Early Warning System

EBRD-24902-166813

Enabling expansion of agrifood trade in the Western Balkans

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Quick Facts

Countries	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Specific Location	Western Balkans
Financial Institutions	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	U
Borrower	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Sectors	Agriculture and Forestry, Law and Government, Technical Cooperation
Investment Type(s)	Grant

Project Description

According to the Bank’s website, although tariff barriers to trade in agricultural products in the Western Balkans region are generally low, due to gradual convergence to duty-free trade with the European Union and within the region, a number of non-tariff barriers and measures in the region remain, hindering further trade expansion.

The project therefore aims to enhance regulatory efficiency and transparency in relation to the agri-food trade in the Western Balkans region, support improvements in the control and inspection systems and enhancement in the laboratory capacity, facilitate public-private cooperation in this area and, overall, contribute to strengthened food safety and quality in the region.

For over 25 years, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO") and the EBRD have been working together to drive more sustainable food systems and private sector development, combining technical expertise and investment capacity in the Bank's regions of operations. In recent decades, the joint FAO/EBRD work has supported the emergence of commercially viable, environmentally sustainable, and resilient local food supply chains across subsectors in the Western Balkans and other regions.

Building on past results and lessons learned, FAO and EBRD are committed to extending support and upscaling ongoing efforts to upgrade quality standards and promote the adoption of best practices, strengthen the capacity of small-scale producers, and streamline market access. This in turn, can provide opportunities for further business for larger players.

TC Services: The project would focus on the following key areas and activities:
1. Strengthening food quality and safety regulatory frameworks
2. Enhancing trade transparency and efficiency
3. Strengthening risk-based customs procedures
4. Promoting regional trade harmonization
5. Support to private sector implementation

Investment Description

- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Investment amount not available at the time of disclosure.

Contact Information

No contacts available at the time of disclosure.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can request information by emailing: accessinfo@ebrd.com or by using this electronic form: https://www.ebrd.com/eform/information-request

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF EBRD

The Project Complaint Mechanism (PCM) is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who have been or are likely to be adversely affected by an European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)-financed project. If you submit a complaint to the PCM, it may assess compliance with EBRD's own policies and procedures to prevent harm to the environment or communities or it may assist you in resolving the problem that led to the complaint through a dialogue with those implementing the project. Additionally, the PCM has the authority to recommend a project be suspended in the event that harm is imminent.

You can contact the PCM at: pcm@ebrd.com or you can submit a complaint online using an online form at: http://www.ebrd.com/eform/pcm/complaint_form?language=en

You can learn more about the PCM and how to file a complaint at: http://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/project-finance/project-complaint-mechanism.html