



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
MANAGING AUTHORITY



**IPARD**  
EU4Rural Areas

# 10th session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Belgrade

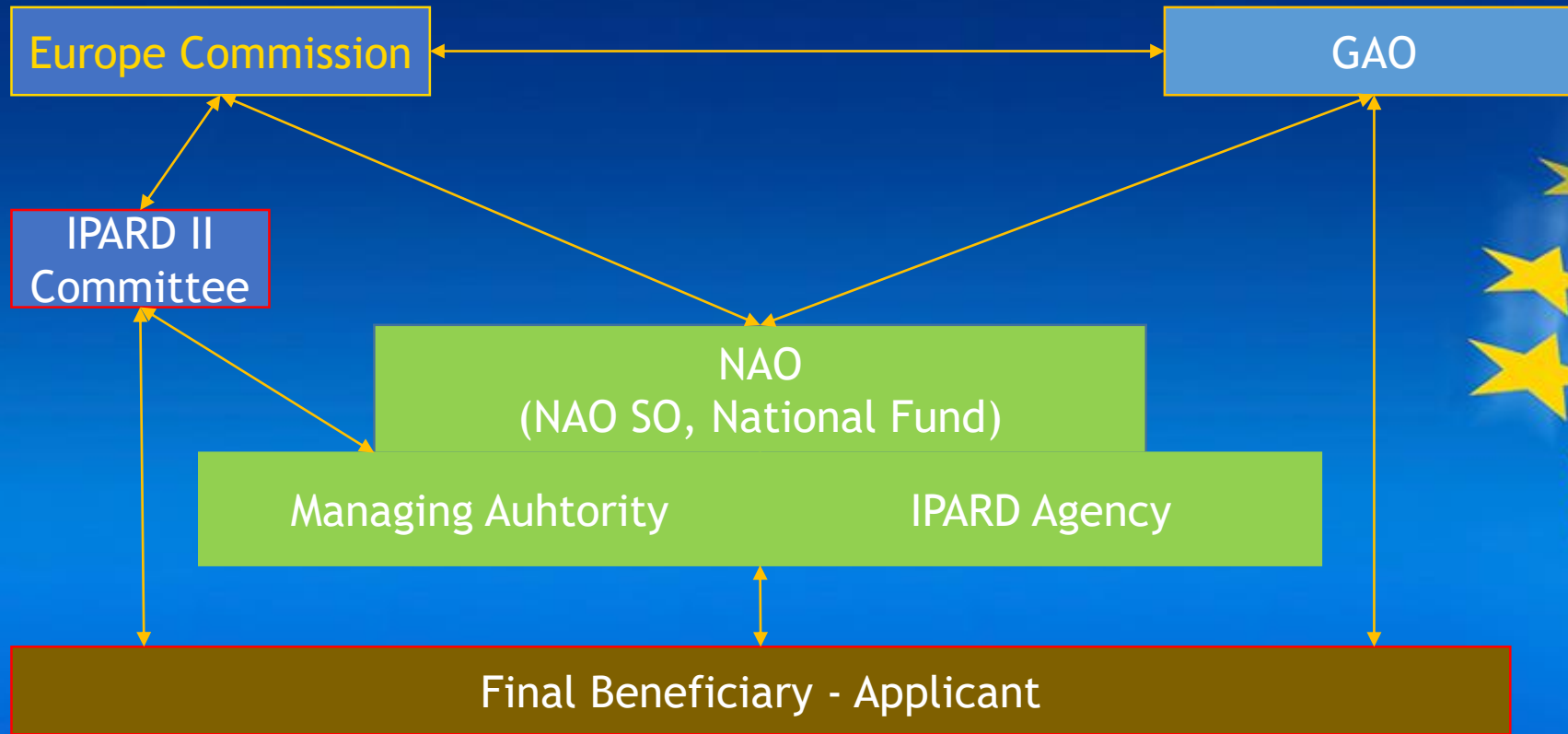
# Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds (GAO)

Report on the activities of the GAO for the  
period 2021-2022



# IPARD System - Republic Serbia

## IPARD Structure



# Activities of the GAO for the period 2021 - 2022:

- Audit of operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2021;
- Audit of the annual accounts and the Management Declaration for the IPARD II program for 2021;
- Issuance of the Annual Audit Activity Report and Annual Audit Opinion for the IPARD II Programme in the Republic of Serbia for 2021;
- System Audit of the IPARD II Programme for 2022;



# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2021:

- **294 applicants** were paid through the IPARD II Programme in 2021 (**279 applicants for Measure 1** and **15 applicants for Measure 3**);
- The total amount of IPARD support paid by the EU was **EUR 12,113,315.06 (1,424,226,904.43 RSD)**;



# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2021:

- Based on the assessment of the Control and Management System of the IPARD II Programme in the Republic of Serbia, the GAO determined a sample of **60 applicants (20%)** to be audited from the date of receipt of the request for project approval of IPARD incentives to the payment of IPARD support to the final beneficiary;
- The total amount of funds audited by the GAO is **EUR 2,023,690.28 (16.71%** of the disbursed EU support funds);



# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2021:

- The objective of the Audit of Operations was to obtain reasonable assurance on a determined sample that the costs declared to the EU are legal and regular;
- The GAO issued the final Audit of Operations Report for 2021 on 11.03.2022 and established **6 findings** with financial implications for the IPARD System in the Republic of Serbia);



# Audit of Operations for the IPARD II Programme for 2021:

- In one transaction, it was determined that the final beneficiary was paid less than **EUR 1,100.00 (130,372.00 RSD)**;
- In the second transaction, it was established that the final beneficiary was paid significantly higher amount, which is why a special bilateral meeting was scheduled with the European Commission - DG AGRI in order to discuss all the facts related to the this transaction;
- The remaining findings had no financial implications for the IPARD System in the Republic of Serbia and refer to non-compliance with procedures when processing requests for IPARD incentives;





# Annual Audit of Accounts and Management declaration for 2021

- The audit was carried out in the period February - March 2022;
- The objective of the audit was to obtain reasonable assurance that the Annual financial statements for the financial year 2021 are complete, accurate and reliable;
- During the audit, no cases of discrepancies were identified in the documents that were the subject of the audit;



# Annual Audit Activity Report and Annual Audit Opinion for IPARD II Programme 2021

- The Annual Audit Activity Report and Annual Audit Opinion were forwarded to the addresses of DG AGRI and the IPARD structure on 15 March 2022;
- In the audit report and opinion, all the findings and recommendations of the GAO are stated, as well as the position that the conducted audits do not put in doubt the assertions made in the Management Declaration issued by the NAO (except in the part of established financial irregularities);



# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2022:

- The objective of the audit was to establish reasonable assurance about the functioning of the Control and Management System of the IPARD II Programme in the Republic of Serbia;
- The audit was carried out in the period **April-July 2022** in all IPARD bodies (IPARD Agency, Managing Authority, NAO SO, National Fund);
- The GAO determined the existence of deficiencies in the Management and Control System in the IPARD bodies in the Republic of Serbia;



# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2022:

- The GAO's recommendations for improving the functioning of the Management and Control System of the IPARD System in the Republic of Serbia were given through **8 findings**;
- During the System Audit of the IPARD II Programme, **3 financial errors** were identified during the payment of IPARD incentives:
  - final user overpaid **31.22 EUR (3,700.00 RSD)**,
  - final user underpaid **EUR 330.00 (38,798.8 RSD)**,
  - the final user overpaid **EUR 44.08 (5,212.80 RSD)**;



