

Agricultural Academy
Institute of Agricultural Economics
Founded 1935



INVITATION

to participate in
X International Scientific Conference
"Agricultural and Rural Outlooks and Policy
Dimensions",

October 28-29th, 2025

Co-organized by:
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food-Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius
University in Skopje



Dear colleagues,

The **Institute of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Academy** is organizing the **10th International Scientific Conference on "Agricultural and Rural Outlooks and Policy Dimensions"**, which offers a possibility for presenting novel and fundamental advances in the field of agricultural economics.

The forum will be held in the occasion for celebration of 90th Anniversary of the Institute of Agricultural Economics. We are pleased to partner with the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food-Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, as a co-organizer of the conference.

The conference will be organized in a hybrid format: in-person and online, during the period 28-29 October 2025, in Sofia, hotel Expo Sofia, address: 1784 Sofia, 149 Tsarigradsko Shosse blvd., Bulgaria, reservations@hotelexposofia.com, [+359 2 817 81 51](tel:+35928178151).

Aimed at: academic and scientific community from Bulgaria and abroad, representatives from the agricultural business sector, local and EU administration, and state bodies, and offers the opportunity to present scientific research, reports on a research topic, and participate in conference sessions and discussions.

All presenters and guests who have shown an interest in participating in the conference will be able to attend without paying any registration fees. Participants are only expected to cover the expense of their own transportation and hotel accommodations. The organizers offer all meals. The conference attendance form will be available at the Expo hotel in Sofia.

The registration will be done electronically on the following link: <https://forms.gle/WSUg9fF1VY4b9ftJ9>

All applicants who have marked the required information and submitted the abstract in the conference form using the above-mentioned link by June 15, 2025, will receive a notice till June 30.

The confirmation will be accompanied by the following guidelines for drafting their papers and presentations. Although the registration fee is waived, all approved and timely papers will be published in the ARPHA Proceedings of the Conference (<https://arphahub.com/about/platform>), which will be apply for Web of Science coverage, and a publishing fee of around 100 Euro will be charged.

Thematic sections of the Conference:

➤ Academic session

The official addresses and remarks are expected to be shown. The Institute of Agricultural Economics in 2025 is celebrating 90th Anniversary from its establishment. The Institute commenced as a research department within the Ministry of Agriculture and in two years was set up as a separate research institute dedicated to support governance of Bulgarian agriculture and rural communities. This session will be an appropriate time to go through those 90's years history of the Institute, to relish the interesting memories of generations working and having relationships with the Institute and to honor the partnership of the Institute with its counterpart academic and professional organizations from Bulgaria and abroad through the years.

➤ Plenary Session - Tools and Insights from Policy Analysis

The public policy in agriculture is an immanent part of agricultural governance. Across the world, there are multiple and different agricultural policy agendas, characterised with diverse outcomes and insights, which is interesting to be exposed and juxtapose unto Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The Common Agricultural Policy of the EU is on its way to implement a New Delivery Model stressing on evidence-based results. The tools used for agricultural strategic planning within such a complex and multifaceted policy assumes systematization and operationalization, which can facilitate not only Member States managing authorities but policy-makers and users in wider prospect.

➤ Session 1 - Perspectives of Agricultural Development in the Western Balkan Region

The agricultural development of Western Balkan countries is an interesting and important issue not only for other neighboring countries but for the whole EU. The countries from the Balkan region, which are already members of EU, have accumulated

experience and research perceptions about challenges and sequencing effects ensuing the implementation of CAP, especially in the nearest years before and after accessing the EU. The research insights and findings from the scholars from Western Balkan countries are expected to reveal what are the implications and explications from pre-accession programs designated to agriculture and food sector in candidate and associated member states and what is the situation and performance of their agricultural productions on the way to full EU membership.

➤ **Session 2 - Agricultural Competitiveness under Market and Other Risks**

In recent years, as a result of different crisis of Covid-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, global inflation spurs, the competitiveness of agriculture in EU countries and globally is subject to changes and challenges. The market risks and uncertainties are associated with an increase in input prices and cutting the farmers' margins, which poses difficulties on farmers' resilience. The policy uncertainties related to strategic goals for a more environmental-friendly agricultural production and climate and disease hazardous events additionally put at stake farming sustainability. The CAP has focused intensively to ensure a fair "green transition" and a stable economic future for farmers trying to combine higher ambitions for environmental and climate actions along with guarantying the food security, which will demand effective tools to handle those risks properly.

➤ **Session 3 - Rural Development in face of Bioeconomy Transformation**

One of the main objectives of EU policy is to maintain viable rural areas and measures to enhance the production of healthy food. The European Commission's long-term vision for rural areas in the EU by 2040 sets out actions to be taken to ensure stronger, connected, sustainable and prosperous rural areas and communities, in which diversification, biotransformation and biodiversity are key drivers. The bioeconomy transformation is deemed as a crucial opportunity for rural areas to integrate in the future economic cycles, which may provide a more balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities, turning around the adverse demographic and economic deprivation situation observed in the last couple of decades.

Official languages:

English and Bulgarian

Important Dates:

- Abstracts submission deadline: **June 15, 2025**, in English
- Notification for abstract acceptance: **June 30, 2025**
- Full paper submission deadline: **October 15, 2025**, in English

Organizing Committee

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Prof. Dr. Ivana Janeska- Stamenkovska

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