water-bearing stratum; they cover about 1% of the total regional territory.

As an example, is reported the table of the protected areas in Tuscany. As it might be noticed, in total, they cover over one-third of the overall regional territory.

### **Slovakia**

The current quality state of the ground cover of Slovakia is a result of primeval natural development and simultaneously it also is a human's product.

#### **Physical soil degradation**

##### **Soil erosion**

The most severe problem of agricultural soils of SR is water erosion. It jeopardize about 1,360 thousand ha (app. 55 %) of agricultural land.

The potential of wind erosion of soil in Slovakia is relatively low. Extremely endangered is only 1.3% of agricultural land; a high intensity of wind erosion affects 0.4% of acreage; 4.8% of acreage is threatened by a moderate intensity.

##### **Soil compaction**

Relatively large extent outreaches the compaction of agricultural land in SR. The real compaction occurred in approximately 192 thousand ha of agricultural land. Compaction is potentially in process on another 457 thousand ha of agricultural land.

##### **Watered soil**

On the area of circa 560,000 ha the agricultural soil is under permanent affect of a high level of ground water which, in concurrently with its unfavourable graininess (a high content of clay elements), results in their less suitable structure, tendency to concretion, low water permeability. Access to these lands is time-delayed.

##### **Extremely light soils**

Into this group fall soils extremely light-textured, sandy to loam containing grain fraction < 0.01 mm 0-20% with low water retention and are threatened by dryness the most. Agricultural production on such soils can be assured only with an investment of increased costs. Acreage of these soils is approximately 85,000 ha.

##### **Skeletal soils**

Highly skeletal soils contain skeleton of 50% and more in the surface and under surface level. High content of skeleton in the top soil of these lands make the tillage harder. Acreage of these soils is approximately 710,000 ha.

##### **Flysch zone soils**

These are small-production soils, evolved on minerally poor flysch substrates (variation of slates and non-calcific sandstones). Mentioned soils cover the area of circa 430,000 ha.

#### **Chemical soil degradation**

Soil acidification

Acidification involves a considerable acreage of Slovak lands except carbonate soils of the Danube flatland. The total acreage on which it can manifest in and increased intensity is around 425 thousand hectares (in neighbourhood of industrial centres).

#### **Soil contamination**

Soil pollution does not strike large areas of SR. Contaminated soils are in areas of industrial centres which have the greatest pollution contribution.

#### **Biological soil degradation**

The deficiency of organic and mineral fertilizers, incorrect crop rotation, and wrong soil tillage, that all together with erosion, compacting, soil acidification as well as alcalinization and pollution of soils aggravates of soil life, which is a determining functional unit of the soil (the soil is not a soil without it). However its level and extent have not been quantified so far.

#### **Soil protection**

In terms of quantity and quality, the agricultural soil protection is laid down in Act no. 307/1992 on protection of agricultural land fund in amended no. 83/2000 Coll.

Following the intentions of European Soil Policy and the World Soil Policy, Principles of State Soil Policy were adopted by the government of Slovak Republic in 2002.

## 2.1.6. Water

### ***Bulgaria***

#### **Waters**

Water facts

Total Area: 111,001.9 sq km

Water Area: 2,010.4 sq km

Coastline: 354 km

Irrigated land: 3,472.1 sq km

Total renewable water resources: 107,226.10 cu km (including the Danube River).

Total fresh water resources of the country including waters of the Danube River are estimated at 107,226.10 cubic kilometres (long-term annual average), which constitutes 14.1 thousand m<sup>3</sup> per capita

In 2009, the total abstracted fresh water for economy is estimated at 6,121.10 cubic kilometres, which represents around 5.7% of fresh water resources of the country. About 43% of fresh waters in 2009 are from the Danube River and used mainly for cooling in the energy industry. Total water entered water supply system by public water supply systems operators in 2009 is estimated at 987 million m<sup>3</sup>, and by the irrigation systems in the amount of 962 million m<sup>3</sup>. Water supply losses during transport are 59.2%. Relatively constant is consumption of drinking water by the households - on average 99 l/day/per capita. Nearly 65% of wastewater is discharged after treatment in urban and industrial treatment plants with a predominantly secondary treatment. According to the requirements of the Water Act (State Gazette 67/27 July 1999), the territory (and the aquatic areas) of Bulgaria are divided into 4 river basins as a basic unit for integrated water management. Each of the river basins has their own management

structure and management plan. The main regulatory act governing the ownership, management and exploitation of waters is the Waters Act (SG No 67 of 27.07.1999, last amended SG 95 of 01.12.2009). The main regulatory act governing the ownership, management and exploitation of waters is the Waters Act (SG No 67 of 27.07.1999, last amended SG 95 of 01.12.2009).

#### Ownership

WA provides that waters, water sites and water development systems and facilities within the national territory may constitute property of the State, of the municipalities, of individuals and legal entities. Further, the Act establishes which water assets are included in the different types of state and municipal property (public and private) and which can be owned by private entities.

#### Management and exploitation

Different procedures and conditions have been adopted towards the management and exploitation of water and water sites on the one hand and of water supply and sewerage systems on the other.

##### *1. Management and exploitation of water and water sites*

Competence and powers regarding management of water and water sites are allocated between the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Environment and Waters and the respective administrative institutions according to the types of assets and the rank of the respective public body. Exploitation of water and water sites encompasses water abstraction and use of water sites. It encompasses a wide range of activities and can be common or individual, as well as subject to or exempted from authorization. In the cases where authorization is required, permits are issued by the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Environment and Waters or by the competent Basin Directorate Director, depending on the type of water asset and the specific activity for which the authorization is requested. Requirements, conditions, procedures and terms for issuance, as well as the duration of the permits are elaborated in detail in the Waters Act.

##### *2. Management and exploitation of water supply and sewerage systems*

Management of water supply and sewerage systems (WSS systems) is responsibility of: (i) the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works - for WSS systems – public state property; (ii) WSS associations formed by representatives of the State and one or more municipality or by several municipalities – in the cases of shared ownership over the WSS systems and (iii) Municipal Councils - where WSS systems owned by a single municipality fall within the boundaries of the geographically defined area.

Exploitation, operation and maintenance of WSS systems are carried out by WSS operators. After the amendments introduced in the Waters Act in 2009, those activities will be assigned to private operators by means of awarding of concessions in compliance with the Concessions Act.

##### *3. Concession regime*

The Waters Act allows for award of concessions over water assets: (i) extraction concession for mineral waters constituting exclusive state property and public municipal property and (ii) works concession or a service concession for water development systems and facilities and for related water sites, as well as for hydraulic-engineering, hydro-power, irrigation, water-supply and sewerage systems. Such concessions are granted under the terms and procedures set out in the Concessions Act and in keeping with the specific requirements and conditions established in the WA with regard to the assets – subject to concession and the specific nature of the activities/services to be performed.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

Principal rivers: Arno 241 km, Ombrone 161 km, Serchio 111 km, Cecina 73 km, Slim 70, Sieve 62 km.

Principal lakes: Lake Sling (artificial lake) 5,0 km<sup>2</sup>, Lake Chiusi 3.9 km<sup>2</sup>, Lake San Casciano approximately 2.0 km<sup>2</sup>, Lake Montepulciano 1.9 km<sup>2</sup>.

Lagoons and coastal lakes main Orbetello Lagoon 26.2 km<sup>2</sup>, Marsh Diaccia Botrona 12.78 km<sup>2</sup>, Lake Massaciucoli 6.9 km<sup>2</sup>, Lake Burano 1.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

Inland wetlands: Padule about 18 km<sup>2</sup>.

Small wetlands: Pond Traversari of Camaldoli, Metaledo, Asqua, The Blade, Puddle Deer, Source of Porcareccio, Prato to the River, Lake Port.

Coasts: total 633 km (397 km and 230 km continental islands).

Mari: Ligurian Sea, the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Main islands: Elba 223.5 km<sup>2</sup>, Giglio Island 21.2 km<sup>2</sup>, Capraia Island 19.3 km<sup>2</sup>, Island of Monte Cristo 10.4 km<sup>2</sup>, Pianosa 10.3 km<sup>2</sup>

Just over a third of the water bodies in Tuscany (35) has already reached the state of ecological quality that the legislation has set a target to 2015 (good). Just under a third of the water bodies (30.3), in poor ecological status or lower, it is far from being able to achieve.

The state total chemical that can be derived from three years of monitoring indicates that a little less than a third of the water bodies (about 31) is located in a state of quality 'not good'.

E 'was considered the worst annual chemical state in the presence of several results in three years. The mercury confirms the element that determines the most widely threshold overruns (42 stations) and subsequent classification of chemical status is not good. This substance is not excluded a contribution of natural origin, the subject of a specific study along with other pollutants inorganic in an ongoing project. In this case, the judgment on the chemical quality of the station may be revised. Other substances that have determined over the three years a chemical state is not good were the tributyltin (TBT) (15), the diethylstilbestrol (DES) (4), nonylphenol (1), chloroform (1), nickel (1), Cadmium (1), and PAH (1), the hexachloro.

### ***Slovakia***

There is a dense channel network in the territory of Slovakia, mainly of a mountainous nature and a main European watershed between the Black and Baltic seas passes through the land. The greater majority of the area is drained by Danube into the Black sea, only a small fraction on the north belongs to the basin of Polish rivers running into the Baltic sea. The total length of the flow is 44,943 km. The biggest river is the Danube (circa 2,000 m<sup>3</sup>/sec.), the longest river is Váh (367.2 km). There is a spring water potential of approximately 400 m<sup>3</sup>/sec., but a circa 3,300 m<sup>3</sup>/sec. flows through the territory. Slovakia has rather large reserves of ground and mineral waters unevenly spread over the area. The volume of the ground waters volume is estimated to be around 35 bill. m<sup>3</sup> of water. The potential of available sources and reserves of the ground waters makes 76,080 l/s, of which is 13,398 l/s utilized. The largest reserves of ground waters are situated on the Žitný Island along the river Danube.

Pollution of agricultural sources influences surface and ground water. This is caused particularly by nitrates, pesticides, releasing from ensilaging juices. The main sources of nitrates are mineral fertilisers, percolations from cattle breeding, in particular animal excrements. The nitrates may cause eutrophication of water and contaminate ground waters, endanger the drinking water quality.

### **Water Pollution by Nitrates from Agricultural Activity**

Non-point pollution from application of fertilisers and pesticides prevails over point pollution (animal production farms, storage of fertilisers and so on) in pollution of surface and ground water from agricultural activity.

Water

Water sources protection

Protected water management areas

Slovakia has 10 areas declared protected water management areas, with the total area of 69,420 ha – the surface of agricultural lands being 30,850 ha and forest lands covering 32,898 ha.

Hygiene protection zones around water sources

- 1,138 hygiene protection zones around ground water sources,

- 70 hygiene protection zones around surface water sources,

- 7 hygiene protection zones around water reservoirs,

The surface of the hygiene protection zones totals over 850,000 ha.

Agriculture and protected water areas

Lands used by agriculture represent about 250,000 ha from the surface of protected areas.

## 2.2. Demography – describes basic trends in population as well as share between urban and rural population

### ***Bulgaria***

The demography of the Republic of Bulgaria is monitored by the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria. Bulgaria has a high Human Development Index of 0.782, ranking 57th in the world in 2012 and holds the 38th position in Newsweek's rankings of the world's best countries to live in, measuring health, education, political environment and economic dynamism. Most Bulgarians (72.5%) reside in urban areas. Approximately one-sixth of them live in Sofia, which has a population exceeding 1,200,000 people.

Urban population: 5,338,261 or 72.5% of total population (2011)

Rural: 2,026,309 or 27.5%

Rate of urbanization: -0.3% annual rate of change (2005–2010)

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

The demographical trend of the region marks the rapidly ageing population, leading to a natural inhabitants drop. Only the immigrants' flows can balance this phenomenon, making the population increase over the last decade.

Until 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011, with reference to the 15<sup>th</sup> population and private houses general census, 3 672 202 people were residents in Tuscany. Compared to the decade before the population has increased. In fact, in 2001, 3 497 806 people were residents and the increase of 5% was exclusively due to the new foreign members. During the decade between the two censuses, the number of Italian citizens residing in Tuscany has fallen of over 38 thousand people; whereas the number of foreigner inhabitants counts 200 thousands more members.

According to the gender of the population, women hold the greatest share in Tuscany. They are 1 910 758 (52% of the total population) and count 149 314 more units than men. The difference in gender, due to the progressive ageing of the population and the greater life expectancies for women, counts 92.2 men every 100 women.

From 2001 to 2011 the percentage of people aged more than 65 years passed from 22% (785 747 people) to 24% (879.980 people). “Very old people”, which means people aged over 85 years, increased their percentage on the total residing population (from 2.9 in 2001 to 3.6 in 2011). In 2011, Tuscany registered an old-age

8% of the foreigners residing in Italy live in Tuscany. It is slightly prevalent the feminine component, representing 54% of the total foreigners residing in Tuscany. Male to female ratio is 84.8 men every 100 women. The incidence is high, counting 88 foreigners every 1000 people censused.

In Tuscany there are more than 3.7 million inhabitants equal to 6.2 of the Italian population. We are not faced, on the whole in a densely inhabited: there are about 162 inhabitants per square kilometre against a national average of 189. This figure is the result of the combination of high-density areas (the metropolitan area of Florence in particular) and large populated areas (southern Tuscany), rising by 87 inhabitants / sq km of mountainous areas (25.1 of the total area) to 152 hilly areas (66.5), up to 361 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup> low-lying areas of the region (8.4).