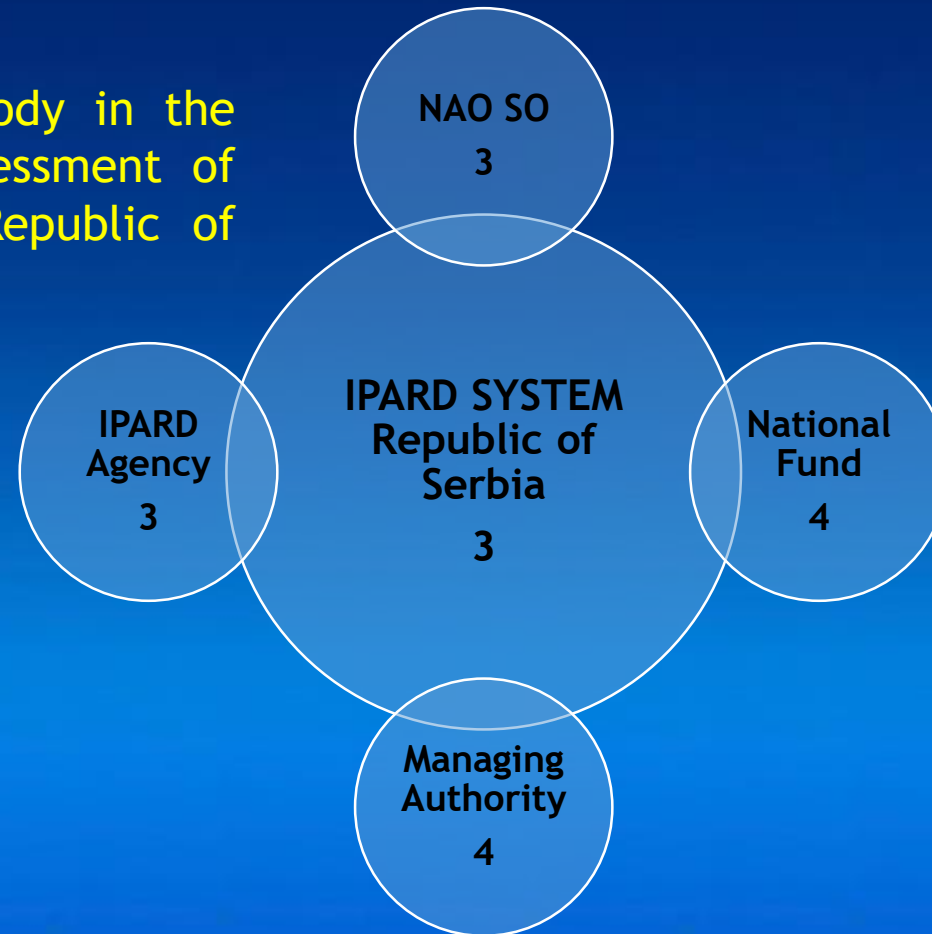
# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2022:

- Based on the completed System Audit of the IPARD II Programme for 2022, the GAO assessed the institutions in the IPARD System in the Republic of Serbia;
- Grades range from **1 to 4**, with grade **4** being the highest grade that indicates that the institution/system is **Works well**, while grade **1** indicates that the institution/system is **Not Working** and that preparation and implementation of an Action plan to eliminate irregularities is required;



# System Audit for IPARD II Programme for 2022:

Assessment of the IPARD body in the Republic of Serbia and assessment of the IPARD system in the Republic of Serbia:



# Activities of the GAO for the next period:

- Audit of operations of the IPARD II Programme for 2022 - for the first time, paid advances for Measure 7 will be audited (the audit procedure is ongoing and will be completed in February 2023);
- Issuance of the Annual Audit Activity Report and Annual Audit Opinion for the IPARD II Programme for 2022 (15 March 2023);
- Preparation of the GAO for activities related to the implementation of the IPARD III Programme in the Republic of Serbia in 2023;





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# **ACTION PLAN FOR THE MEASURE 9: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 2023**

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**Sanja Prodanović**  
Head of the Group for Technical Assistance and  
IPARD Programme Promotion  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Belgrade



# Content of presentation

## ACTION PLAN FOR THE MEASURE 9: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 2023

9.1. Expenditure on meetings of the Monitoring Committee

9.4. Expenditure on information and publicity campaigns

9.6. Expenditure associated with visits and seminars

9.7. Expenditure associated with the preparation or streamlining of implementation of measures in the Programme

9.13. Expenditure associated with preparation for the new programming period



# M9 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



GOAL

## General objective

To assist implementation and monitoring of the IPARD Programme and its possible subsequent modification

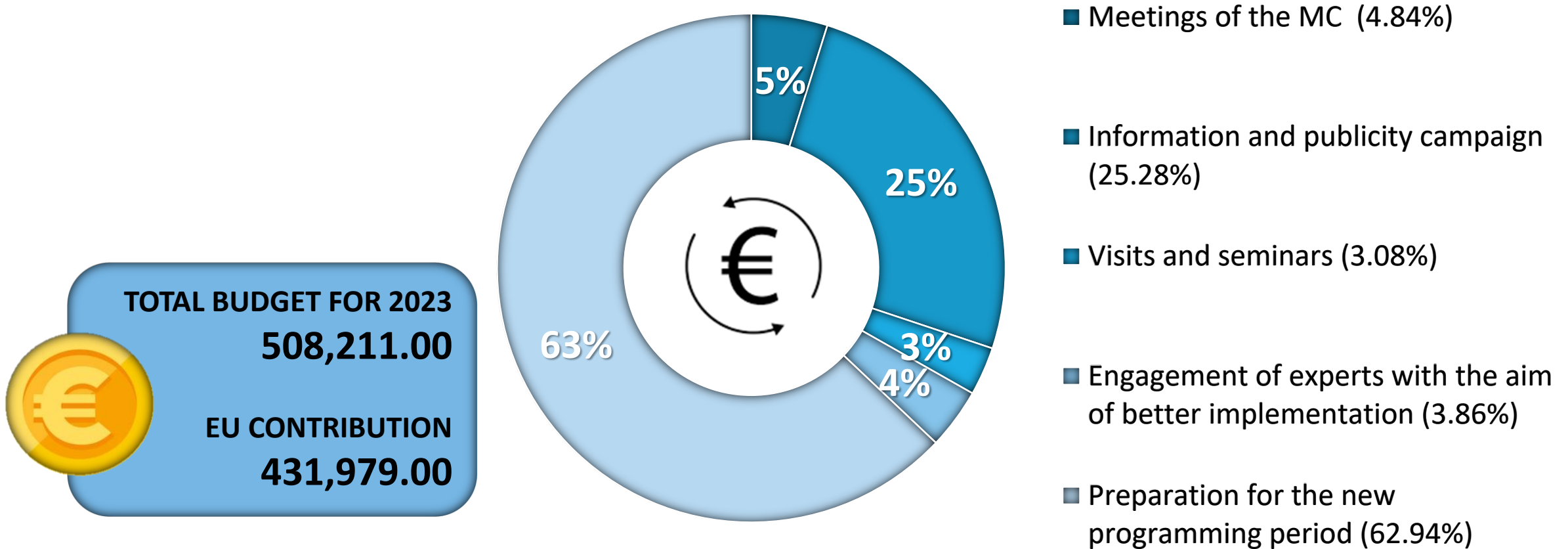
## Specific objectives:

- Monitoring the implementation of the IPARD II Programme (sessions of the IPARD Monitoring Committee, WG, etc.)
- Adequate flow of information and publicity
- Studies, study visits, seminars
- External expertise
- Evaluation of the IPARD Programme
- Support to potential LAGs and preparations for the LEADER measure of the IPARD II Programme
- Support for the national rural development network
- Preparation for the new programming period



# ACTION PLAN FOR 2023

## Structure of the expenditures per group of activities in total budget for 2023



# 9.1. Expenditures on meetings of the Monitoring Committee

## Organisation of MCs

in Belgrade  
EUR 8,901

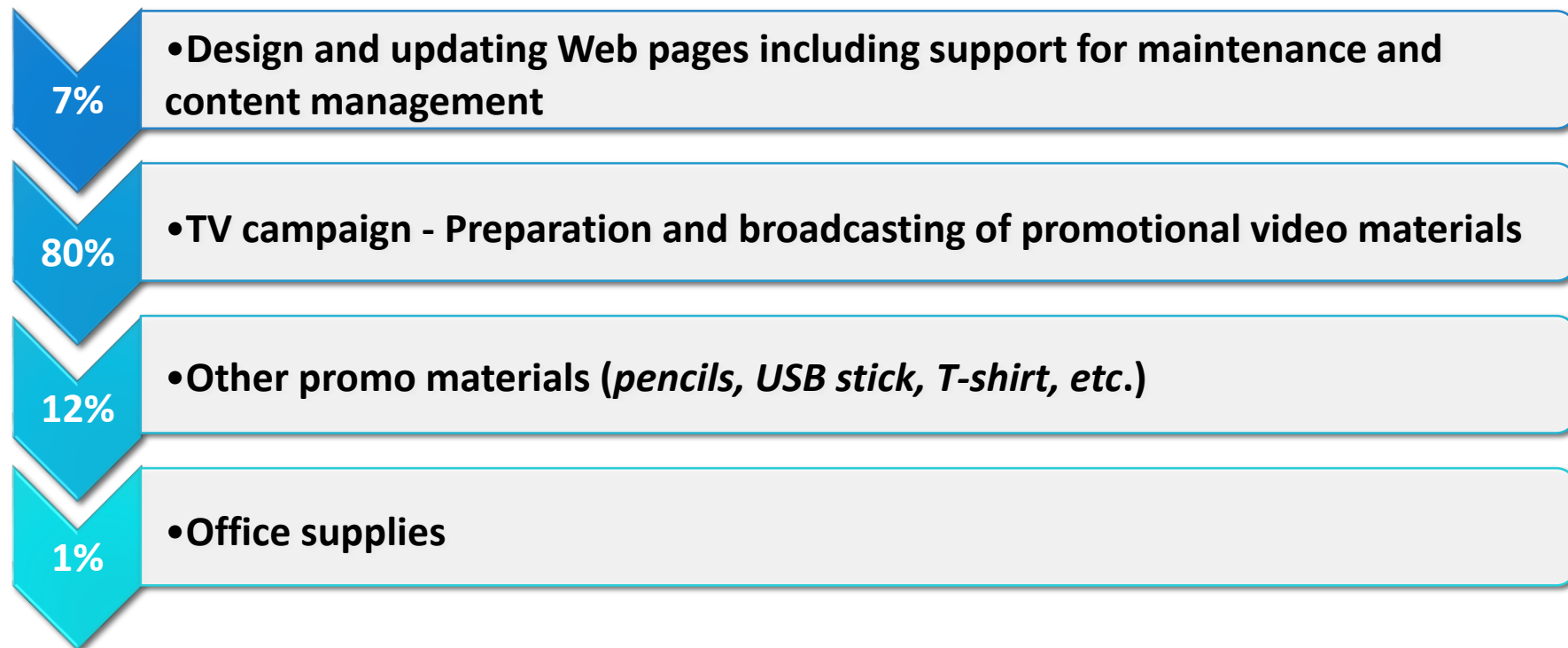
- Rental of facilities
- Equipment
- Accommodation
- Catering
- Translation
- All cost for participants

