

“Agricultural and rural development settings and policy in the Western Balkans (with a focus on environmental concerns and vulnerability to climate change)”

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INWE-Institute Seminar, 5th April 2022, 11.00 (hybrid-format)

Recent research in the agricultural policy developments in the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the context of the EU approximation process provided valuable insights into the countries' specifics and grounds for a comparative analysis among the countries and with the EU. The key principles of agricultural policies harmonization with the EU CAP conceptual framework is used along with the unique Agricultural Policy Measures Classification (APMC) tool. The actual implementation of agricultural policies revealed an almost exclusively sectorial focus and production oriented support. Environmental orientation of the support, which is strongly emphasised with the EU's CAP, plays a marginal role. Going deeper into the environmental concerns in the case of North Macedonia, additional research was conducted to assess the vulnerability to climate change in the AFOLU sector. The Livelihood Vulnerability Index (LVI IPCC) was derived as a compound indicator of the interaction of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacities to climate change across the different territorial levels in the country. Further research needs to explore into more detail the policy response options and support for environmental and other societal benefits that still has minor representation in the WB region.

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