### **Slovakia**

The level of social development is characterized by several indicators including the demographic situation and population structure. A typical indicator for the demographic development is decreasing natural population growth and the ageing of population.

*Table 3 – Basic demographic characteristics*

Municipalities	2011		2001	
	Number of municipalities	% of inhabitants	Number of municipalities	% of inhabitants
Urban	138	54,4	136	56,2
Rural	2752	45,6	2747	43,8

In 2012 there was a total number of 5 408 148 inhabitants in Slovakia of which 51,3 % were women.

In comparison with 2001, a natural increase of inhabitants in Slovakia reached 0, 3 % but if we compare the 2012 data with 2009, 2010 and 2011, number of inhabitants has negative tendencies. Growth of number of people living in rural areas is an interesting data, too

### 2.3. Agricultural production – describes system in animal and plant production in each Partner Country, main crops, area and number of farms in each crop or animal category, amount of production and prices on the market

#### ***Bulgaria***

Structures in plant-growing: The arable land covered in the course of the census was as large as 3 138 890 hectares. The cereal crops occupied 1 810 820 hectares, the technical accounted for 1 071 470 hectares, the fodder crops accounted for 107 230 hectares, the fresh vegetables: 23 660 hectares, and other crops accounted for 125 710 hectares.

Structures in livestock breeding: According to preliminary data, the total number of agricultural holdings breeding agricultural animals, poultry and bee colonies in 2010 is around 280 300 units, which is by 53,4% less in comparison with 2003 (600 815 units in 2003).

#### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

Agriculture in Tuscany is really peculiar. From the structural point of view, small and medium size businesses are prevailing, most of them are run by the holder and his family (95,6% of the Utilized Agricultural Area). The main products are wine, olive oil, cereals, nurseries and floriculture, especially developed is some areas of the region; cattle livestock (for milk and meat) and sheep (cheese and meat) fresh vegetables and some industrial products, such as tomatoes and tobacco.

For those reasons, the agriculture in Tuscany is really varied, even though it masters some productions (wine, olive oil, and nurseries).

Lately, tourism industry grew significantly in rural areas, with over 4000 farms becoming holiday farms.

The consistent tourist flow, due to the cities of art and the Tuscan landscape, allowed the development of the regional rural areas, boosting the evaluation of the agricultural production. In this framework, certified products have developed through quality system and organic farming. Organic farms in Tuscany are 2 442, which means 3.4% of the total and they manage 5.5% of the farmland.

In 2010, also exports increased (+12.4%), pushed especially by the food industry and by an increase in olive oil (+10%) and wine (+13%) exportations.

Representative data of the agriculture in Tuscany, referring to the last national census in 2010, with a series of tables taken from the ISTAT, are reported.

The average extension of the Tuscan businesses in terms of surface is modest. Most of the businesses are no bigger than 20 hectares (89.05%).

Key features of the SWOT analysis made by IRPET (*Institute for Economic Research of Tuscany Region*) on agriculture in Tuscany are summarized below:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durability of the agriculture in Tuscany, closely related to the territory and the local economy;</li> <li>• Ever-increasing importance of secondary activities;</li> <li>• Decrease in fragmentation and increase of production specialization;</li> <li>• Increase in technical efficiency and price competitiveness;</li> <li>• Access to an established market for wine-growing and olive oil sectors;</li> <li>• Increase in the educational level of the holder.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease of TAA and UAA due to an increase of artificial surface;</li> <li>• Ageing in agricultural sector;</li> <li>• Lack of generational turnover;</li> <li>• Fragmentation.</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth in agri-food exports, especially in wine-growing and olive oil sectors;</li> <li>• Integrated Sector Plans (ISP);</li> <li>• Major chances to have access to direct payments for small-medium sized holdings (not family farms) and for young farmers;</li> <li>• Major diversification of rural/secondary activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate domestic consumption in food and agricultural industry;</li> <li>• Cyclical decrease of technical efficiency;</li> <li>• Low profitability of the agricultural activity if not enhanced enough;</li> <li>• Decrease of European funds for agriculture;</li> <li>• Excessive specialization.</li> </ul>

### **Slovakia**

The total area of land in Slovak republic is almost 5 million of hectares. Approximately one half consists from agricultural land, mainly arable land. In frame of non-agricultural land most significant are forests. Not all of the agricultural land is being utilized for farming. Share of utilized agricultural land is app. 83%.

## 2.4. Employment in the agricultural sector and its development

### **Bulgaria**

The Employment in agriculture (% of total employment) in Bulgaria was last reported at 6.80% in 2010, according to the World Bank report published in 2012. Employees are people who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, commission, tips, piece rates, or pay in kind. Agriculture corresponds to division 1 (ISIC revision 2) or tabulation categories A and B (ISIC revision 3) and includes hunting, forestry, and fishing. The economic crisis in the country in 2010 had also caused a negative impact on the labour market. According to the data provided by the Employment Agency, the total number of the employed persons in 2010 was 3052,8 thousand, i.e. by 6,2% less if compared to 2009. The average annual number of

the unemployed persons registered with the Labour Offices saw a rise reaching the figure 350 944 persons, while in 2009 those were 280 980. In the first two months of 2010 an increase in the unemployment was registered as high as 10,26% in February followed by a gradual decrease to 9,24% in December. The average annual unemployment level was as high as 9,47% or by 1,88 points higher if compared to 2009 According to preliminary data provided by the NSI, in 2010 the average annual salary of the persons employed under employment contracts or under civil servant employment contracts nationwide, including bonuses, reached the level of BGN 7 769, which was by BGN 460 or by 6,3% more in comparison with 2009. The salaries in the sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries the increase made was by 11,8% to reach an average of BGN 5 899 for 2010.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

The agricultural and food industry in 2010 made a value added of 3 145 million Euro, 3.3% of the regional economy and 6.1% of the domestic economy, marking an increase of 2.6% compared to 2009, thanks to the food and fishing industry, rather than to the agricultural industry (-1.1%). The latest in 2010 made a production for over 2.3 billion Euro, 5.2% of the domestic total, and half of it was out of wood growing (10,8% of the domestic production). In total, about 173 000 people are employed in this sector; 133 000 of them are holders and their families, only 7 600 people are permanently employed, plus 6 300 people temporary employed and 24 000 people working occasionally.

### ***Slovakia***

According to Statistical Office of SR the employment in sector of agriculture (farming, crop production, animal husbandry and mixed farming) represented a total of 51.6 thousand workers, of which 74% are men and 26% women.

Table 4 Development of employees number in sector in 1000 of employees (1989-2011)

	1989	2004	2011
number of employees	350,9	86,6	51,6

The number of employees in the sector during last 2 decades has rapidly decreased. In 1989 sector of agriculture belonged to sectors with the highest number of employees however during at present the share of employment is only app. 3,5% from economically active population. In 1989 most of employees were employed in agricultural cooperatives (app. 277 thousands). At present they are employed mainly in ltd's and cooperatives.

The strongest age group was a group of workers aged between 50 and 59 years (40.3%), with one-third of women. In the long term (since 2000) the number of workers of all age groups decreased with the exception of category 60 and over, where the number slightly increased. The average age of workers in agriculture in 2011 was 45.9 years for women and 46.8 for men. For the primary agricultural production it would be necessary for the future to realize the generation restore of labour.

Table 5 – Plant-growing in each country in ha

2010 Year	Bulgaria	Tuscany (Italy)	Slovakia
Arable land	3 138 890	754 345	1 413 747
• Cereals Crops	1 810 820	295 327	741 500
• Technical	1 071 470		
• Fodder Crops	107 230	151 794	237 200
• Fresh Vegetables	23 660	10 103	8 214
• Other Crops	125 710		32 130

Table 6 - Structure of Land (in hectares)

	Bulgaria	Tuscany (Italy)	Slovakia
Land in hectares total			4 903 556,66
1. Agricultural land	4 475 500	754 344,83	2 405 992,92
from that: Arable land	3 138 890	457 223,95	1 413 747,01
Permanent grassland	1 240 600		871 337,79
Hop			515,41
vineyard	370 490	59 992,65	26 964,19
gardens	10 400		76 567,76
orchards		109 798,01	16 860,76
1. Non-agricultural land			2 497 563,74
from that: Forests			2 014 059,24
Water	201 040		94 764,38
Built-up areas			232 599,24
Other areas			156 140,89

### 3 Implementation of direct payments system in each Partner Country legislation, type of payments, conditions for eligibility

#### **Bulgaria**

##### **Direct payments Schemes financed by the EAGF**

Farmers may obtain direct payments for the agricultural areas, which they use on the territory of the country. Support is provided for arable land, permanent grassland, permanent crops and kitchen gardens maintained in good agricultural condition.

- Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS)

Minimum requirements:

- 1 ha–agricultural holding
- 0,5 ha–permanent crops
- 0,1 ha–parcel
- Complemented with additional national payments
- Specific support scheme under Art.68 of Regulation 73/2009

##### **Specific support under Art.68**

- In December 2009 - first notification, with main objective to create an incentive to maintain current level of production in the dairy sector
- In 2010 – additional scheme for ewes and she-goats
- In 2011 – additional quality scheme for fruit and vegetables, applied in 2012 and continued in 2013

##### **Consistence of SAPS with other support schemes**

Complementary national direct payments (CNDP)

- The basic CNDP scheme is the per hectare scheme
- Identical minimum requirements and Good agricultural condition requirements
- Eligible area for CNDPs –SAPS area with exception of permanent grassland, wine variety vineyards and tobacco, for which other support schemes are available
- CNDP schemes for animals

##### **Results of Direct payments implementation**

- Increase of the competitiveness, sustainability and better market orientation of the Bulgarian agriculture
- Higher and more secure incomes for the agricultural producers, including in the situation of economic crises, climatic changes and natural disasters
- Guarantee for a minimum income of farmers and approximation to the income from other economic activities
- In the first five years of SAPS implementation there is a constant increase of applicants' interest -in 2011 the number of applicants increased by 11% compared to 2007.
- Large number of agricultural holdings supported under SAPS –87 473 beneficiaries in 2011.
- High percentage of used and distributed resources.

##### **Structural changes in the sector**

- Increased dynamic on the land market
- Increase of the agricultural land maintained in Good agricultural condition and decrease of abandoned land (from 4,7 % in 2006 to 3,6 % in 2011, total decrease of non-cultivated land with 23,3 %)
- Concentration of holdings (2010 in comparison with 2007):
  - general decrease of the number of holdings –24,7%
  - holdings with less than 2 ha decrease with 27,9%, UAA in them –with 21,5%

- increase of the number of holdings with more than 100 ha with 24,7% and UAA in them with 20%

▪ Animal breeding holdings:

- Farms with 1-9 cows – decrease of the number of holdings with 20,1% and the number of animals with 20,7%

- Farms with more than 50 animals – increase of the number of holdings with 45,9% and the number of animals with 34,6%

#### **Convergence of Direct Payments in the EU 2014-2020**

To ensure a more equal distribution of direct support, while taking account of the differences that still exist in wage levels and input costs, the levels of direct support per hectare will be progressively adjusted. All Member States with direct payments below the level of 90% of the average will close one third of the gap between their current level and this level.

**Direct payments package for Bulgaria is not increased.**

#### **Priorities of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture in the CAP Reform 2014-2020 CAP budget**

▪ Maintaining the levels of financing of CAP in order to fulfil the ambitious policy goals, as well as to deal with the serious challenges that contemporary agriculture faces.

▪ It is necessary for managing the new challenges regarding climate change, biodiversity, balanced development of rural areas and ensuring production of sufficient qualitative and safe agricultural products and food within EU and for the increasing global demand.

▪ CAP simplification is also needed.

#### **Direct Payments**

▪ Direct payments are important tool to support incomes of farmers and are essentially necessary due to the specificity of agriculture and significantly lower incomes in the sector compared to the other economic activities.

▪ Direct payments contribute to the maintenance and stabilization of agricultural production and by this means guarantee sustainable supply on agricultural markets.

▪ Direct payments have also an important role in counteracting different climate and economic crises and give farmers the possibility to manage their consequences.

▪ The role of direct payments in increasing the competitiveness and viability of farms is also essential.

#### **Redistribution of the direct payments**

▪ The proposed by the European Commission method for correction of the lower levels of direct payments is a step in the right direction; however we consider it necessary to apply a more ambitious approach for a faster and more considerable convergence of direct payments between Member States.

▪ We support the leaving out of the historical approach in determining the levels of direct payments, as it does not reflect adequately the current situation and does not guarantee a fair support to all EU farmers.

▪ Having regard to all this and taking into consideration that the requirements of the consumers to the supply of agricultural products are practically similar in all Member States, we adhere to an approach towards aligning the levels of direct support EU wide.

#### **Progressive reduction and capping of direct payments**

▪ The introduction of capping of the direct payments in the proposal of the Commission is reasonable and could be considered as a means of more fair distribution of the support.

▪ We support double increase of the thresholds from which the progressive reduction of the payments should start and double increase of the capping of payments.

Member States should have the flexibility when implementing the ceiling to take a decision to utilize the saved funds in the frames of First Pillar or Second Pillar.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

The Single Aid Application allows farmers to obtain direct payments established by the Reg. (EC) n. 73/2009 under the Single Payment Scheme and other area and animals payment schemes.