out of  
Belgrade  
EUR 15,709



## 9.4. Expenditures on information and publicity campaigns

### WELL INVESTED, **IPARD** RETURNS WELL



## 9.6. Expenditures associated with visits and seminars

Capacity building and participation in seminars, congresses, study visits, trainings



Indicative allocation

15.6

thousand



## 9.7. Expenditure associated with the preparation or streamlining of implementation of measures in the Programme

Engagement of expert/s for implementation of procurement through PRAG rules

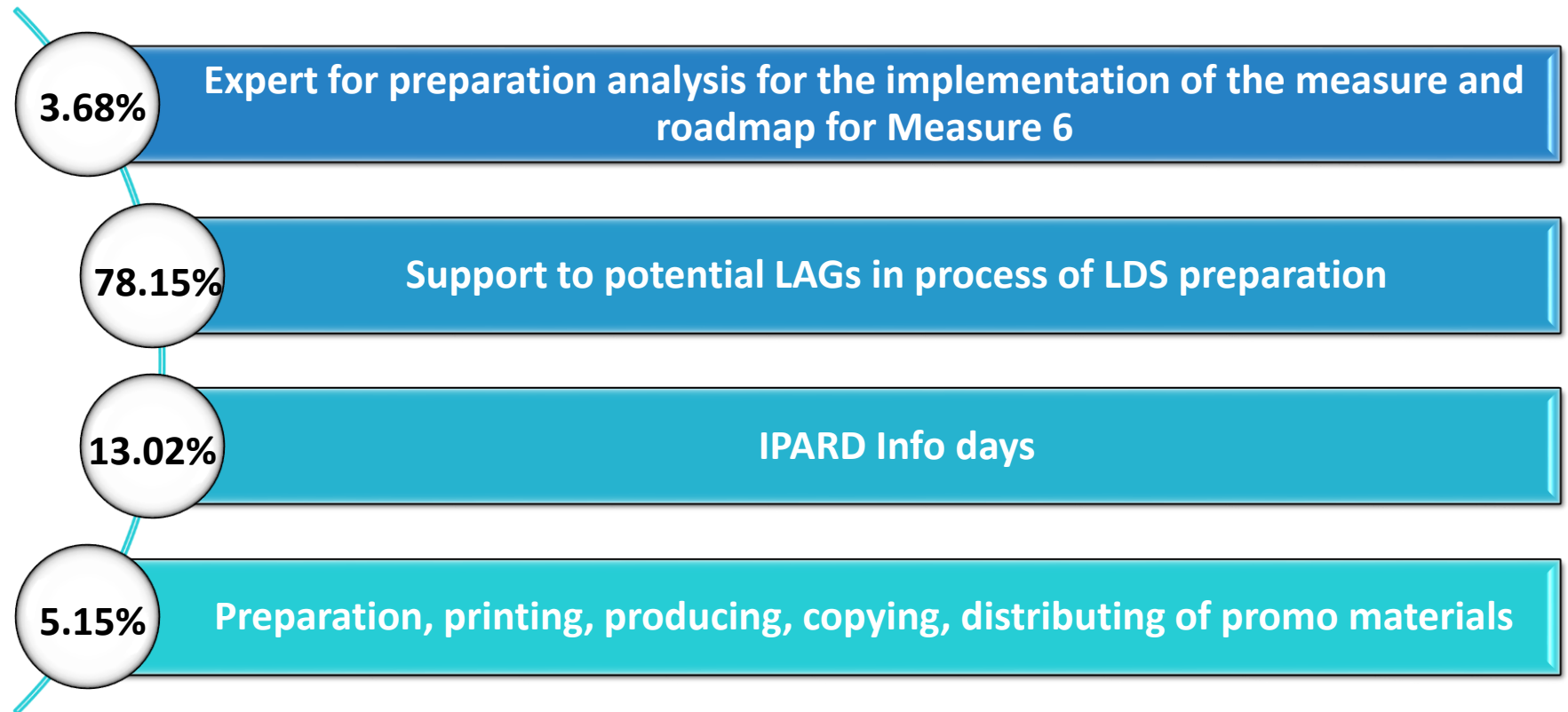
Indicative allocation

19.6

thousand



# 9.13. Expenditure associated with preparation for the new programming period 2021 - 2027





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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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Sanja Prodanović

Head of the Group for Technical Assistance and IPARD Programme Promotion

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Belgrade, Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 84

[sanja.prodanovic@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:sanja.prodanovic@minpolj.gov.rs)

[www.minpolj.gov.rs](http://www.minpolj.gov.rs)

[ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs)

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# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPARD II PROGRAMME AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE IPARD III PROGRAMME

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**Jasmina Miljković**

Head of the IPARD Managing Authority

Head of the Department for Management of IPARD Programme

14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Belgrade

# Steps for improvement absorption of IPARD funds

The MAFWM submitted to the EC letter for extension of the period for absorption of the allocation for 2019 from n+3 to n+4 with Action Plan for 2022/2023



## 2022

Adoption of the Fifth modification of the IPARD II Programme by the Government of the Republic of Serbia

Preparation of legal and procedural framework for introduction of price indexation for justified categories of expenditures for approved projects

Implementation of Measure 9 – Technical Assistance

Continuous implementation of visibility and communication activities in order to raise the awareness of potential recipients

## 2023

Capacity building in the IPARD Operating Structure in terms of recruitment of staff and top ups on salaries

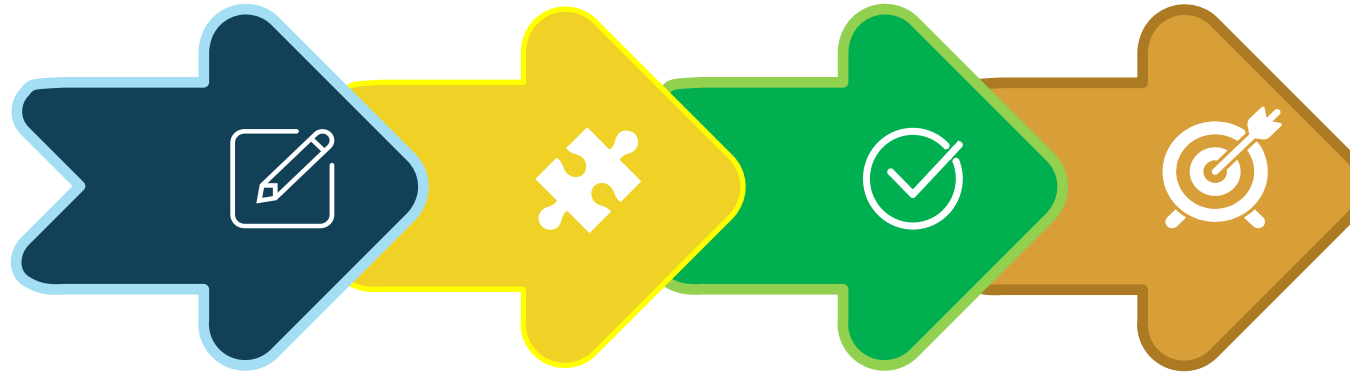
Implementation of the price indexation for justified categories of expenditures for approved projects

