

International Project

"Food Safety for the Region of South-East Europe"

Introduction

As a federal enterprise and leading development cooperation agency in Germany, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. It is also engaged in international education work around the globe. It offers technical and financial support to organizations and institutions in the region of south-east Europe for over two decades.

Tailored services

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH offers demand-driven, tailor-made and effective services for sustainable development. To ensure the participation of all stakeholders, it applies a holistic approach based on the values and principles upheld in German society. This is how it facilitates change and empowers people to take ownership of their own sustainable development processes. In doing this, GIZ is always guided by the concept of sustainable development, and takes account of political, economic, social and ecological factors. It supports the partners at local, regional, national and international level in designing strategies and meeting their policy goals.

Developing solutions

GIZ operates in many fields: economic development and employment promotion; governance and democracy; security, reconstruction, peace building and civil conflict transformation; food security, health and basic education; and environmental protection, resource conservation and climate change mitigation. It also supports its partners with management and logistical services, and act as an intermediary, balancing diverse interests in sensitive contexts.

In the framework of the plans and programs for 2012 in the region of south-east Europe GIZ, in close cooperation with its partner, the international foundation Balkan Net and the Michel Institute from Germany, the project "Food Safety for the Region of South-East Europe" has been developed and is being implemented. The project aims to improve the conditions in the operations and enable sustainable development of institutions and companies by introducing and implementing the EU standards in the area of food safety in the areas of production, distribution and sale of food products.

The project applies a combination of theoretical approaches and practice-oriented training events to meet the demands of the target groups. The project is tailored according to the demands expressed by the companies and institutions and the recommendations given by the core group of experts during the first regional workshop that took place in September 2011 in Macedonia (for further information please, refer to

<http://www.lazoroski.com/balkannet/index.php/news-and-events/11-training-of-trainers-on-food-safety>).

Project partner organizations

The project is implemented in close cooperation with the Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Macedonia and the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

Target group of the project

The project is oriented towards the relevant institutions (line ministries, farmers and food producers associations, chambers of commerce etc.), the food production industries (diaries, meat producers, bakeries etc.) as well as the catering and hotel branches in the region of south-east Europe.

Project Implementation Period

The project is implemented in 2012 and 2013. It includes one international conference/seminar for the institutions and three practice-oriented on the job trainings with companies in the region, incl. a variety of accompanying measures, such as the further delivery of expertise to a core group of regional experts, food tasting events, food fair in the framework of a larger international conference in Sarajevo etc.

Objectives of the International Conference

- Enhance knowledge of the current international standards, particularly the EU standards on food safety in the region of South-East Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia),
- Promote the adoption of food safety management systems according to various norms and standards, in order to increase competitiveness of food producers from the region in the field of national and international market (European focus),
- Raise the level of knowledge of the relevant institutions (line ministries, farmers and food producers associations, chambers of commerce etc.) towards targeted, comprehensive and sustainable ensuring food safety in the region.

Major Project Events

- The first event, the international conference of the project is scheduled to take place in Skopje, Macedonia, on May 17-18.2012
- The second event in the form of on-the-job training takes place in Belgrade, Serbia, on June 08-09.2012
- The third event food tasting and food fair for the involved companies is scheduled for November, 08-09.2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- The fourth event in the form of Study Tour takes place, November 19-23.2012, in Germany
- The fifth major event, on-the-job training for the catering and hotel branches is scheduled to take place in Budva, Montenegro, November 29-30.2012.