Submitting the Single Aid Application might be requested:

- Decoupled premiums referred to Title III
- Premium provided for Title III art. 54 – Transitional fruit and vegetable payments concerning “*Ente plums*”
- Premium provided for Title III art. 68 and for the Ministerial decree of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009
  - for improving the quality of the following productions:
    - Beef and veal
    - Sheep meat
    - Olive oil
    - Milk
    - Tobacco
    - Sugar
    - *Danae Racemosa*
  - For rotating systems
  - Contribution for crop, livestock, plants insurance premium

Furthermore, as defined in art. 34.3 of Reg. (EC) n. 1122/2009, specific landscape features, if included in the agricultural parcel, starting from the marketing year 2012 under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), are eligible: hedges, trees in line, buffering strips, walls made of dry stones, terraces, little ponds, trees included in the national register for the monumental trees.

The main data managing tool, concerning the holding’s Single Payment Scheme is the “*dossier*” containing all the essential documents for the enterprise and the holding. Computerized data base, containing all the dossier information and aid applications from farmers, is managed by the paying Institutions accredited by the European Union.

In Italy, the national paying Institution is AGEA (Agency for Agricultural Subsidies), but, after asking for permission and showing to be necessarily qualified, Regional paying Institutions have been accredited for a few years. For those reasons, Tuscany has its own regional paying institution; ARTEA, granting payments for both, the Common Organization of the Markets (C.O.M) and for supports from the Rural Development Programme.

Private bodies (*Centri di Assistenza Autorizzati*, hereinafter CAA) in agreement with the paying Institutions, have an important role in managing CAP interventions, since they are tasked with the settlement and the updating of the “*dossier*” and the receipt and registration of the aid applications. CAAs act as intermediaries between farmers and public administration, helping in some tasks, otherwise administration responsibility.

The main CAAs at work are promoted by professional agricultural organizations; nevertheless they must correspond some rigid quality requirements, meet professional and technological criteria ruled by the Law and undergo periodical controls held by the Administration. CAA is responsible for updating the *Dossier* constantly, with all the changes reported by the holding and the changes of the managers personal data.

The holding, aiming to apply for premiums granted under the schemes ruled by Reg. CE 73/09, shall subscribe the information in the electronic dossier on the ARTEA Information System, appealing to an accredited CAA.

The abstract of the ARTEA report concerning EAGF payments until the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 is reported.

## **Slovakia**

### **Direct support (SAPS)**

The Single Area Payment System (SAPS) is a transitional, simplified income support scheme which was offered to the Member States who joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 (EU-12) as an option at the date of accession in order to facilitate the implementation of direct payments. This scheme replaces (with some exceptions) all direct payments with a single area payment. The level of the payment is obtained by dividing the country's annual financial envelope with its respective utilized agricultural area. It is simpler than the Single Payment System (SPS) because there is no need to establish and administer payment entitlements. However it does not offer to farmers the flexibility of entitlements based on individual needs, such as sales or lease. Originally, SAPS was established for a period of up to 5 years after the accession. Following the Health Check of the CAP Reform, SAPS will remain in place until the end of 2013. The direct payments are phased-in in all the EU-12 MS over a certain transitional period. In order to increase the overall direct support level above the phasing-in level, the MS have the possibility – subject to authorisation by the Commission – to top up any direct payments with complementary national direct payments.

A basic payment that is provided within the SAPS since its introduction in 2004 to the present is the Single Area Payment.

The Single Area Payment shall be provided to the applicant, if agricultural land:

- a) was cultivated as of 30 June 2003,
- b) is at least one hectare of area, and this area can be represented by several blocks of contiguous land parts of the specific type of land with an area of at least 0.3 hectares farmed by one applicant,
- c) has a clearly marked boundaries, unless limited naturally,
- d) is maintained in accordance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC).

Since 2004, the Slovak Republic paid Complementary National Direct Payments (CNDP), which were financed by the state budget and the amount was determined by the Budget Law for the given year. CNDP in 2004-2006 were financed from the Rural Development Plan funds. Since 2007, all CNDP payments had to be paid solely from national budgets.

CNDPs were paid in 2004-2006 for:

- arable crops;
- selected tobacco varieties (varieties of Burley and Virginia);
- hops;
- suckler cows;
- sheep and goats;
- ewes, goats and young sheeps;

Since 2007 there has been a change in direct payments in Slovakia, which in case of SAPS was transposed by the Government regulation no. 81/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by Single Area Payment Scheme with effect from March 1, 2007 and as for the special payments the below regulations were issued:

- Government regulation no. 82/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by special payment for sugar as amended,
- Government regulation no. 213/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in less favoured areas as amended,
- Government regulation no. 266/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by CNDP for large livestock farms as amended,

- Government regulation no. 159/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by CNDP in crop production as amended,
- Government regulation no. 158/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by payment for energy crops as amended.

Payments were provided as follows:

1. from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
  - a) Single Area Payment,
  - b) special payment for sugar,
  - c) special payment for fruits and vegetables.
2. from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
  - a) support for less favoured areas (LFA),
  - b) payment for energy crops.
3. Complementary National Payments
  - a) additional payments per area,
  - b) payment for hops,
  - c) payment for large livestock units (LU).

Single Area Payment Scheme is allowed by the regulation (EC) 73/2009 until December 31, 2013. In Slovakia, the regulation (EC) 1782/2003 was transposed by Government regulation no. 20/2009 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in the form of direct payments to agriculture, as amended (effective 01/02/2009). In accordance with § 11 of the regulation the amount of direct payments determined by a special regulation shall be announced in the Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Other direct supports were regulated by:

- Government regulation no. 114/2009 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by the complementary national payments for crop production as amended,
- Government regulation no. 266/2007 Coll. on the conditions for granting subsidies in agriculture by the Complementary National Direct Payments for large livestock units as amended.

Payments were provided as follows:

1. from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
  - a) Single Area Payment,
  - b) payment for energy crops,
  - c) special payment for sugar,
  - d) special payment for fruit and vegetables,
  - e) transition payment for tomatoes.
2. From the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
  - a) support in less favoured areas (LFA),
  - b) agri-environmental payments,
  - c) support in the sites of Community importance on agricultural land,
  - d) payment for the animal welfare,
  - e) payment for the first forestation of agricultural land,
  - f) forestry-environmental payments,
  - c) support in the sites of Community importance on forest land.
3. From the State budget - complementary direct payments
  - a) complementary area payment,
  - b) payment for hops,
  - c) payment for large livestock units (LU).

Conditions for direct support in agriculture in Slovakia were later changed by the Government regulation no. 488/2010 Coll. on the conditions for granting support in the form of direct payments to agriculture, as amended, with effect from 1.1.2012. In accordance with § 11 of the regulation the amount of direct payments determined by a special regulation shall be announced in the Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Payments were provided as follows:

1. from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
  - a) Single Area Payment,
  - b) payment for dairy cattle,
  - c) special payment for sugar,
  - d) special payment for fruit and vegetables,
2. from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
  - a) support in less favoured areas (LFA),
  - b) agri-environmental payments,
  - c) support in the sites of Community importance on agricultural land,
  - d) payment for the animal welfare,
  - e) payments for the first forestation of agricultural land,
  - f) forestry - environmental payments,
  - g) support in the sites of Community importance on forest land.

## 4 Instruments for internal market regulation – quotas, intervention purchase, etc.

### ***Bulgaria***

#### **Greening of direct payments**

- It is very important to achieve as considerable ecological benefits as possible without endangering the competitiveness of the sector when introducing a green direct payment.
- Although the application of a green element has its rationale, the 30 % share proposed is too high. Member States should be able to apply the green payment within certain limits, thus being in a position to address ecological problems and needs, specific for the relevant country.
- We consider that the proposal of 7% ecological focus area is very high and will affect in a negative manner the economic viability of the farmers in the European Union.
- Due to the different purpose and the different characteristics of the particular components of the direct payments, it is reasonable that they should be independent of each other.
- The binding of the basic direct payment to observance of the requirements for cross compliance is a sufficient condition as regards the ecological benefits in order to grant this type of support. The eventual imposing of sanctions when not observing the green activities should not lead to reductions of the basic direct payment.

#### **Voluntary coupled support**

- For Bulgaria, keeping the possibility for implementation of the voluntary coupled support in certain sectors is important –
  - because it will allow to improve the ratio of the payments in the arable and livestock sectors.
  - because it acts as an incentive for maintaining the current levels of production in sensitive sectors where other forms of support cannot be utilized.

#### **Payment for young farmers /Small farmers support**

- We consider the proposal to allocate up to 2% of the financial package for direct payments for additional support to young farmers -rational as it will stimulate the improvement of the demographic structure of employees in the EU agricultural sector.
- Small farmers support in the form of a special scheme is also an appropriate proposal.

#### Challenges

- Dynamic of land use ➤ Farm register
- Better targeting of support towards active farmers
- Greening of direct payments
- Distribution of direct payments-80% of beneficiaries received around 20% of the direct payments in 2010 (18.4% in the EU-12) ➤ progressive reduction and capping; small farmers scheme

- Maintenance of economic and environmental vulnerable sectors ➤ coupled support

The objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy, include the stabilization of market prices of agricultural products. The resources for market support provided to Bulgaria are not explicitly mentioned in the Accession Treaty of Bulgaria to the EU, because they are formed on the basis of a specific annual market measures. National co-financing for market measures cannot be provided. The preliminary estimate for 2007-2013 provides for expenditure for the implementation of market measures amounting to approximately 876 million Euros (1 713 million lev). In 2007, market measures are implemented in two sectors - «Market mechanisms» and «Wine». For 2007 refunds were paid worth of 14 802.15 euro (28 950.04 lev), and at the beginning of March 2008 - 7 716.92 euro (15 092.80 lev). Under measure "Restructuring and conversion of wine grape vines" in the previous year the funds used amount to 177 176 euro. State Fund Agriculture's regional structures are accepting applications for cofinancing premiums for insuring agricultural production. The budget for 2013 is 248 000 euro. It will cover part of the expenses for insuring crops against hail, torrential rain, flood, storm and frost. The candidates must grow at least 0.5 ha of orchards or 0.3 ha of vegetable crops (0.1 ha for vegetable crops grown in greenhouses). The application deadline is August 31.

There is a special scheme called "Refunds for agricultural products exported to third countries". The scheme "Refunds for agricultural products exported to third countries" is a market measure managed directly by the European Commission (EC) and funded by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF). The scheme has operated in Bulgaria since 2007 and aims to boost the export of agricultural and processed agricultural goods by compensating traders for the difference between prices in the EU and in third countries.

#### Milk

Legislation related to the intervention of skimmed-milk powder and butter:

In 2008 the National milk quota for Bulgaria is 979 000 tones, 889 000 tones have to be delivered to the milk processing companies and 90 000 tones are for direct slaes.

#### Fruits and vegetables

In 2007 there was a reform in the Common organization of the agricultural markets for fruits and vegetables. In Bulgaria there is a National strategy for sustainable operational programs of organizations of fruits and vegetables producers in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2009-2013.

#### Wine

In the wine sector there is a National program for support the wine sector for the period 2008/2009-2013/2014.

#### Sugar

The Bulgarian quota for sugar was cancelled in 2008 under the Sugar restructuring scheme. The Bulgarian quota for isoglucose is 89 198 tones.

## Meat

In Bulgaria the relevant legislation is the Law of implementation of the common organization of the agricultural markets of EU and several ordinances.

## Honey

Concerning the honey production and beekeeping the following acts are in force: In Bulgaria the legislation in this sector includes: Law of beekeeping and Ordinance N. 27/10.07.2002 for registration and identification of the bee families. There is also a National program for beekeeping for the period 2011-2013 approved by the European Commission.

## *Tuscany (Italy)*

### The regulation of the market

In Italy interventions under PAC, to support and regulate markets, for the period 2007 to 2013, are divided in two main categories:

#### **1) Interventions to support the markets**

Also the following indirect interventions are considered supportive, such as:

- Public interventions against market crisis
- Interventions for the so called “storages”, which means the recall of some products to keep up the market prices.

Then, some structured specific programmes have been arranged to support the investments for reorganizing some strategic areas:

- National Plan to support wine-growing industry
- Strategic National Plan for food and agriculture industry

To conclude, some specific programmes have been arranged, to promote the use of agricultural products or for a specific target:

- Programme “Fruits at school”
- Programme “Milk at school”
- Programme “Food aids for people in need”

#### **2) Interventions for market controlling**

Market controlling interventions, generally, consist in the direct application of Community Regulations enacted to control some production areas:

- Milk quotas, setting out, until 2015, a limitation scheme to apply within the Member States.
- Sugar quotas, cutting the established production quota by half and causing the closure of some important sugar refinery.
- Tobacco industry reconversion, with a series of interventions to support tobacco producers.

In the markets regulation framework have also been undertaken interventions to improve the quality and the marketing of the productions:

- Milk package (concentrating the offering, contract rules for raw milk)
- Settlement of the minimum quality for products and trading (including regulations for marks of origin)
- Valorisation of the marks of origin for wine
- Trade with other countries

New planning for the period from 2014 to 2020 will introduce important changes, aiming to a more precise income support for farmers. The main changes will be related to:

- The single COM, that will simplify the procedures and standardize part of the interventions related to the markets.
- Strengthening of the inter-branch trading and the producers Organizations.
- Specific interventions to prevent the risks by adverse climatic events, animal or plants disease and market crisis.

## **Slovakia**

### **Intervention Purchase**

Intervention Purchase is being realized in the sector of cereals, for milk and butter.