Exploring opportunities for introduction guarantee fund for IPARD recipients

Transition from manual to electronic application processing in the IA using RD software



# Adoption of the Fifth modification of the IPARD II Programme by the Government of the Republic of Serbia



**01**

**Fifth modification of the IPARD II Programme adopted at the Ninth IPARD II MC session**

21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

**02**

**Fifth modification of the IPARD II Programme submitted to the EC for adoption**

28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**03**

**Fifth modification of the IPARD II Programme adopted by the European Commission**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**04**

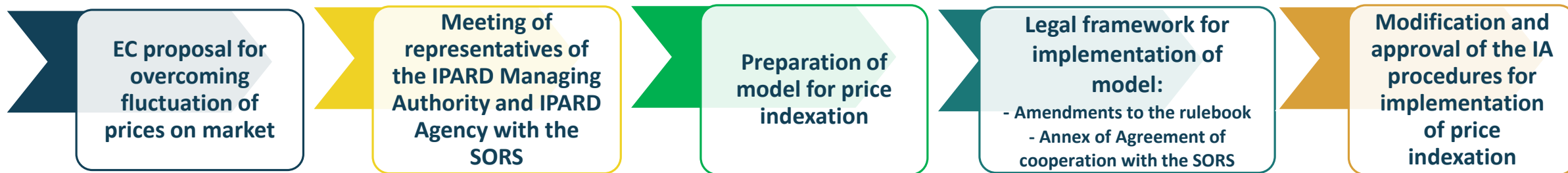
**Fifth modification of the IPARD II Programme submitted to legal department**

December 2022



# Price indexation

Steps for establishment of model for price indexation



Investments from the List of Eligible Expenditures grouped into four categories of expenditures whose price indices for the domestic market are monitored and published by the SORS, namely:

**Category 1**

**Agricultural machinery and tools**

**Category 2**

**Elements and materials for construction**

**Category 3**

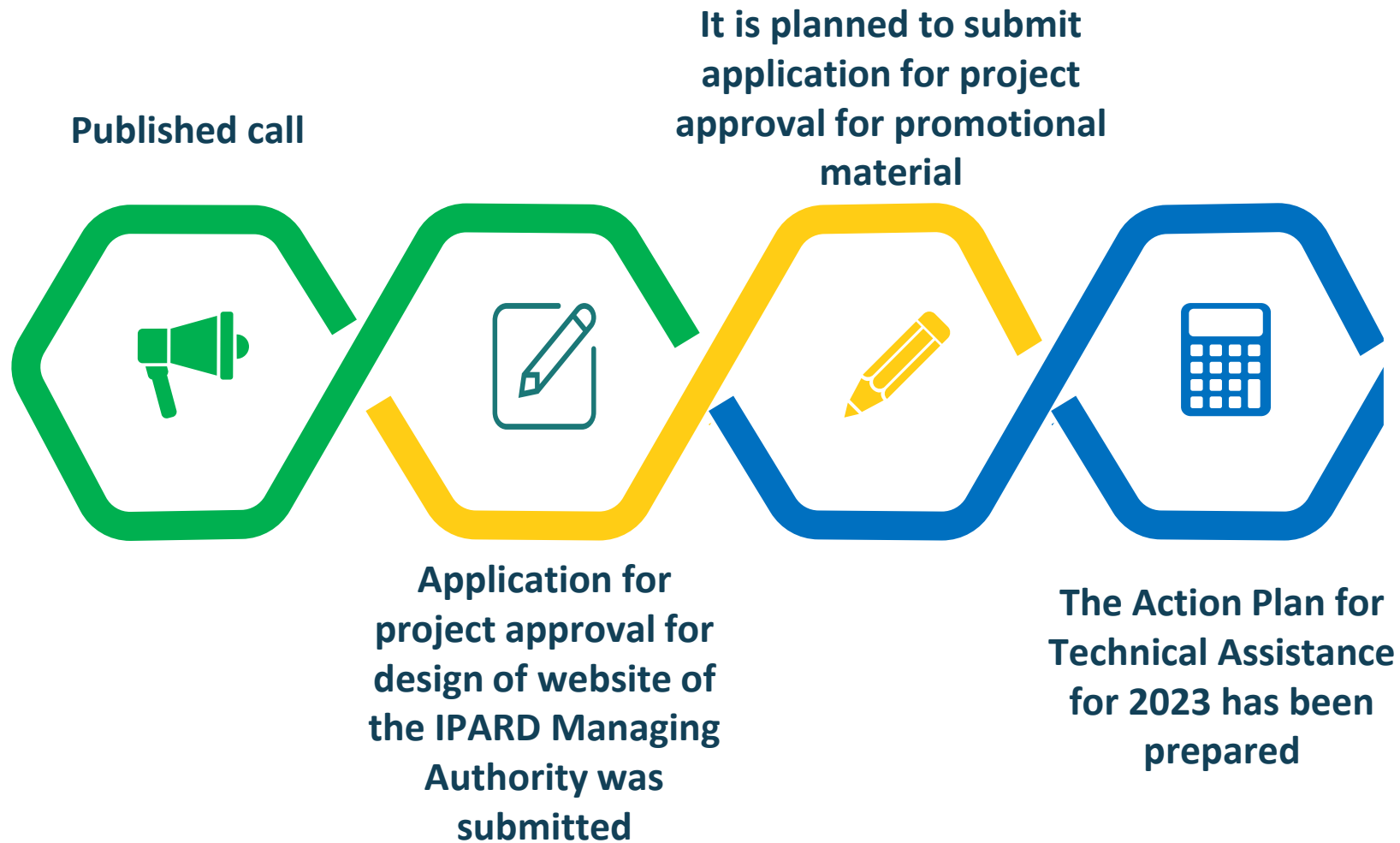
**Capital products (machinery and equipment in addition to those in agriculture)**

**Category 4**

**Non-perishable goods for mass-consumption (household appliances, furniture)**



# Implementation of Measure 9 – Technical Assistance



# Continuous implementation of visibility and communication activities

## Planned activities:

Workshops for consultants and potential recipients

Direct communication with potential recipients

Preparation of new guides for M1, M3 и M7

Organization of info days

Participation in fairs

Preparation and broadcasting of promotional video materials

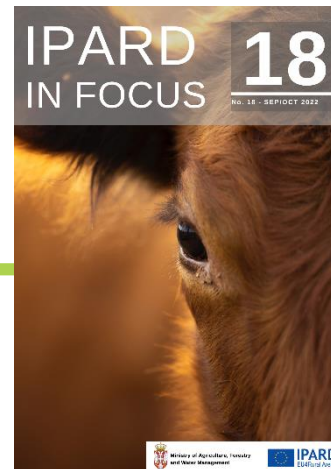
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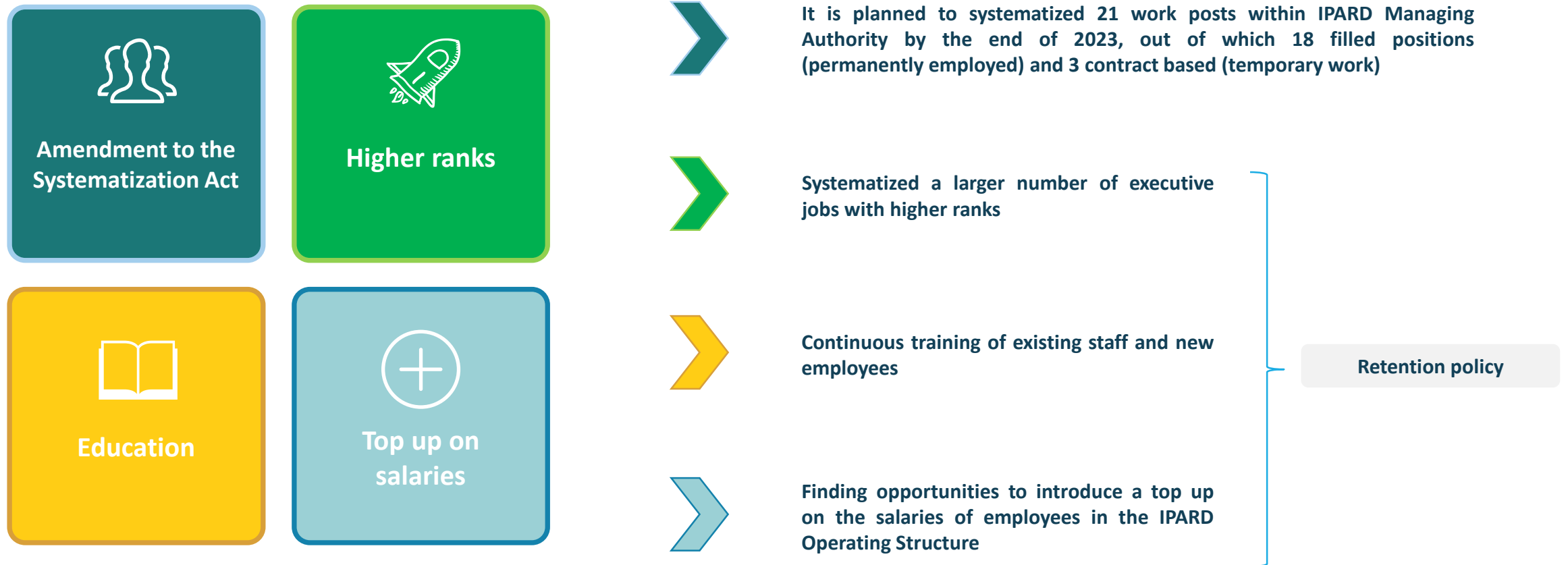
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# Capacity building in the IPARD Operating Structure - recruitment of staff and top ups on salaries





# Between two programming periods

## IPARD II

- Administrative verification and on-the spot control of submitted applications
- Payment of support
- Implementation of last public calls
- Summary of the results



## IPARD III

Preparation for the implementation:

- Legal framework
- Roll over and entrustment of procedures





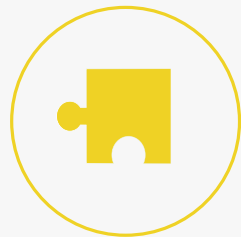
# IPARD III Programme

IPARD III Programme for the RS for the period 2021-2027 was adopted by the EC Decision No. C(2022)1537 of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The EU financial contribution to the IPARD III Programme has increased compared to the previous programming period and amounts to EUR 288 m. It is expected that this EU support, together with the national and private contribution, will amount to over EUR 580 m.

## Steps for beginning of IPARD III Programme implementation:



Signing and ratification of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement between the Government of the RS and EC



Ratification of the Sectoral Agreement between the Government of the RS and EC



Adoption of the IPARD III Programme by the Government of the RS



Signing of the Financing Agreement between the Government of the RS and EC



Publishing of rulebooks and first calls under the IPARD III Programme and establishment of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee



Preparation and entrustment of new measures (rulebooks and procedures for M4 and M5) under the IPARD III Programme



**Entrusted  
measures**

**M1**

Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings

**M3**

Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products

**M7**

Farm diversification and business development

**M9**

Technical Assistance

**2024**

**M4**

Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure

**M5**

Implementation of local development strategies - LEADER approach

**2025**

**M6**

Investments in rural public infrastructure

**EU contribution**

**EUR 288 m**

**+**

**RS contribution**

**EUR 90 m**

**+**

**Recipient contribution**

**EUR 203 m**

**=**

**Investment value**

**EUR 581 m**

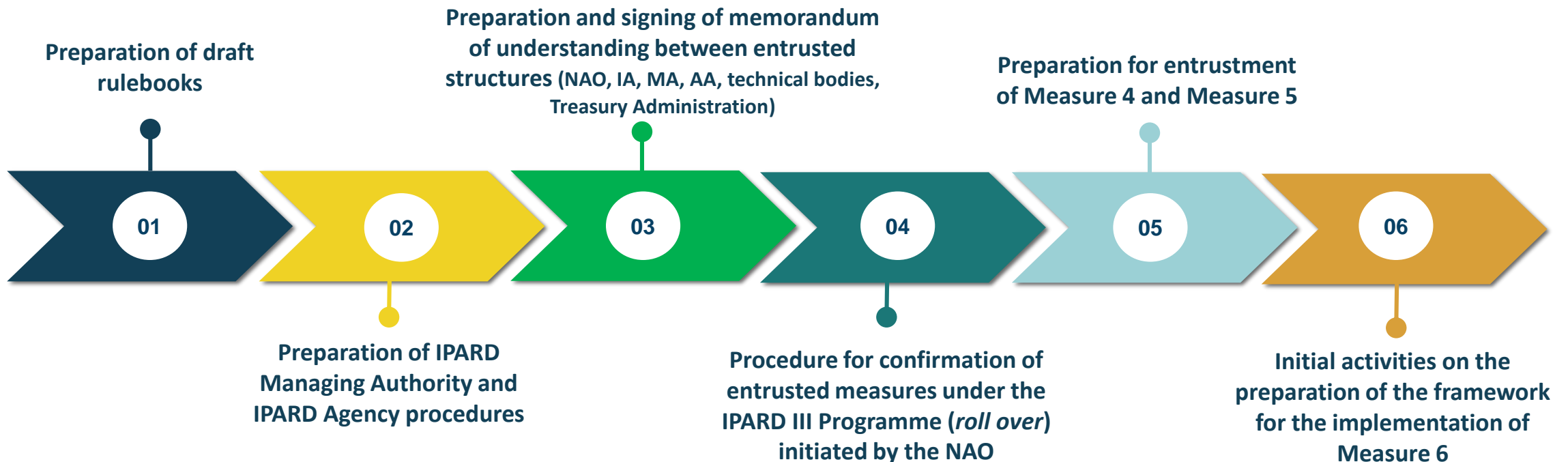


# Confirmation of entrusted budget implementation tasks – roll over process–

Next steps for the IPARD III Programme implementation from the point of the MAFWM (IPARD Managing Authority and IPARD Agency) relate to the preparation of the documentation necessary for the procedure for confirmation of entrusted budget implementation tasks



Realization of activities with support provided through IPA 2017 project: “Support to IPARD Operating Structure“



# Novelties within the IPARD III Programme

**01** New measures

**02** New sectors

**03** New specific criteria for recipients

**04** Changes in selection criteria for scoring and ranking procedure

**05** Changes in co-financing



**06** Demarcation by investment value in the fruit, vegetable and other crops sector based on recipient input

**07** New financial limits of support

**08** New recipients

**09** There is no control of the origin of goods



# The of the Green Agenda impact on the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 1

### Higher aid intensity:

- An **additional 10%** can be given for investments related to effluent and waste management and renewable energy
- **70%** for investments by certified organic producers

### Selection criteria:

- **13 points** for investments in manure storage, effluent treatment and handling
- **11 points** for investments in renewable energy production and technologies
- **11 points** in case when applicant is certified for organic production and/or is recipient under Measure 4

### Recipients with capacities above the maximum limit can invest in:

- on-farm energy production from renewable sources
- improvement of biosafety measures
- manure storage capacities
- replacement of old unenriched cages and/or equipment for meeting EU standards
- purchase of mechanisation and machinery for conservation land cultivation within cereals and industrial crops sector



# The impact of the Green Agenda on the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 3

### Higher aid intensity:

- **An additional 10%** can be given for investments related to the treatment of effluents and investments in the productive use of waste materials, circular economy and in renewable energy

### Selection criteria:

- **17 points** for investments in wastewater treatment and waste management
- **13 points** for investments in renewable energy production and technologies
- **11 points** in case when applicant is certified for organic production and/or is recipient under Measure 4

Facilities that are already on DG SANTE list of non-EU facilities and that are approved to export food of animal origin to the EU are eligible for investments in renewable energy sources or the circular economy, regardless of the national plan.



# The impact of the Green Agenda on the IPARD III Programme

## Measure 4

### Selected operations:

- **Operation 1** - Crop rotation on arable land
- **Operation 2** - Grassing in inter-row area in permanent crop land
- **Operation 3** - Establishment and maintenance of pollinator strips
- **Operation 4** – Sustainable management of meadows and pastures

## Measure 6

### Type of investment

- Investments in sewerage system and wastewater treatment
- Investments in waste management

## Measure 5

### LDS

- One of main themes for the Local Development Strategies is related to improvement of environmental standards in LAGs' areas

## Measure 7

### Higher aid intensity:

- **An additional 10%** can be given for an investment related to effluent and waste management/renewable energy or circular economy-type investments
- **70%** for investments by certified organic producers





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IPARD Managing Authority  
Department for Management of IPARD Programme  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
84 Blvd kralja Aleksandra Street, Belgrade

[jasmina.miljkovic@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:jasmina.miljkovic@minpolj.gov.rs)

[www.minpolj.gov.rs](http://www.minpolj.gov.rs)

[ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs)



@ipardnadlanu



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IPARD Agency



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# IMPLEMENTATION OF IPARD II PROGRAMME

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**MARKO KESIĆ**

ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR AGRARIAN PAYMENTS

IPARD AGENCY

**Belgrade, December 2022**

# Agenda

01

## Implementation statistics

- What are the numbers telling us?