#### *Cereals*

Legislation related to the intervention of cereals:

Commission Regulation (EU) no. 1272/2009 of 11 December 2009 laying down common detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards buying-in and selling of agricultural products under public intervention

Commission Regulation (EU) no. 742/2010 of 17 August 2010 amending Regulation (EU) No. 1272/2009 laying down common detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2007 as regards buying-in and selling of agricultural products under public intervention

Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1125/2010 of 3 December 2010 determining the intervention centres for cereals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1173/2009

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 884/2006 of 21 June 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 as regards the financing by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) of intervention measures in the form of public storage operations and the accounting of public storage operations by the paying agencies of the Member States

Cereals intervention in accordance with relevant regulations is being carried out each year automatically. Public intervention at fixed price is related to 3 million tons of wheat and 0 t of other cereals. Offers on cereal intervention are accepted from November, 1 to May, 31 of the following year, and their delivery must be made no later than June 30. Administration, manipulation and control of the entire system of intervention purchase, storage and sale of cereals is carried out by the Agricultural Paying Agency. The role of intervention purchase of cereals is the withdrawal of cereals surplus from the free market of the EU and also serves as the "safety net" for producers if they fail to sell the commodity on the free market. The minimum quantity that can be offered for intervention is 80 tons. Slovak Republic has 10 intervention centres: Bratislava, Trnava, Danube Wednesday, Nitra, Rimavská Sobota Dvory nad Žitavou, Bánovce nad Bebravou, Veľký Krtíš, Martin, Košice with a capacity of 777,250 tonnes.

#### *Milk and butter*

Legislation related to the intervention of skimmed-milk powder and butter:

Commission Regulation (EU) no. 1272/2009 of 11 December 2009 laying down common detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards buying-in and selling of agricultural products under public intervention

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 884/2006 of 21 June 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 as regards the financing by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) of intervention measures in the form of public storage operations and the accounting of public storage operations by the paying agencies of the Member States

Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2220/85 of 22 July 1985 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of securities for agricultural products

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin

Intervention purchase begins on March, 1 and ends on August, 31 to a maximum of 109 000 t for milk and 30000 t for butter in the whole EU. The minimum quantity that can be offered for intervention is 20 tons.

### Milk Quotas

Legislation related to milk quotas:

Commission Regulation (EC) No 595/2004 of 30 March 2004 laying down detailed rules for applying Council Regulation (EC) No 1788/2003 establishing a levy in the milk and milk products sector

Commission Regulation (EU) No 479/2010 of 1 June 2010 laying down rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 326/2012 of 17 April 2012 on the division between 'deliveries' and 'direct sales' of national milk quotas fixed for 2011/2012 in Annex IX to Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007

## 5 Cross-compliance – legislation, rules

Regulations concerning public, animals and plants health etc..., must be respected by all the farmers applying for a direct payment from the European Union.

Article 3 Regulation EC 1782/2003 concerning the reform of Common Agricultural Policy “ *A farmer receiving direct payments shall respect the Statutory Management Requirements listed in Annex III, in a given calendar year annexed, and the good agricultural and environmental condition referred to in Article 5*”

The cross-compliance principle: established a direct connection between a payment (income support) and the respect of some public regulations, aiming to bring the Common Agricultural Policy closer to the citizens and consumer expectations and the need revealed by the society.

Acts and rules are divided according to the following typologies: **statutory management requirements (SMR)** and **good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAEC)**.

SMR are effective national legislations that must be respected but currently under control in order to grant direct aids.

GAEC are rules established at national level to keep lands in good agricultural and environmental conditions.

Authorities from Member states provide to the farmers the list of SMR and GAEC that must be respected.

Farmers must respect cross-compliance obligations on every agricultural areas of the holding receiving direct payments, even on the land for which they are not receiving any aid.

The cross-compliance application is progressive, some acts and rules are already effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, others became effective the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and others will be effective in January 2007.

Statutory management requirements, derives from Community Regulations (referring to animal identification and public, animal and plants health) and Community Directives (concerning the environment, animal identification, public health, animals health and welfare), implemented by national regulation and specific regional implementations.

Good agricultural environment conditions have been fixed to reach four main goals:

Protect soil from erosion;

Maintain soil organic matter levels through appropriate agricultural practices;

Maintain soil structure through appropriate measures;

Ensure a minimum level of maintenance of habitats.

### Challenges in applying cross-compliance

With reference to SMR, difficulties concerning the adaptation of the holdings depend on the complexity of regulations and the lack of clarity on their applications: for example, looking at

Acts A1 and A5 on the conservation of wild birds and on the conservation natural habitats, two kinds of problem arise: on one side, the difficulty in retrieval and interpretation of the cartography allowing the farmers to make sure that their own land are included in *Natura 2000* network, on the other side the difficulty of recognise “protected” animal and vegetable species for which farmers need a certain degree of information and training. Concerning the Directives on animal welfare that will become effective as SMR from the next year, to put them into practice too, farmers will need a certain degree of knowledge about the standards to be respected. More information and more information about it.

Table 7 Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC)		
Issue	Compulsory standards	Conditions
Soil erosion: Protect soil through appropriate measures	Minimum soil cover	To ensure minimum 40% of vegetation cover by winter crops, perennial fodder, intermediary crop or stubble on arable land with 12° average slope between 1 November and 1 March.
	Minimum land management reflecting site-specific conditions	To avoid the rill erosion and to prevent over 20 cm depth erosion furrow from reappearance through appropriate measures for arable land management.
	Retain terraces	Liquidation of existing vineyard and orchard terraces is forbidden.
Soil organic matter: Maintain soil organic matter levels through appropriate practices	Crop rotations	To prevent from cultivating the same root crop during the two consecutive years on the same area.
	Arable stubble management	Burning of stubbles and crop residues of cereals, legumes and oil – bearing plants, after the harvest – time is forbidden.
Soil structure: Maintain soil structure through appropriate measures	Appropriate machinery use	Keep off the agricultural land in time when compaction or waterlog of soil is possible. Not relevant for time period necessary for crop harvest in compliance with agricultural practice.
Minimum level of maintenance: Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats	Minimum livestock stocking rates and appropriate regimes	<p>a) To respect minimum weighting 0,2 of livestock unit of animals *) on 1 hectare of grasslands and on one hectare of grown forage crops,**) area of which is more than 20ha, during the whole calendar year. Exception: Weighting is not relevant for applicants listed in agroenvironmental measures and when forage crops are grown for purposes of generating material production or they are used for energy purposes in own energy facilities.</p> <p>b) To maintain all grasslands areas through cutting or grazing and additionally through mulching during the whole growing season with respect to the altitude.</p> <p>Exception: Exception for grasslands maintenance is</p>



		allowed for applicants in accordance with special regulation 33).															
	Altitude (meters above the sea level):	First operation on grasslands - grazing, cutting or mulching*** must be done at the latest:															
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>grazing</td> <td>cutting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 - 400</td> <td>1.6.</td> <td>22.6.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>401 - 600</td> <td>8.6.</td> <td>8.7.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>601 - 800</td> <td>9.7.</td> <td>29.7.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>over 800</td> <td>15.7.</td> <td>8.8.</td> </tr> </table>		grazing	cutting	0 - 400	1.6.	22.6.	401 - 600	8.6.	8.7.	601 - 800	9.7.	29.7.	over 800	15.7.	8.8.
	grazing	cutting															
0 - 400	1.6.	22.6.															
401 - 600	8.6.	8.7.															
601 - 800	9.7.	29.7.															
over 800	15.7.	8.8.															
		c) To remove the cut green cover from meadows till 14 days after cutting at the latest. Not relevant when Soil structure condition is applied.															
	Protection of permanent pasture	To avoid grasslands transformation into arable land on 0,30 ha (and more) of continuous land parcel. 34) Burning grasslands is forbidden.															
	Retention of landscape features	To prevent from erosion and liquidation of land features on arable land such as solitaire plants, avenue trees, groups of trees, wetlands and boundaries. ****)															
	Avoiding the encroachment of unwanted vegetation on agricultural land	<p>a) To avoid encroachment of trees at the end of growing season, to remove invasive species of plants and tenacious weeds including non-grazed and fatty areas.</p> <p>b) To maintain permanently agricultural land areas in a manner avoiding its cover by weeds.</p> <p>c) Agricultural land declared as an orchard, vineyard or hop garden is cultivated; cultivating is understood as visible care of planting and space between rows.</p> <p>d) Arable land is cultivated in a year of application submitting in compliance with agricultural practice and production focus of applicant.</p>															
Protection and management of water	Protect water against pollution and run-off, and manage the use of water	Where use of water for irrigation is subject to authorisation, compliance with authorisation procedures for surface or underground water use for irrigation or agreement with state irrigation systems management is necessary.															
	Buffer strips along water courses and uncovered underground waters	To prevent from inorganic and organic fertilisers containing nitrogen usage in buffer strips along water courses and uncovered underground waters up to 10 meters from the coast line on land parcel registered in the LPIS. *****)															





SMR No.	Area	Legislation - EU	Issued	In Bulgaria valid from
1	Environment	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012
2		Council Directive 80/68/EEC of 17 December 1979 on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances <sup>1</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> December 1979	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012
3		Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture	12 <sup>th</sup> June 1986	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012
4		Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources	12 <sup>th</sup> December 1991	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012
5		Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	21 <sup>st</sup> May 1992	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012
6	Public, animal and plant health	Council Directive 2008/71/EC of 15 July 2008 on the identification and registration of pigs	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
7		Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014 (but already implemented)
8		Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2004	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
9		Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market	15 <sup>th</sup> July 1991	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
10		Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of $\beta$ -agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC	29 <sup>th</sup> April 1996	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
11		Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2002	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
12		Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2001	1 <sup>st</sup> of January

<sup>1</sup> end of validity: 21/12/2013; Repealed by 300L0060

		Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies		2014
13		Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC (Text with EEA relevance.)	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2003	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
14		Council Directive 92/119/EEC of 17 December 1992 introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease	17 <sup>th</sup> December 1992	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2014
15		Council Directive 2000/75/EC of 20 November 2000 laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2016
16	Animal welfare	Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves (Codified version)	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2008	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2016
17		Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs (Codified version)	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2008	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012
18		Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes	20 <sup>th</sup> July 1998	1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2012

### **Bulgaria**

The objective of Cross Compliance is to contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture and making the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) more compatible with the expectations of society at large.

Since joining the EU, Bulgaria has not been fully obliged to meet the same conditions as old members. Implementation of cross – compliance in Bulgaria started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012 for Statutory Management Requirements 1 to 5. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014 the SMR 6 to 14 are subjects to cross checks. Statutory Management Requirements 17 and 18 in terms of Animal welfare will be implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016. New Member States which apply the SAPS scheme of direct aid had to implement farm management rules from 2009. It is proposed to allow a three-year phasing-in period for this. For Bulgaria and Romania, this phase-in period began in 2012.

In Bulgaria there is adopted Methodics for the implementation of the Cross compliance in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian legislation in the field of food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection is listed below.

#### **A. Food Safety & Traceability of foods**

Bulgarian legislation concerning food safety is in full compliance with the EU requirements and is in several directions depending on the products and foods it refers to.

The Food law states that manufactures and merchants implement and apply a system of risk assessment and critical point control for the production of safe foods coordinated by the State sanitary control and the State veterinary food control.

The system is based on:



1. analyzing the potential risks of food contamination in performing the manufacturing operations within the site;
2. setting the stages of the technological process, where there are possibilities for the potential food risks to appear, and making a decision which are the most significant ones for food safety – critical points;
3. establishing and implementing procedures for monitoring and control of the defined risks in the critical points;
4. defining and control of the corrective actions in case of diversions from the critical points under item 3;
5. regular review of the activities under items 1 - 4 with regard to their efficiency or updating in the case of changes in the manufacturing process and/or the manufactured food;
6. storing the information under items 1 - 5 for a period of three years.

It is stated in the Bulgarian Veterinary Medical Act that the persons dealing with production, processing, storage, transportation and marketing of food products implement into the manufacturing process a system for quality and safety control of products approved by the State veterinary food control authorities.

The Rules on the implementation of the Veterinary Medical Act specify that the system is applied through:

1. rules of good production and hygiene practice;
2. specialists appointed by the site owner in charge of the system;
3. description of the manufactured goods and their application;
4. description of the production process sequence;
5. risk analysis of all stages in the production process;
6. defining the control and critical control points (CCP) in the production process;
7. defining the critical limits for each CCP;
8. constant monitoring and control of the parameters in the CCP;
9. corrective actions in case of deviation from the monitored parameters;
10. control of the hygiene and quality parameters of the products;
11. keeping documentation with the data

The specific requirements to milk used for human consumption have been implemented by Ordinance No. 30 dated 20 Nov 2000, which is about the veterinary food requirements in the production of raw milk, construction and operation of dairy farms, production and marketing of heat treated milk and dairy products. The ordinance stipulates the implementation of the Good manufacturing practices (GMP) in the production of meat and meat products.

ORDINANCE No. 7 dated 19 Mar 2002 refers to the veterinary requirements to animals for slaughter, and for the manufacture and marketing of fresh meat, while Ordinance No. 15 dated 25 April 2002 is about the veterinary requirements to poultry for slaughter and for the manufacture and marketing of fresh poultry meat.

Very important are Ordinance No. 31 dated 29 July 2004 for the maximum admissible food contaminants (promulgated State Gazette, issue 88 dated 08 Oct 2004), as well as Ordinance No. 47 dated 28 Dec 2004 for the requirements to food supplements (promulgated State Gazette, issue 5 dated 14 Jan 2005).