02

## Challenges

- To what extent did the late start and economic parameters affect the implementation of the program

03

## Actions

- What we've been attempting to address the challenges

04

## Future actions

- Implementation in 2023
- Preparation of the IPARD III program





# Implementation in figures

## Applications

Requested support:  
367.87 mills. EUR



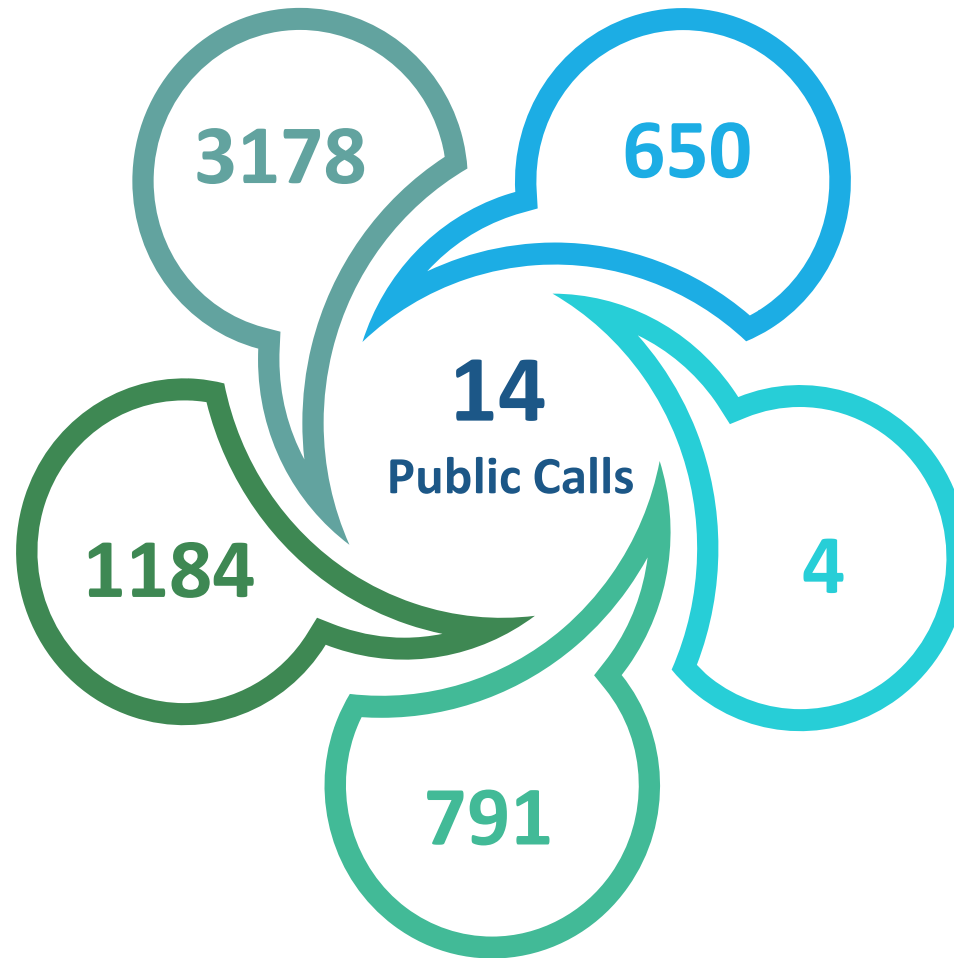
## Awarded contracts

Approved amount of support:  
109.10 mills. EUR



## Payment requests

Requested support:  
48.87 mills. EUR



## Recipients

Paid funds:  
34.44 mills. EUR



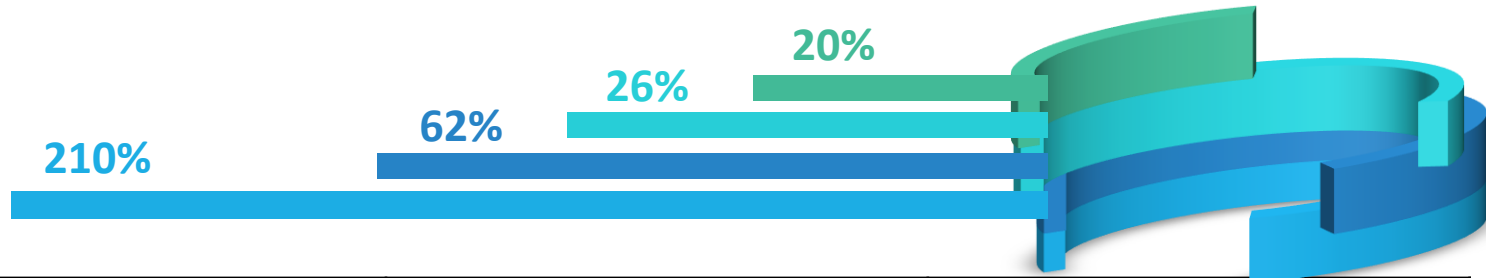
## Measures

Allocated funds:  
175 mills. EUR  
*-3.6 mills. EUR  
de-committed*

Cut off date: 13/12/2022



# State of play



M1, M3,  
M7

Cut off date:  
13/12/2022

	APPLICATIONS		CONTRACTED PROJECTS		PAYMENT REQUESTS		PAID FUNDS	
	N°	Requested support	N°	Approved amount of support	N°	Requested support	N°	Paid funds
2018	736	64,241,043	22	1,520,324	10	212,276	0	0
2019	701	65,186,525	244	13,296,794	175	5,891,523	145	4,577,520
2020	311	36,570,023	333	19,220,117	177	9,807,325	72	5,112,389
2021	773	178,004,397	240	32,579,180	223	12,181,052	293	12,113,315
2022	656	23,838,333	346	42,707,708	206	20,143,423	140	12,635,605
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>367,874,849</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>109,099,125</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>48,872,307</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>34,438,829</b>

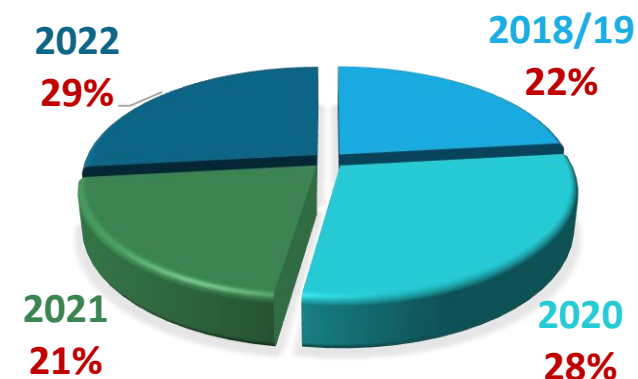


# State of play – project approval

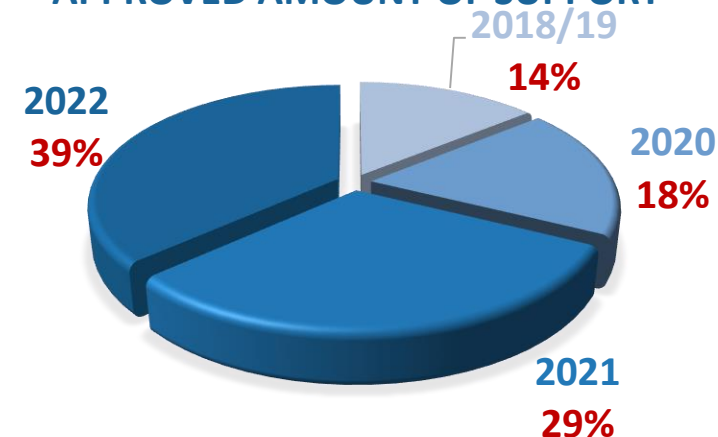
Cut off date: 13/12/2022	CONTRACTED PROJECTS	
	N°	Approved amount of support
2018	22	1,520,324
2019	244	13,296,794
2020	333	19,220,117
2021	240	32,579,180
2022	346	42,707,708
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>109,099,125</b>

- Entire allocation of **171.4** mills. EUR available to Serbian farmers and food processing industry through **14 public calls**
- The contracting rate is growing significantly in past two years due to: continuous work on human capacity, SMART management, the development of procedures and adjustment of the legal framework
- 346** projects and **42.71 mills. EUR** were contracted in 2022 – more than in first three years of implementation
- Up to **50 mills. EUR** expected to be contracted in 2022 – almost half of total contracted sum
- Up to **75 mills. EUR** till the end of the year will be on disposal for realization
- All IPARD II allocation expected to be contracted by **Jun 2023**

CONTRACTED PROJECTS



APPROVED AMOUNT OF SUPPORT

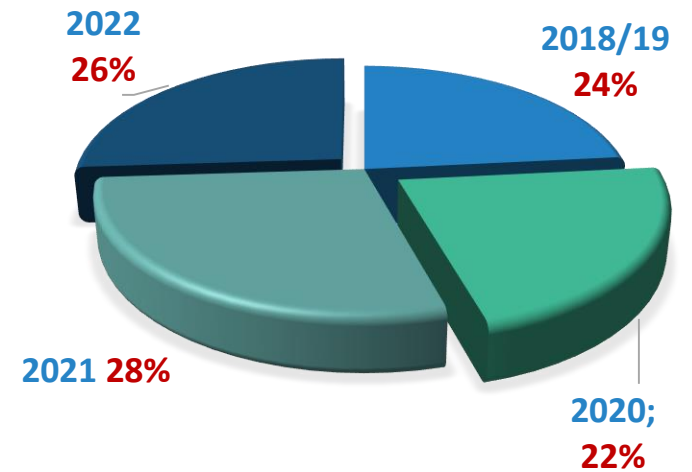


# State of play - realization of the projects/ payment approval

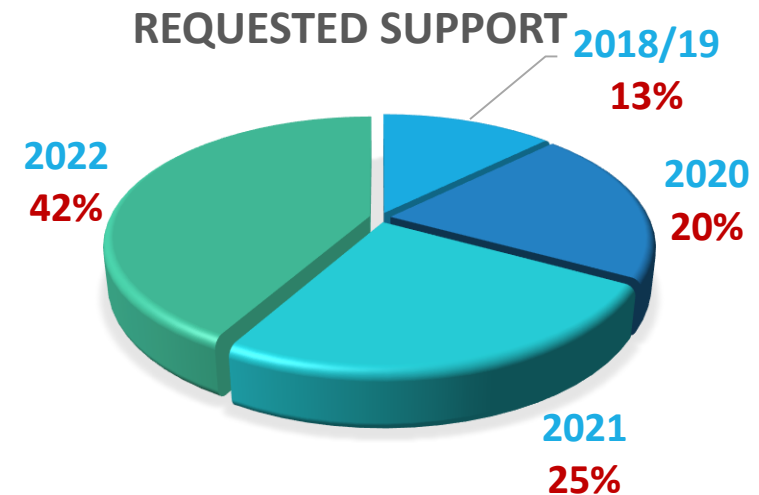
Cut off date 13/12/2022	PAYMENT REQUESTS	
	N°	Requested support
2018	10	212,276
2019	175	5,891,523
2020	177	9,807,325
2021	223	12,181,052
2022	206	20,143,423
<b>Total:</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>48,872,307</b>

- Realization of projects does not follow the growing trend of project contracting. A modest number of payment requests and a delay in the project's completion
- 206** payment requests with **20.14 mills. EUR** in 2022
- A third** of all contracted projects have requests for an extension of the deadline for submitting the payment request
- 8%** of users give up submitted applications, and a significant percentage of users intend to withdraw their contracted projects due to the changes in the market
- 7%** of contracted projects have an expired date for submitting payment requests

PAYMENT REQUESTS



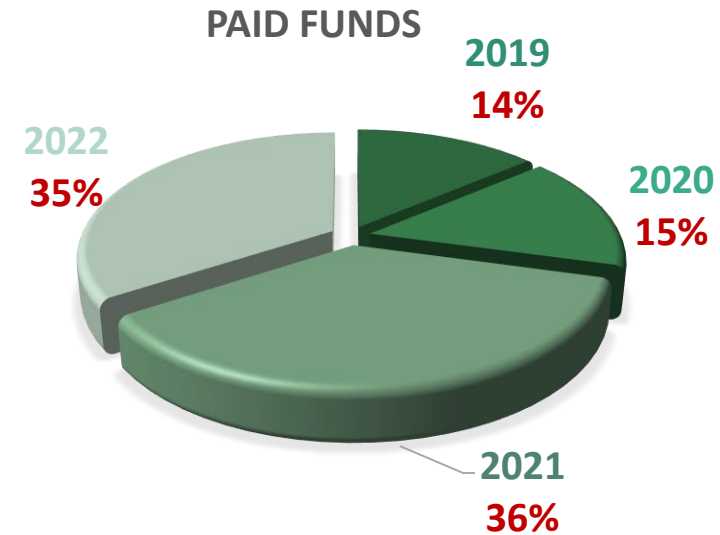
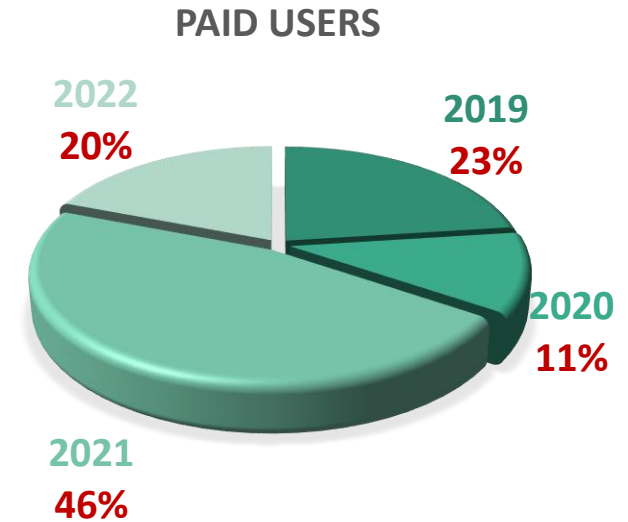
REQUESTED SUPPORT



# State of play – paid funds

Cut off date: 13/12/2022	PAID FUNDS	
	N°	Paid funds
2018	0	0
2019	145	4,577,520
2020	72	5,112,389
2021	293	12,113,315
2022	140	12,635,605
<b>Total:</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>34,438,829</b>

- € Although there is a notable upward trend in payments in 21/22, it is insufficient to make up for the loss of 19/20 contracting
- € Paid funds in total: **34.44 mills. EUR - 650** paid requests
- € A modest number of payment requests and a delay in the project's realization leads to payment in 2022 of **12.64 mills. EUR** and **140** paid requests
- € **4.25 mills. EUR** are in line for the final payment
- € **33** payment requests and **3** requests for advance payment in payment approval processing with **2.54 mill. EUR**
- € By the end of the year, we expect an increase in the number of paid users, given that we are expecting the payment requests for tractors to be realized
- € About **20 mil. EUR** in total is expected to be paid by the end of the year





# Rejection/withdrawal/appeal - reasons

MEASURE	Rejected Applications
Measure 1	317
Measure 3	76
Measure 7	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>

MEASURE	Withdrawn Applications
Measure 1	215
Measure 3	22
Measure 7	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>

MEASURE	Appeals in Progress (Second instance)
Measure 1	13
Measure 3	8
Measure 7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

## Reasons

- Non-compliance with requirements regarding investment criteria
- Failure to supplement the Applications
- Incomplete documentation
- Application submitted outside the prescribed deadline

- Non-compliance with national and EU standards
- Dissatisfaction with the amount of subsidies approved
- Insufficient funds

### Project Approval

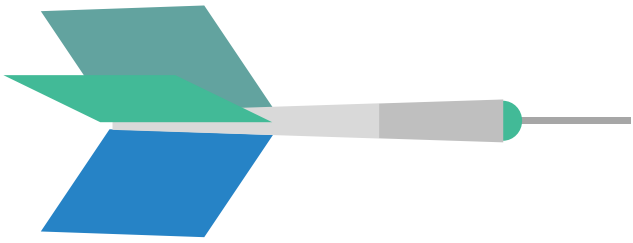
- Tax debt
- Lack of complete construction documentation
- Non-compliance with specific requirements
- Application submitted outside the prescribed deadline

### Payment Approval

- Application submitted outside the prescribed deadline
- Non-compliance with national and EU standards
- Failure to comply with the obligations granted by the project approval decision
- Around 75% of complains are rejected







# Challenges being addressed

## Late start of the IPARD implementation

- Implementation started in 2018 due to the lengthy accreditation procedure
- Three implementation years are lost at the very beginning
- Establishing a link with increasing allocations was the main task from the start

## Processing efficiency

- Quality of applications
- Personnel who possess specific knowledge and skills. IA cannot rely on institutional memory and pre-existing experiences and practices
- Manual processing
- SarsCov-19 pandemic made regular activities difficult
- An increasing number of requests and small number of personnel

## Complex macro-economic context

- COVID -19 led to the whole series of market fluctuations
- Extreme price fluctuations, disruptions in supply chains, inflation, recession, an increase in the reference interest rate, etc., limited users' ability to invest
- Energy supplies and difficulty with transporting products to foreign markets have been added to the list of issues as a result of the Ukraine crisis

## Preparation for new program cycle

- Preparation for implementation of IPARD III
- Legal framework
- (Re)accreditation of the procedures