Food traceability is discussed in Ordinance about the requirements for food labeling and promotion – State Gazette 62/2000. It contains the requirements about the contents of labels and the methods to identify the manufacturer and the batch. Apart from that in preparing Good manufacturing practices each company prepares a Program for critical situations. A critical team is appointed that is to confiscate batches of suspicious or unsafe foods from the market. That is related to the company documentation in compliance with which each batch of food products can be traced after it has left the manufacturing company.

## **B. Animal welfare**

Animal welfare in the course of rearing is the subject of a number of regulatory documents, such as Ordinance No. 26 dated 5 Nov 1999 about the minimum requirements for humane attitude in rearing swine (promulgated State Gazette No. 99 of 1999) and Ordinance No. 30 dated 29 Nov 1999 about the minimum requirements for protection and humane attitude in rearing calves (promulgated State Gazette No. 108 of 1999).

During transportation of animals and slaughter in slaughter houses the requirements of Ordinance No. 4 dated 10 Feb 2000 have to be observed about the veterinary medical requirements for humane attitude to animals during transportation and Ordinance No. 20 dated 15 May 2002 for reducing to a minimum animal suffering at slaughter.

## **C. Environmental protection**

In the Republic of Bulgaria the legal regulations in the field of ecology comprises a number of national documents adopted as acts of the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly. These can be classified in ten basic groups:

### 1. Overall structure and administration

Generally these are rules and regulations, concerning the activities of various departments closely related to ecology and environmental protection from harmful impact. Such are the regulatory rules of the Ministry of environment and waters, as well as the Regional Inspectorates. Rules about the structure and work of the company for managing the activities of environmental protection.

### 2. Preventive work

Preventive work is the most important one which has to be carried out for environmental and water protection in the Republic of Bulgaria.

First is the Environmental Protection Act (promulgated State Gazette, No. 91/25 Sep 2002, final amendment State Gazette No. 77 dated 27 Sep 2005). The main tasks solved by him are environmental protection for the present and future generations and protection of people's health; preserving biodiversity in conformity with the natural biogeographically characteristics of the country; protection and usage of the components of the environment; control and management of factors damaging the environment; establishment and operation of the National system for monitoring environment; the economic organization of activities for environmental protection.

A number of ordinances related to various issues in the preventive work are included, too.

### 3. Operative control and management of harmful chemical substances

An Act for protection from the harmful impact of chemical substances, agents and products (promulgated State Gazette No. 10 / 04 Feb 2000) is included here, as well as ordinances, related to that matter.

### 4. Waters

Water Act (promulgated State Gazette, No. 67 / 27 July 1999)

The regulations comprise Rules for organization of work and staff at the basin directorates (promulgated State Gazette No. 10 / 2002)

Rules for the structure and work of the Supreme consultancy water board (promulgated State Gazette No. 39 / 2002)

Structural rules for the work, structure, organization and number of employees at the basin directorates (promulgated State Gazette No. 25 / 2003).

### 5. Waste management

Act on waste management (promulgated State Gazette No. 86 / 30 Sep 2003)

### 6. Air protection against pollution

Act on atmospheric air protection (promulgated State Gazette No. 45 / 28 May 1996)

There are a number of ordinances related to admissible emission regulations (concentrations in waste gases) of harmful substances, emitted in the atmospheric air by stationary and mobile sources.

7. Soil and ground

Act on underground deposits (promulgated State Gazette No. 23 / 12 Mar 1999)

8. Biodiversity

Act on biodiversity (promulgated State Gazette No. 77 / 09 Aug 2002, amended and supplemented No. 88 dated 04 Nov 2005)

Act on medicinal plants (promulgated State Gazette No. 29 / 07 Apr 2000)

9. Protected territories

Act on protected territories (promulgated State Gazette No. 133 / 11 Nov 1998)

10. Noise from machines and equipment

Act on noise protection in the environment (promulgated State Gazette No. 74 / 13 Sep 2005 in effect as of 01 Jan 2006)

In the next tables are presented the Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions and the Statutory Management Requirements of the EU and their validity for Bulgaria.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

But we have more details about the application of the GAEC at regional level, as Tuscany Region every year had the right to decide on it, as foreseen in MD 1787 of 2004. Rules have been adapted to the needs of the territory, even if the regional perspective is still not appropriate and too wide. Problems of adaptation, in this case are connected to the lack of territorial differentiation of the rules under the same region and the lack of flexibility in understanding the fulfilment of the obligations, compared to the objective concerned. Acts and cross-compliance regulations with the additions provided for by the Tuscany Region are following.

Effective Acts and Rules concerns the environment, Public Health, animal Health, identification and registration of animals and Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions.

- **S.M.R.**

***Cross-compliance: environment***

- *Act A1: conservation of wild birds*

The Act covers the safeguard of wild birds species in Europe. Special Protection Areas have been established to guarantee the survival of some threatened species. Holdings having areas situated in an SPA must respect the requirements fixed by the Region, specific for each area, or, where the Region have not made any provision for this, shall apply provisions in Decree of Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 concerning “Natura 2000 Network, minimum uniform criteria to establish conservation measures for Special Areas for Conservation and for Special Protection Areas”.

- *Act A2: protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances*

The act aims to avoid the pollution of the ground water by substances considered polluting. Farmers must be allowed to discharge wastewater by the competent authority as foreseen in Legislative decree n°152/99 and ensure the fuel dispersion, mining and petroleum oil, lubricating oils, filters spent batteries free conditions in order not to spread dangerous substances through soil and subsoil.

- *Act A3: soil protection through sewage sludge*

The act concerns the use of sewage sludge in agriculture. Farmers using sewage sludge as amendments in agriculture shall be allowed to, pursuant to Legislation Decree 99/1992. Furthermore, administrative obligations concerning the act are different depending on the

work done (the farmer makes land available for the spreading, uses sludge or produces sludge making them usable for agricultural purposes).

- Act 4: protection of water against pollution caused by nitrates of agricultural origins

The act concerns holding having lands situated in an area vulnerable to nitrates; in Tuscany those areas are: Massaciuccoli Lake and its catchment areas, 2) coastal area between Rosignano Marittimo and Castagneto Carducci, 3) Area of the channel Maestro della Chiana, 4) coastal area between San Vincenzo and Fossa Calda, 5) coastal area of Laguna di Orbetello and Burano Lake. In those areas must respect the requirements imposed by the Region about environmental protection from excessive addition of nitrogen (administrative obligations, obligations concerning the storage of waste, obligations concerning the diminishing of nitrogenized fertilization and the reduction of the discharge of manure etc.

- Act A5: conservation of natural habitats.

The act concerns the safeguard of the wild flora. A European directive (directive 92/43/EEC) established the “Natura 2000” network consisting in SPA (above mentioned) and the Sites of Community Importance (SCI). Holdings having areas situated in an SPA must respect the requirements fixed by the Region, specific for each area, or, where the Region have not made any provision for this, shall apply provisions in Decree of Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 concerning “Natura 2000 network, minimum uniform criteria to establish conservation measures for Special Areas for Conservation and for Special Protection Areas”.

**Cross-compliance: public and animals health, identification and registration of animals.**

- Acts A6, A7, A8 e A8 Bis: identification and registration of animals.

The acts cover the identification and the registration of bovine, buffalo, swine, sheep animals and concern farms having livestock of the above mentioned species.

**Cross-compliance: animals and plants health**

- Act B9: placing of plants protection products on the market

Decree 290/2001 is the national reference regulation on production, selling and use of plants protection products.

According to the toxicological differentiation of the products used, obligations shall differ; holdings using plants protection products must, keep a register of the processing carried out, respect product usage limitations, use a personal protective equipment, store products properly. For very toxic, toxic and dangerous products shall necessarily be in possession of a licence for purchase and use.

- Act B10: prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having an hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-aagonists

Legislative decree 336/1999 is the national reference regulation. Holdings are not allowed to use the substances listed in the Decree, unless for therapeutic use authorized by the veterinarian and stated on the specific register.

- Act B11: general principles and requirements on food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and procedures in matters of food safety

The Act concerns the respect of specific obligations provided for by the food safety regulation for every production sector (animals, vegetables, raw milk, eggs and feed).

- Acts B12, B13, B14, B15: provisions for the prevention, the control and the eradication of specific epizootic diseases.

Those acts concern the control of several diseases of bovines, sheep, and pigs. At national level, acts might be summarised according to the following prohibitions for holdings:

- Prohibition of feeding ruminants with animal feed meal.

- Prohibition of bury animals dead in the holding and the necessity of disposing of dead animals by incineration in specific authorized systems.

***Cross-compliance: animal welfare***

- Acts C16, C17, C18: principles concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

The regulation concerns the protection of calves, the protection of pigs and the protection of animals as described in Directive 98/58/EC

- **GAEC**

***Issue 1: Soil erosion***

Standard 1.1 Minimum land management reflecting site-specific conditions:

It concerns cultivated arable land including set-aside employed in no-food and organic cultivations, areas no longer used for cultivation purposes maintained in good agricultural and environmental conditions and permanent pasture.

Implementation: in pending arable lands, in which erosion is evident (brooks), temporary furrows must be done at the same time of the sowing. Furrows must cross the steepest slope line and shall not be farer than 80 metres from each other. Derogation is possible for land with an high steepness in which motor vehicles might have low stability. In this case, grassy strips, crossing the steepest slope line, whose breadth shall not be less than 5 metres and shall not be farer than 60 metres to each other, shall be arranged. In areas no longer used for cultivation purposes and in permanent pastures it is forbidden to level the territory without permission and *crownings* shall be maintained.

Standard 1.2: Minimum soil cover:

On arable lands no longer used for cultivation purposes with evident erosion (brooks), grass must be ensured during the whole year..

All lands presenting erosion, with no cropping, must ensure vegetation cover for at least 90 days in a row between 15<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> May, otherwise, specific procedures to protect the soil shall be adopted (by fissure, sub-soiling, etc...).

Standard 1.3: maintenance of terraces:

The regulation covers all the agricultural areas and avoid the elimination of existing terrace cultivation limited below by a dry wall or a slope; derogation is provided only for remodelling the cultivation but still keeping its functionality.

***Issue 2: Soil organic matter***

***Regulation 2: Maintain soil organic matter levels through appropriate measures***

Standard 2.1: Arable stubble management

The regulation shall apply to arable land and provides for the prohibition of burning arable stubble, straw and vegetation existing at the end of the production cycles of grassland and/or arable land .

Standard 2.2: Crops rotation

The regulation shall apply to all arable land and provide for the crops rotation to ensure that cereal monoculture will not last more than 5 years. Derogations for rice monoculture are provided if the maintenance of soil organic matter levels is proved by assay in accordance with official procedures.

***Issue 3: Soil structure***

***Regulation 3: Maintain soil structure through appropriate measures***

- Standard 3.1: Appropriate machinery use

The regulation concerns all arable land and establishes that soil tillage must be done in appropriate humidity conditions and the deterioration of the soil structure must be avoided.

**Issue 4: Minimum level of maintenance****Regulation 4: Maintenance of lands and habitats through appropriate measures****- Standard 4.1: Protection of permanent pastures**

It concerns permanent pasture land and provide for the prohibition of reducing permanent pasture area and the exclusion of the soil tillage except for those connected to the renewal and the increase of plant cover and the flood conveyance management. Prohibition of converting the permanent pasture area to other uses, under Community Importance Sites, Specific Protection Areas and Special Conservation Areas.

**- Standard 4.2: Avoiding of encroachment of unwanted vegetation on agricultural land**

It concerns all areas but olive-growing, wine-growing and permanent pasture areas. Commitments provided for concern the carrying out of at least one meadow mowing a year. It is provided for the prohibition of mowing for at least 120 days in a row between the 15<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> September every year. For Special Protection Areas and Community Importance Sites the prohibition cannot be inferior to 150 days in a row between the 15<sup>th</sup> February and the 30<sup>th</sup> September every year. Provision of derogations is made for land normally cropped and managed and in case of mowing to avoid the spreading of the weeds.

**- Standard 4.3: Maintenance of olive groves and vines in good vegetative condition**

The regulation provides for pruning at least once every 5 years, brambles and weeds disposal once every 3 years and shoot pruning at least once every 3 years for olive growing plantations. For wine growing plantations, winter pruning must be done within the 30<sup>th</sup> May every year and the disposal of brambles and weeds must be done once every 3 years. Derogation is granted in case of plants protection causes.

**- Standard 4.4: Maintenance of the key features of the landscape**

In order to ensure the minimum level of maintenance of the land and avoiding the habitats deterioration, on every agricultural land has been established the compliance of national and regional provisions about the protection of the key features of the landscape, including the maintenance of dry walls, hedges, ponds, isolated, in groups or in line trees etc...

**- Standard 4.5: Prohibition of the grubbing up the olive trees**

In order to ensure the minimum level of maintenance of olive-growing lands, the prohibition of the grubbing up of olive trees is established. Exception is made for authorised replanting or authorised grubbing up under the regional law 23/2000 establishing the regional register of holdings.

**- Standard 4.6: minimum livestock stocking rates or/and appropriate regimes**

It concerns permanent pastures and provides for the respect of pasture livestock density per hectare of pasture area (the maximum cannot be higher than 4 LU/Ha/year and the minimum cannot be lower than 0,2 LU/Ha/year). For permanent grassland and pasture meadow, alternatively to grazing it is considered appropriate mowing at least once a year.

**Issue 5: Protection and management of water****Regulation 5: Protection and management of water through appropriate measures****- Standard 5.1: respect of authorisation procedures where the use of water for irrigation is subject to authorisation**

In order to ensure a minimum level of protection of water, is provided for the compliance of the derivation procedures of public water through a concession or a licence for drawing upon water when for free or for consideration the use of water for irrigation requires authorization, in accordance with provision in force.

Commitments concern: the possession of concession or licence for drawing upon water delivered by the Province and the respect, if that is provided, of the concerning specification of concession prepared by the Province.

**- Standard 5.2: establishment of buffer strips along water course**

The regulation concern all the agricultural land, excepting for olive tree plantations and permanent pastures and provides for the presence of a buffer strip along surface water bodies, rivers or channels. If there is no buffer strip, the farmer must ensure its establishment. Surface water bodies means typified water bodies as established by the Regional Government in the law 20/06. Sluices, Ditch collectors, confluents of irrigation water, suspended and water bodies having edges higher than the field establishing a barrier between the water and the field. Buffer strip is permanently covered of grass (naturally or sowed) or brush or trees (spontaneous or from the sowing), 5 metres wide.

- **Minimum requirements concerning the use of fertilizer and plant protection products**

- Fertilizers**

- Minimum requirements concerning the use of livestock effluents in holdings situated in Ordinary Areas, that are not vulnerable to nitrates

Those requirements are applied only to holdings acceding to the agri-environmental payments of the Rural Development Plan and referring to administrative obligations, obligations concerning the effluent storage, prohibitions concerning the use of effluents (of time and space) provided for by DPGR 46/R/08 and obligations concerning the respect of the ceilings provided, that cannot be higher than 170kilos/Ha/year for organic nitrogen.

- Requirements concerning phosphorus pollution

In order to avoid the long term asset of phosphorus on clay soil texture land and to reduce the risk of leaching of this element in groundwater, it is expected from the holding to apply the provisions provided for by the Act A3 and for vulnerable areas by the Act A4 of cross-compliance.

- Pesticides**

- Minimum requirements concerning the use of plant protection products

Those requirements are applied only to holdings accessing to agri-environmental payments of the Rural Development Plan and the they refers to the obligation of functional check for spraying equipment (sprayers and boom sprayers), at least every 5 years, and to provisions rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation Holdings must ensure that spray equipment shall be in good functional conditions, by functional check and the issue of a certification delivered by a technician or a specific centre.

## **Slovakia**

Since joining the EU, Slovakia is not obliged fully to meet the same conditions as old members. Implementation of cross – compliance in Slovakia started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 for Statutory Management Requirements 1 to 8. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 the SMR 9 to 15 are subjects to cross checks, too. Statutory Management Requirements 16 to 18 in terms of Animal welfare are implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

Table 9 provide EU directives and regulations within Statutory Management Requirements and their implementation into Slovak legislation.

Table 9 Legislation of the Slovak Republic			
Act No.	SMR implemented into the Act	Title	Valid from
369/2012	-	Regulation No. 369/2012 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic amending Regulation No 488/2010 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic the provisions on direct payment support for agriculture laid in the form of direct payments	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2010
543/2002	1	Act of National Council SR No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2002
24/2003		Decree of Ministry of Environment SR No. 24/2003 Coll. implementing Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2003
579/2008		Decree of Ministry of Environment SR No. 579/2008 Coll. amending the Decree of Ministry of Environment SR No. 24/2003 Coll. implementing Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2008
384/2009	2	Act No. 384/2009 Coll. amending the Water Act 364/2004 and the Act of the Slovak National Council 372/1990 Coll. on offences and on amendments to the Act 569/2007 Coll. on geological works (Geology Act) as amended by the Act 515/2008 Coll.	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2009
364/2004		Act no. 364/2004 Coll. on Water and on amendment of the Act of the Slovak National Council 372/1990 Coll. on offences	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2004
188/2003	3	Act 188/2003 Coll. on the Application of Sewage Sludge and Bottom Sediments in the soil and amending Act No. 223/2001 Coll. on waste and amending certain laws, as amended	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2003
203/2009		Act No. 203/2009 Coll. amending Act 188/2003 Coll. on the Application of Sewage Sludge and Bottom Sediments in the soil and amending Act No. 223/2001 Coll. on waste and amending certain laws, as amended, Act No. 364/2004 Coll. and amending the Act 136/2000 Coll. on fertilizers, as amended	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
338/2005	4	Decree of Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 338/2005 Coll. laying down details on the procedure for the collection of soil samples, the manner and extent of implementation of agrochemical	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2005

		soil testing, identifying soil properties of forest land and soil fertilizing evidence and nutritional status of plants on agricultural land and forest land	
199/2008	4	Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 199/2008 Coll., which Determines the Program of Agricultural Activities in Declared Vulnerable Areas	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
462/2011	4	Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 462/2011 Coll. amending the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 199/2008 Coll., which Determines the Program of Agricultural Activities in Declared Vulnerable Areas	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2011
136/2000		Act No. 136/2000 on fertilizers	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2000
617/2004		Regulation No. 617/2004 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic establishing sensitive and vulnerable areas	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2004
364/2004		Act no. 364/2004 Coll. on Water and on amendment of the Act of the Slovak National Council 372/1990 Coll. on offences	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2004
173/2011	5	Decree of Ministry of Environment SR No. 173/2011 amending the Decree of Ministry of Environment SR No. 24/2003 Coll. implementing Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2011
3/2004-5.1		Regulation of Ministry of Environment SR No. 3/2004-5.1 on National list of proposed Sites of Community Importance	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2004
24/2003		Decree of Ministry of Environment SR No. 24/2003 Coll. implementing Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2003
543/2002		Act of National Council SR No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2002
39/2007	6	Act of the Slovak National Council No 39/2007 Coll. on veterinary care	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
305/2003		Regulation No 305/2003 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic on identification and registration of animals	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2003
429/2005		Regulation No 429/2005 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic amending Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No 305/2003 Coll. on identification and registration of animals	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2005
17/2012		Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No.	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2012

		17/2012 Coll. on identification and registration of pigs	
39/2007	7	Act of the Slovak National Council No 39/2007 Coll. On veterinary care	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
20/2012		Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 20/2012 Coll. laying down details of identification and registration of beef cattle	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
39/2007	8	Act of the Slovak National Council No 39/2007 Coll. On veterinary care	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
18/2012		Decree of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 18/2012 Coll. on identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
405/2011	9	Act No. 405/2011 Coll. on plant health care, amending and supplementing act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 145/1995 Coll. on administrative fees as amended	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2011
609/2008	10	Regulation No. 609/2008 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic laying down details of prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of $\beta$ -agonists	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2008
362/2011		Act No. 362/2011 Coll. on drugs and medical devices and on amendment and supplementing of certain acts	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2011
320/2003		Regulation No. 320/2003 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic on monitoring certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2003
152/95 <sup>2</sup>	11	Act No. 152/95 of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on food	25 <sup>th</sup> July 1995
438/2006		Regulation No. 438/2006 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic on undesirable substances in forage and on other safety indicators and usability of forage	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006
39/2007	12,13,14,15	Act of the Slovak National Council No 39/2007 Coll. On veterinary care	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
308/2003	14	Regulation No. 308/2003 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic adjusting measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2003
277/2003		Regulation No. 277/2003 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic on	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2003

<sup>2</sup> end of validity: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013



		measures for African swine fever control	
238/2012	15	Regulation No. 238/2012 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic laying down measures for the control and eradication of bluetongue	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
730/2002	16	Regulation No. 730/2002 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2002
735/2002	17	Regulation No. 735/2002 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2002
322/2003	18	Regulation No. 322/2003 Coll. of the government of the Slovak Republic concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2003

## 6 Training system in agricultural sector – main stakeholders, system of education, SWOT analysis of farmers' needs

### *Bulgaria*

In the Republic of Bulgaria the education system is centrally managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science (MEYS).

Education in Bulgaria is compulsory until the age of 16. The education system consists of the following levels:

- pre-primary education,
- primary education,
- secondary education
- higher education.

**Pre-primary education** (ISCED'97, Level 0) embraces the children between 3 to 6/7 years old. The attendance of kindergarten is optional. Elementary education (grades 1 to 8 ISCED'97 Level 1, 2 and 2A) comprises primary school (grades 1 through 4) and lower secondary school/second step of basic school (grades 5 - 8). Elementary education can be obtained at state schools, municipality schools or private schools. In addition, at the same education level, vocational training is available in accordance with professional-technical curricula upon completion of grades 6, 7 or 8. School children who have successfully completed grade 4 obtain the Certificate for Primary Education. The Certificate for Elementary Education is issued for the successful completion of grade 8.

Pre-school education

Pre-school education (ISCED'97, Level 0) embraces the children between 3 to 6/7 years. The attendance of kindergarten is optional. Next to the state-run kindergartens, which prevail (over 95 %), there are also private ones and their number is growing.

Elementary and secondary education

Elementary education (grades 1 through 8) comprises primary school (grades 1 through 4 ISCED'97 Level 1) and junior high school (grades 5 – 8, ISCED'97 Level 2A). Elementary education can be obtained at state, municipality or private schools. In addition, at the same education level, vocational training is available in accordance with professional-technical curricula upon completion of grades 6, 7 or 8. The Certificate for Primary Education is issued upon successful completion of grade 4 and the Certificate for Elementary Education is obtained for successful completion of grade 8.

Secondary education (ISCED'97 Level 3A) can be divided into comprehensive education (comprehensive and specialized schools) and vocational training. General secondary education can be obtained at comprehensive schools (course duration 3-4 years) and at specialized schools (course duration 4-5 years). The admission in the specialized schools is upon completion of grades 7 or 8 and after exams depending on the profile of the school. (in Bulgarian language and literature, mathematics, humanities etc.)

Secondary education can be obtained also at technical schools after completion of grade 8 and 4 years of training or after completion of grade 7 and 5 years of training. Vocational schools with a three-year curriculum also provide secondary education.

Educational curricula for technical vocational schools (ISCED' 97 Level 3C) are offered after completion of elementary education, the course duration is 2 years. The acquired vocational qualification enables the access to the labor market.

### General secondary (comprehensive) education

The general secondary education (upper level) can be divided into secondary comprehensive and secondary specialized education. Secondary comprehensive education can be obtained at secondary comprehensive schools (for 3-4 years), and the secondary specialized education – at specialized secondary schools (for 4-5 years). The admission to the specialized schools is upon completion of grade 7 or grade 8 and successful passage of the entry exams, corresponding to the school profile (in Bulgarian language and literature, mathematics, humanities etc.)

General secondary education (upper level) is offered by:

Secondary comprehensive schools, they cover: primary school level – grades 1 through 4; junior high school – grades 5 through 8 and secondary school level – grades 9 through 11.

Specialized schools with emphasis on foreign languages (language schools) – admission after grade 7 and upon entry exams. They cover grades 8 through 12/13.

Schools in the system of secondary education in Bulgaria

Secondary education in Bulgaria (upper level) can be divided in general education and vocational training. The general secondary education on its part divides in comprehensive one and specialized one. There are comprehensive schools of general education (3-4 years of attendance) and specialized secondary schools (4-5 years of attendance). The admission to the specialized schools is upon completion of grade 7 or grade 8 and successful passage of the entry exams, corresponding to the school profile (in Bulgarian language and literature, mathematics, humanities etc.)

Vocational secondary education is available at the vocational-technical and in the technical schools.

The vocational-technical schools offer three years of training upon completion of grade 8 and 5 years of training upon completion of grade 7. Both result in specialized secondary education.

These schools offer also other forms of training, such as evening courses, external or on-site training, in order to enable students at the age of 16 and above to acquire qualification. Presence at the evening courses is obligatory, while the organization of the other forms of training is student's responsibility.

There are professional secondary schools in all regional centers in Bulgaria. Education is focused on training on machinery, crop and animal production, including some basic knowledge on environmentally-friendly farming. Also, Centres for professional training within the Ministry of education and science are non-academic educational institutions that provide vocational education and knowledge platforms for practical farming. These centres may apply for obtaining funds from Measure 111 of the NRDP to organise training courses and information seminars for farmers.

There is National Association of Farmers. However, the number of organised farmers is still low and the membership seems to be concentrated within the group of large, commercial farms.

According to the feedback from farmers to advisers, farmers needs can be summarised as following:

- to receive updated knowledge and skills – literature, seminars, or via personal communication with experts;
- agro-technical measures – new plant protection and veterinary means, training seminars;
- EU and national support funding – but for certain period of time, sustainable strategy is necessary for each group of farmers (e.g. low-input subsistence, small and medium, and large);
- Set-up minimum wholesale prices – to support national agricultural produce and regulate activities of the agricultural auctions in the country.

There is Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (AKIS) in Bulgaria which constitutes by the following actors:

National Institutions and individuals	Structures and organisations
Government structures responsible for capacity development in the agricultural sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of agriculture and food (MAF) with its Directorates (esp. Rural Development) and Departments within each Directorate and their respective regional offices.</li> <li>- National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) at MAF</li> <li>- Center for Vocational Education at NAAS</li> <li>- Agricultural Academy at MAF</li> <li>- Ministry of Environment and Water (MEW) and its integrated Directorates related to MAF and NAAS, e.g. soil and water protection, NATURA 2000, etc.</li> </ul>
Regional MAF structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Agricultural Advisory Services (RAAS) in the NAAS system</li> <li>- Regional Department „Agriculture“ (RDA)</li> <li>- Regional Scientific Institutes within Agricultural Academy</li> </ul>
Field extension staff	At the RAAS and the RDA
Extension managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agronomists in private companies for crop production and processing</li> <li>- Private consultants in private companies</li> </ul>
Farmers/ farm households and private producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traditional farmers who constitute the majority of the farming population, have small production resources and produce a broad spectrum of crops that are mainly consumed by the family.</li> <li>- Commercial farmers who constitute a minor portion of the farming community. They have more resources (area, animals, money, knowledge) and have specialized in certain areas of production (dairy, horticulture, fructiculture, etc.). For their production pattern they are integrated into the national/regional market.</li> <li>- Farmers in transition between the two groups (so called semi-commercial farmers).</li> </ul>
Farmers' associations	Associations of Agricultural Producers of Bulgaria Cooperative „BioBulgaria“ and similar
Ministry of education with its extensions in higher and vocational education	Agricultural University (AU)- Plovdiv University of Agribusiness and Rural development (UARD) – Plovdiv Trakia University – Stara Zagora Farm managers at University research/learning

	fields, etc.
Input supplies and traders	In every region and large town
Wholesale, agro-processors and agro-processing industry with their associations	In every region and large town

#### HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES IN BULGARIA:

The higher education system in Bulgaria comprises various forms of programs and curricula upon the completion of the secondary level. The legal frame for founding of higher education institutions is set by the Law of Higher Education. According to Article 9 of this Law, the Parliament (Narodno sabranie) plays the key role in decision making about matters, concerning the network of higher education institutions in the country. The Parliament (Narodno sabranie) is entitled to establish, transform and close the educational organizations on the grounds of a proposal by the Ministry council. In the recent 4 years the higher education network was object of important changes and transformations.

At present the higher education system unites universities, specialized institutions of higher education (academia, institutes) and colleges.

The **universities** are those educational institutions for higher learning, which ensure education in a wide spectrum of specialties, at least in three of the four main scientific areas (humanities, science, social and technological studies). The universities have enough own research capacity and equipment to contribute to the progress in the main areas of science and culture. These institution for higher learning are entitled to teach students to all degrees ( ISCED'97 Levels 5A, 6).

The **specialized institutions of higher education** are engaged in teaching and research in one or more main areas of science, art, sports and defense. The name of the specialized higher school indicates the main specialties of its curriculum. This type of educational institutions for higher learning are also entitled to teach students to all degrees ( ISCED'97 Levels 5A, 6).

The **colleges** offer a relatively shorter and vocation-oriented training (ISCED'97 Level 5B). These are the former semi-higher institutes, which have undergone different transformation. Actually most of them are part of the universities and use their equipment. There are also some independent colleges, which can meet the necessary academic and material conditions on their own.

#### Education in the field of agriculture in Bulgaria

The University of Agribusiness and Rural Development /UARD/ is among the specialized higher education institutions providing studies at Bachelor and Master Degrees in agribusiness, rural development, tourism, management and economics. University of Agribusiness and Rural development is a successor of the Higher School "Agricultural College" which was founded in 1992 by the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. The specialties „Agribusiness management“ and Agricultural economics“ at BSc degree and Economics and management of Agribusiness“ at MSc degree prepare students to work in the field of agriculture.

According to an analysis in the RDP, the majority of employees in agriculture have no specialized training or education in agriculture and in business management. Only 2.4% of farms managers have tertiary education level in the field of agriculture. The share of these with primary and secondary level in the agriculture (ISCED 0 to 2) is 57%. For comparison – in Bulgaria (all sectors) this share is 17%.

Table 10. Education level in agriculture compared to the national economy

	Higher education	Primary and secondary level (ISCED 0 to 2)
Agriculture	2.4%	57%
All sectors in Bulgaria	17%	88%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 2010. Rural Development Program 2007-2013.

### National Agricultural Advisory Service, NAAS

The National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) was set up in 1999 as state agency in the frame of MAF. The establishment of the Service was provided by the technical and financial support of III PHARE Project, implemented by ADAS Consulting LTD, England.

Mission: To implement the state policy in the agricultural sector providing up-to-date information, special advices, extension services and expert assistance to farmers in their efforts to realize an effective and competitive agriculture responding to EU standards.

Activities:

- ORGANISES extension assistance to farmers, cooperatives, associations and other structures related to agriculture.
- PROVIDES free of charge advices, information, training and other services in the area of agriculture
- ASSISTS with the transfer of scientific and practical knowledge into agricultural practice
- MAKES chemical analyses of soil, plants and forages, irrigation water and fertilizers and makes recommendations.

The National Agricultural Advisory Service, NAAS, conducts its business within the state agrarian policy, providing farmers current information, specialized counseling, and provide expert assistance for the implementation of efficient and competitive agriculture in accordance with approved European Union, EU, standards.

In recent years, the work of NAAS is primarily related to implementation and enforcement of Regulation 1698/2005 of the EU to support rural development through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, EAFRD. After launching the Program for Rural Development 2007-2013 (RDP), NAAS was designated as a beneficiary under measure 143 "Provision of advice and consultation in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania" for the period 2007 – 2013.

Under this measure, NAAS is the unit which, within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, provides a complete set of free advisory services in the following four measures of Program:

- M 112 - Establishment of farms to young farmers;
- M 141 - Support for semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring;
- M 142 - Creation of POs;
- M 214 - Agri-environment payments.

The full range of services includes:

- Provide advice on various measures of RD programs and learn about their requirements;
- Verification of the economic units of farm;
- Giving instructions for obtaining the necessary documents and relevant registries;
- Preparing a business plan/request/application in m. 214;
- Verification of all documents submitted;
- Complete the application for the District paying agency;
- Complete set of documents and NAAS office.

Provided that the farmer (whose business plan was developed by experts at NAAS) is approved in measures 112 "Establishment of farms to young farmers, or 141 "Supporting semi-

subsistence farms undergoing restructuring”, the same can be prepared Business plan to measure 121 "Modernization of agricultural holdings" measure or 311 "Diversification into non-agricultural activities.

In pursuance of its activities under this measure 143 "Provision of advice and consultation in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania (2007-2009)" NAAS uses the following regulations and documents:

1. Ordinance № 10 of 03.04.2008 on the terms and conditions for granting financial assistance under measure 143 "Provision of advice and consultation in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania (2007-2009)" Development of rural areas from 2007-2013.

2. Annual Work Program of NAAS in conjunction with measure 143 "Provision of advice and consultation in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania (2007-2009) of the RDP / 2007-2013 /. This program contains the internal rules of Procedure of the Headquarters, regional units and the NAAS to provide advisory services to measure 143 "Provision of advice and consultation in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania (2007-2009).

3. Rules for utilization of funds received from the NAAS to measure 143 "Provision of advice and consultation in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania (2007-2009)" by RDP. The rules set out the conditions for receiving financial assistance from NAAS, which is within the means available under the RDP and the actual appropriations and reported to the Paying Agency sets of advisory services for the period till 31.12.2009 Financial aid amounting to 100% approved expenses.

Utilization of financial aid received for the following activities carried out under measure 143:

- Maintenance activities measure (office supplies, transportation, rentals, repairs of office equipment, secretarial support, communications, training of personnel involved, loss from unapproved documents, and other extraordinary expenses). These funds can be up to 30% receive financial aid.

- Acquisition of tangible fixed assets / capital cost of improving the material base of NAAS associated with implementation of the measure 143. The funds for these activities should be 20%

- Fees for participating experts - civil contracts of hired external experts and additional financial incentives to NAAS experts directly involved in the implementation of the measure. They should be up to 50% receive financial aid.

Funds for civil contracts of the external experts shall be determined based on actual completed their consulting activities. The rules are described in detail the principles which must be followed when working with external experts.

The amount of money in a civil contract is determined by the sum of individual items completed a set of advisory services or completed the full set of advisory services by an external expert during the previous month.

Payment of fair compensation to an outside expert is done in two parts: 20 percent of the amount be paid within 30 days from the date of submission and approval of materials handled by external experts and the remaining 80 percent of the fee is paid within 30 days after approval of the advisory services of the set by Paying Agency .

In case of disapproval of a set of advisory services Paying Agency produced by an outside expert, the same is not paid the second half of its rightful reward.

In March 2008, NAAS contest was held for the appointment of external experts in each regional office. 108 were appointed external experts with different specialties, consistent with the need for specialists in the area.

At present, considering that the total number of external experts - 108, NAAS has worked with 62 outside experts. This difference is a result of incorrect prediction of the need for external support in some regional offices. Practice to obtain such a way that some offices have worked without the services of external experts, using their own capacity (e.g.: regional units in Stara

Zagora, Ruse, Kardzhali, Kyustendil), while other offices were using three or four outside experts (regional units in Vratza, Pleven).

Of all the applications and business plans in Paying Agency about 70% are prepared by NAAS.

### ***Tuscany (Italy)***

#### ***The structure of training systems***

European Union strategies in matter of professional training tend to the gradually building up an integrated educational system, to which could contribute not only the educational system but also centres and agencies for vocational training, operating in both formal and informal settings, under a programme with defined goals and consistent in every part.

First of all, this osmosis shall guarantee to the European citizens the opportunity of longlife learning. And it aims to ensure an high level of basic skills that everyone needs in order to participate actively to the professional, familiar or social life, at any level, from the local to the European one. New basic skills mentioned in the Conclusions of the European Council in Lisbon are:

- skills related to informative technologies;
- knowledge of foreign languages;
- good disposition to technology;
- entrepreneurship;
- social skills.

The implementation of a Regional Integrated System for the Right to Learning that, ensuring a framework of education, initial training, lifelong learning, must be held by specific acts contributing directly to the increasing of education and training level through an integrated supply of instructive, educational, formative and guidance opportunities, extensively diffused over the territory.

The complementarity of formal, non- formal and informal learning systems is important for building up the different training offers, for this reason seems appropriate to submit a brief description of any of them.

Formal Learning: shall be acquired in an organized and structured context ( school and University education, vocational training). It implies an assortment of interventions:

- Basic education, training guidance before the completion of the mandatory school, training as part of the mandatory school- right/responsibility of education;
- Training after the mandatory school period, internships;
- Undergraduate training; higher technical training, advanced training;
- Training aiming the integration in the workplace- re-integration in the workplace, training for business start-up;
- Training for employed; continuing training; career guidance, consulting, information

Non formal learning: this is considered as included in planned activities that, even if they do not have an educational purpose, contain important learning elements. Being the opposite of “formal learning”, the non-formal learning includes:

- The so called “semi-structured learning”, namely the training acquired at the workplace;
- Casual learning, acquired during the everyday life and hereinafter defined “informal learning”. Educational and childcare services; non-formal educational activities for teenagers and young people; welcoming, information and other services- network *Infomagiovani*;
- Permanent learning; cultural updating, updating knowledge for technical and vocational purposes.

Informal learning: this is the knowledge acquired from activities of the everyday life connected to the family, the leisure time, etc...

In Italy, the planning and the management of vocational training are matter of Regional competence; Regions are totally responsible for the management of the funds of the European Social Fund (ESF), through the Regional Operational Programmes (ROP).

With regard to Tuscany Region, about lines and measures of the ROP, local Administration is responsible for planning most of the interventions. Basing on the targets set by the programming tool, training activities and the corresponding funds are allocated by public tender, in concordance with the ranking list of the projects presented, with private or accredited public training agencies. In order to be qualified for this activity, training agencies need a quality certificate.

In Tuscany's background, interventions concerning the training within a formal context, for the development of education, guidance, vocational training and employment have been ruled in order to build an integrated system guaranteeing the right lifelong learning right as required basis for the right to study and the right to work. In order to meet those needs, macro typologies of training interventions have been defined:

A.- training - mandatory school

B.- training – after school mandatory train. Higher training

C.- training – continuing training

D.- career guidance/integration in the workplace

At this stage, peculiar for economic recession, increasing unemployment, mostly youth, and expulsion from the labour market of the older employees rates, they are struggling for better integration between those different sectors. In particular, the strengthening of some actions must be taken into account:

- Implementation of the “*Youth guarantee*” to ensure the access to training paths after school to young people.
- Strengthening of the apprenticeship as a training tool aiming to the integration in the workplace.
- Strengthening of the internship. Giving the young people the possibility of doing a work experience in the European environment.

In order to facilitate the integration of training systems and the certification of the skills acquired by the citizens, two significant acts have been carried out in Tuscany at the moment:

- The implementation of a data base containing standard training profiles and the description of their relative skills.
- The circulation of “individual training booklet”, delivered on request by the Employment Centres. In the booklet, all the skills acquired by the citizen are reported, proven by both the certificates of training paths and the evaluation of the technical- practical skills acquired in other contexts.

### ***Innovation and training for agriculture in the Community Policy***

Agriculture requires a continuing training, basically attributable to the following needs:

- Training and updating for agricultural technicians .
- Basic business training for the start-up phase of new farms (for example; integrating young people by supporting them with the Rural Development Programme).
- Compulsory training stemming from national regulations (HACCP, Safety at work, use of chemical devices, use of machinery).
- Entrepreneurial training aiming to the strategic innovation (Energetic production, sector integration and aggregation processes, multifunctionality, organic farming, agri-tourism, promotion of local products etc..).

- Technical training for entrepreneurs for the application of cross-compliance rules and sustainable production processes.

Along those needs, lately arose the increasing demand for interventions related to the non-formal training, with a particular interest on some scopes noted as an example:

- Information on CAP guidance and opportunities
- Legislation updating and obligations of the holdings
- Topical analysis on specific actions and/or opportunities
- In-depth analysis on the inner-sector relations system
- In-depth analysis on agri-climatic-environmental topics (water resources, energy, land use, climatic changes)
- Projects for production and/or territorial qualification
- Transfer of skills and technical and/or organizational innovation
- Proof of “best practices”

The reactions given by the Tuscan system in the past years were not enough and unable to satisfy the increasing claim from the holdings system.

As regards the measures implemented under the ESF, an increasing interest toward the agricultural area have been registered, that allowed a development of the training interventions in this field. Anyway, thinking that the support from the ESF might be able to satisfy all the requests from the agricultural sector, is unrealistic for the following reasons:

- The restricted resources of the ESF in respect of the numerous needs,
- The structure of the Tuscan entrepreneurial agricultural system (over 72 000 holdings)
- Difficulties in reconciling the needs of the agricultural sector with the ESF processes (kind of intervention, number of hours, time of implementation linked to the production processes)

In order to face those difficulties, from the programming period 2007-2013, CAP provided for specific interventions to ensure consulting and training services for farmers.

In the new 2014-2020 planning, still in progress, the transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture has a great importance, becoming the first priority among the strategies of rural development.

The new planning aims to outdo the limits registered in the previous period, in which measures for training and for consulting have been conceived as single support actions to entrepreneurs, out of a systemic vision and a link to development strategies.

The package of interventions provided for, shall be divided into a series of integrated actions envisaging:

Implementation of interventions for updating, information, training: seminars and workshops, short courses, visits, exchanges;

Implementation of a structured consulting system for holdings: training for technicians; establishment of new figures, “*Innovation broker*”, who shall act as innovation animators; personal consulting for holdings;

innovation partnerships: implementation of innovative projects through operating groups between holdings, consultants and researchers, foundation of the EIP network (European Innovation Partnership) among all the operating groups.

Interventions shall be integrated to each other and connected to other rural development interventions, in particular to sectorial projects, measures for young people’s start up, agri-climatic-environmental.

The community planning 2014-2020 aims also to boosting to the integrated actions between different funds. In the Partnership Agreement, taken out by every Member State, shall be defined the integrating procedures between the funds.

The settings of the new planning gives great opportunity to improve the training and the knowledge and innovation transfer in agriculture. Through the funds integration, it will be possible to implement a two-tier interventions based system.

European Social Fund operating programme: to promote basic training interventions and the integration in the agricultural area:

- Basic training for the start-up phase of the holdings;
- Compulsory training
- Training interventions for new professional qualifications
- Stage, internships, apprenticeship to facilitate the employment in the agricultural field

Rural Development Programme: to promote the continuing updating and the knowledge and innovation transfer.

- Information, updating and short training
- Local animation to promote the innovation
- Structured consulting system for holdings

### Conclusions

In view of the analysis carried out, let us to summarize the main points and problems that need to be faced, concerning training and knowledge and innovation transfer, in order to adopt a strategy able to promote the cultural and entrepreneurial growth of the Tuscan farmers, improving the competitiveness of the enterprise system and the agriculture and rural areas development system.

As far as the priority needs arose, they might be summarized according to the following points:

- Promoting an information system diffused to the agricultural enterprise system.
- Promoting an integrated agricultural services system aiming to the knowledge and innovation transfer, the local animation, and to the development of business pooling arrangements.
- Strengthening the vocational training interventions in agriculture, integrating in contents and funds the training system and business service system.
- Promoting, with the help of the training system and the service system, entrepreneurial start-ups in the agricultural sector, in particular for young people.
- Promoting the access to employment in agriculture, implementing stages, internships, and apprenticeships, job-shadowing and other kinds of “work experiences”.
- Promoting the innovation transfer, easing the arrangements and the integration between entrepreneurs, consultants and researchers.

At the end, a SWOT analysis has been carried out by the group, in order to highlight the problems and the strengthens to start from, for an effective intervention strategy:

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness at the institutional level of what are the training needs.</li> <li>▪ A propensity at the holding level towards business and innovation growth.</li> <li>▪ The presence of training agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sporadic nature of training interventions</li> <li>▪ Lack of structural and systematic intervention in this field</li> <li>▪ Lack of coordination between advisors and other segments of the knowledge system</li> </ul>



<p>in Professional Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A consolidation of the traditional training system</li> <li>▪ The presence of a good agricultural agents network serving the holdings</li> <li>▪ An extensive network of consulting for businesses</li> <li>▪ Advanced training experiences concerning environmental and qualitative topics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor integration between the training system and other segments of the knowledge system</li> <li>▪ Too many holdings and few advisors</li> <li>▪ Lack of services to support the experts (expert systems, training for trainers etc...)</li> <li>▪ Long procedural and implementation delays for both training and consulting</li> <li>▪ Poor integration of the training systems with the business fabric</li> <li>▪ Poor flexibility of the training system in relation to the necessities of this field</li> <li>▪ Poor development of the ICT for agricultural training and consulting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of funds compared to the needs</li> <li>▪ Resistance to the changes</li> <li>▪ Training focus only the immediate needs of fulfilment</li> <li>▪ High costs dues to an excessive bureaucratic and administrative burden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Possible integration of the actions in the new EU planning</li> <li>▪ Importance of knowledge under the planning of rural development</li> <li>▪ Propensity towards learning and innovation by young entrepreneurs</li> <li>▪ Sensitivity of Tuscan social and institutional systems to agriculture and rural areas</li> <li>▪ Possibility of a closer collaboration between holdings and scientific area</li> </ul>

**Slovakia**

**Primary and lower secondary education**

Primary and lower secondary education in the Slovak Republic are carried out in primary schools and secondary schools with eight-year study. The primary education starts upon the beginning of fulfilling the compulsory school attendance.

**Secondary general and vocational/technical education**



Secondary general education and secondary vocational/technical education are carried out in secondary schools represented by gymnasia, secondary vocational schools and secondary technical schools.

**Gymnasia** represent a secondary comprehensive school that prepares the students particularly for studies in higher education institutions.

**Secondary vocational school** represents a secondary school preparing the students for execution of worker's trades and vocational activities corresponding to the appropriate trade. The study is completed by a final examination.

**Secondary technical school** is a secondary school preparing for execution of specialized activities, first of all technical-economic, economic, pedagogical, health, social-legal, administrative, artistic and cultural ones; it gives preparation for studies in higher education institution. The study takes, as a rule, four years.

**Apprentice school provides** vocational training for execution of occupations to students who completed compulsory schooling in primary school in lower grade than Grade 9 or who did not complete successfully Grade 9, as well as to those who did not complete the primary school after nine years of compulsory schooling. The preparation in apprentice school is completed by successful passing the final exam.

### **Tertiary education**

#### **University system**

In March 2013, 27 higher education institutions operated in the Slovak Republic: 20 public universities, 3 state universities, 13 private universities and 4 foreign universities with residence abroad and active in Slovakia.

#### **University levels and academic titles**

Higher education in the Slovak Republic is based on study programs in three levels. Each study program is carried out in a field of study.

The first level study programs are bachelor study programs. The standard duration of study for a bachelor study program is a minimum of three years and a maximum four years. Graduates of bachelor study are awarded with the academic title of "Bachelor" (in short "Bc").

The second level study programs are master, engineering or PhD study programs. The standard duration of second level study program is a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years, so that the total standard duration of study according to the bachelor study program and the subsequent second level study program in the same or related field of study is altogether a minimum of five years.

The third level study programs are PhD study programs. The standard duration of study for PhD study program a minimum of three years and a maximum of four years. Graduates of the PhD study program gain a third level university education and are awarded with the academic title of "PhD".

### **6.1. Education in agricultural resort in the Slovak Republic**

Education and training in resort of agriculture in Slovakia is provided by Agroinštitút Nitra, štátny podnik, a training institution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. Education is provided on the two basic levels:

- education and training for farmers;
- Farm Advisory System of the Slovak Republic.

#### **Education and training for farmers**

There are two types of training provided to farmers:

- Compulsory training in a case of support from the EARDF in the field of Agro environment, Animal welfare and Special care for animals;

- Voluntary training dedicated to knowledge or qualification improvement in field of renewable energy sources, waste management, optimizing of agricultural holdings management, enterprise in rural areas, feed, organic farming, cross – compliance

Financial resources for training are provided by Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013, measure 1.6 Vocational Training and Information Activities. There were 375 applications approved in total EU contribution of 16 150 904 EUR of which 11 950 486 EUR were eligible and paid to applicants.

Measure 3.3 Training and Informing was especially dedicated to training activities for rural municipalities. There were 180 applications approved in total EU contribution of 8 870 603 EUR of which 5 590 349 EUR were eligible and paid to applicants.

#### **Farm Advisory System of the Slovak Republic**

On the basis of Directive on Certification of Advisors and Management of Central Register of Farm Advisors of the Slovak Republic issued on the basis of Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak republic Authorisation No. 671/2008-910 of 22 January 2008 and in compliance with Farm Advisory System Conception No 817/2007-550 of 25 January 2007 with connection to Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1290/2005, (EC) No 247/2006, (EC) No 378/2007 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, Agroinštitút Nitra, štátny podnik ensures certification of farm advisors and management of Central Register of Farm Advisors of the Slovak Republic, as well.

Advisor – candidate is certified on the basis of his attendance on accredited training activities. Advisor receives a Decree after successful attendance of training activity. Subsequently after his application approval he receives a certificate and is registered into the Central Register of Farm Advisors.

#### Training of advisors

On the basis of Decision of Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic on issuing Confirmation of Accreditation No. 434/2008/1-15 and on the basis of Confirmation of Accreditation No. 2782/2008/434/1, training of farm advisors is structured as follows:

- **Introductory Training Programme** for beginners is compulsory for agriculture and forestry, too. A range of training programme is 24 hours and it's focused on the CAP EU and cross – compliance, Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013, Conception of the FAS and on subjects related to advisor's personal competences and skills (communication and ethics, ICT, marketing, methodical approach, etc.);

- **Basic Training Programme** dedicated to advisors who successfully attended the introductory programme. Advisor has a possibility of choice in terms of topics and fields within which he'd like to provide advisory services for farmers. This programme consists of 25 training modules accredited by Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic - the five basic modules containing the Statutory Management Requirements, a module focused on Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions and resting modules focused on economy, marketing, animal and plant production, renewable energy sources, waste management, etc.

#### Certificate prolongation

Advisors with expired certificate have the possibility of its prolongation through participation on separated training module – Innovative Training of Farm Advisors.

#### Advisor's profile

Advisor's profile starts from the Farm Advisor's Ethics Codex developed from long term pragmatic knowledge within professional consultancy issued by FEACO

(Federation Européene des Associations de Conseillers Organisation) in Brussels, 1993. According to subject principles it is necessary for advisors and advisory subjects to fulfil following requirements:

- independence;
- professionalism;
- qualification;
- practice;
- verification;
- ethics.

## CONCLUSION

As the result of all the partner documents analysis, we can state that in all the partner countries the training on ecological issues is running. Educational institutions providing training meet several problems such as lack of farmers' awareness on CAP (direct payments, Rural development, cross – compliance and conditionality), limited availability of information tools and economical resources, bureaucratic system, etc.

Taking into account problems mentioned above, the training should be focused particularly on:

- providing the farmers and technicians with updated information on evolution of CAP and EU policies, new opportunities in agriculture
- providing the appropriate knowledge on cross – compliance and eco – conditionality;

Possible types of training courses and concerned methods could be the following:

- *training courses for farmers* – training at basic level, for people who are already involved in agricultural production; duration of this course could be 15 – 20 hours;

Main skill for this target could be: knowledge on new EU strategy in agriculture and rural areas, adequate information on new CAP and it's opportunities, conditions and obligations to receive subsidies of CAP, access procedures and eligibility.

- *training courses for experts* – focused on specialisation and acquiring new skills; this training is intended for consultants (auditors); duration of this course should be 20 – 30 hours;

The additional skills of experts could be aimed to a deeper knowledge on national and EU legislation concerning the CAP, payment and control system, ICT applied in the field of CAP management.

- *higher level of training* – this higher level could provide knowledge to professionals with multidisciplinary skills, oriented to the new perspectives of agriculture and to help farmers to utilize the new opportunities.

In this case training courses have to be adapted, including new matters and skills in the fields of food chain and food quality, environment protection, renewable energy, tourism and rural development environment protection, biodiversity.

### E-learning platform as an useful tool for training of farmers

In the mentioned context the e-learning platform for training on CAP must offer a set of basic knowledge and a open window looking at the new opportunities in agriculture. E-learning course could be built at 2 levels:

- Basic level, with information aimed to the farmers
- Experts level, with a deeper training for consultants

This level of information can be useful for higher level as well however cannot be considered as a complete training course for this target group. The main modules of the e-learning course could be:

1. Eu strategies for agriculture and rural areas: evolution of the EU strategy, new challenges, main objectives of CAP 2014-2020

2. New CAP: the new system for direct payment, rural development program, common market organization
3. Conditions and obligations: cross compliance, work safety, food safety, animal and plants health, environment protection
4. Beneficiaries of CAP subsidies: required conditions, payment and control system, organisation system and contacts

E-learning course could be used as an independent and complete training system or as tool supporting a training course partly in self-teaching and partly in contact lessons.

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Tuscany

<http://www.artea.toscana.it/>

[http://www.rica.inea.it/PAC\\_2014\\_2020/pac\\_toscana.php](http://www.rica.inea.it/PAC_2014_2020/pac_toscana.php)

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