# ACTIONS

## Strengthening human resources

### Continuous announcement of vacancies

The process of filling the **29 IPARD** vacancies through Public competition has been started in July 2022. Two phases of the process are finished. Candidates passed checking of general and special functional competencies. The procedure will be completed in January 2023 after two additional steps: the evaluation of personal competencies which is in process right now and the final interview

### Public competitions in 2023

- Two competitions for 40 and 30 permanent executive positions
- Competition for the positions of assistant directors for Sector for Project Approval, Sector for Coordination, International Cooperation and IACS, IT sector

### Improving efficiency by additional training, increased supervision and weekly monitoring

### Retention policy

- More senior ranks are already systematized
- Initiatives to provide our staff better working conditions and greater financial rewards (salary top-ups and other staff motivation and retention means) is in planning stage
- Civil servants' salaries will be raised by 12,5% beginning January 1, 2023

232

systematized  
IPARD posts

132

filled positions

35

temporary employees

50

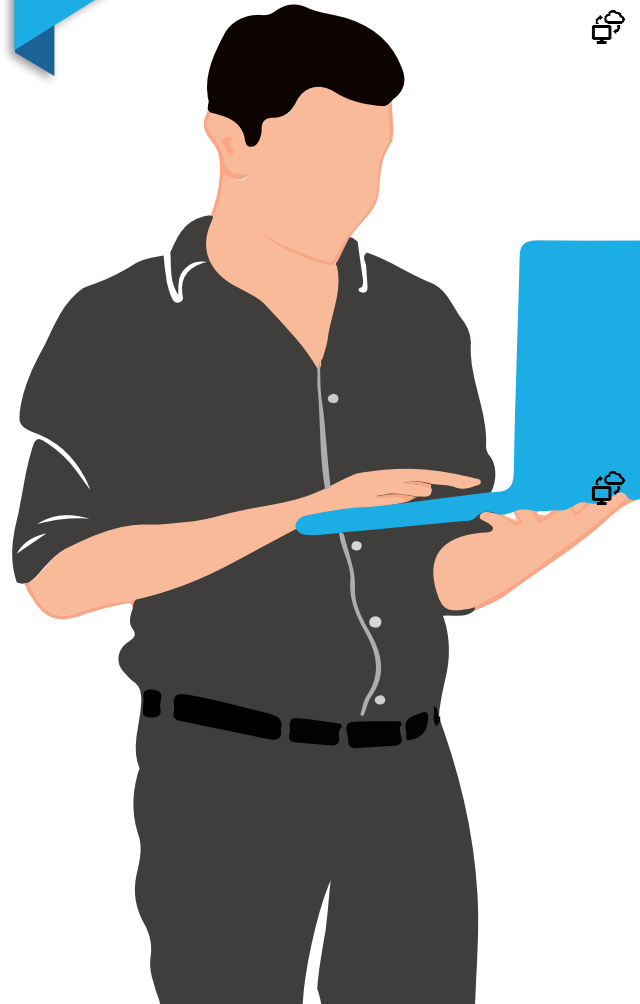
higher title

59

better wage grade



# Digitization of the work process



☞ **The transition from manual to electronic mode of application processing will:**

- ☞ significantly speed up the work process
- ☞ increase the level of control
- ☞ reduce the influence of the human factor on work errors
- ☞ enable better monitoring and reporting of the work process

☞ **Introduction of RD IT solution:**

- ☞ The software used to process accredited IPARD measures was developed through IPA 2017 project "Support to the IPARD operational structure".
- ☞ Operational problems in processing of applications are now resolving
- ☞ New trial test is planned for the first quarter of 2023
- ☞ Modules for new IPARD III Measure 4 and Measure 5 will be developed
- ☞ Full implementation of the RD IT solution is expecting from October 2023

# ACTIONS

## Advance payment

- ☞ Providing legal framework through amendment of:
  - ☞ Sectoral Agreement,
  - ☞ Law on Agriculture and Rural Development,
  - ☞ Rulebooks for implementation of IPARD measures 1, 3 and 7
- ☞ Advance payment of up to **50%** of the approved funds
- ☞ A bank guarantee covering **110** percent of the approved advance amount



- ☞ **5 million** was expected effect of realization of advance payment in 2022
- ☞ **30** requests for **3.22 mills.** EUR is paid + **three** requests for **266.940 EUR** is in processing
- ☞ Measure 3 did not meet expectations because only **six** requests were paid (**914,490**)
- ☞ **7 rejected** requests for **779,634 EUR** have no bank guarantee

### Effects

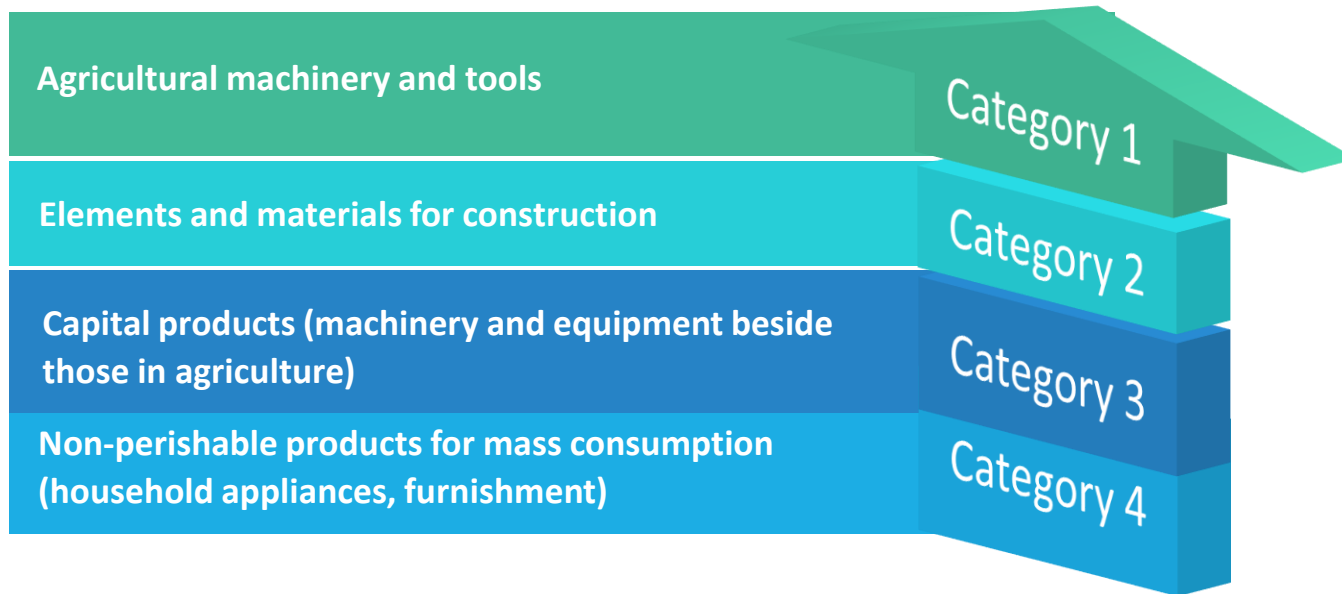
- ☞ Physical persons have issue to obtain bank guarantee
- ☞ Young farmers are in special focus
- ☞ Introducing of possibility of advance payment utilizing various security mechanisms for physical persons like Guarantee Fund of RS

### Plans



# Price indexation

Based on the proposals of the EC (Ares (2022) 4520337-20/06/2022) IPARD operating structure prepared model for introduction of increasing the amount of support using a price index for certain and justified categories of costs:



Data from Republic Statistical Office – Methodology and sampling are in place and approved by Eurostat, so the reliability of data is unquestionable (under the Negotiation Chapter 18 Social policy and employment - almost in full compliance with Acqui)

Republic Statistical Office would prepare the table with monthly prices for all four categories starting from the closing date of the second call in M1.

Each category will be connected with each individual cost in the LEE making it easy to apply for the IPARD Agency.

After submitting the payment request formula that will be applied for each cost in the project is the following:

- D1 – month of the closing of the Call
- D2 – month of the Decision on project approval

$$\text{Increase of cost} = \frac{\text{Category } n \text{ Price } D2}{\text{Category } n \text{ Price } D1}$$

By amending the Rulebook on the methodology for determining investment reference prices for the calculation of IPARD incentives, the legal framework for the application of price indexation will be provided



# IPARD II Implementation

All IPARD II allocation expected to be contracted by **Jun2023**

Around **55 mils. EUR** – amount foreseen to be contracted

Around **116 mils. EUR** in commitment and around **75 mils. EUR** in contracted projects in realization at the start of the year



**Acceleration of the payment:** the contracting rate in 21/22 will lead to a higher payment rate in 2023 because most of these projects will be implemented and due for payment in 2023

Request for extension of time for spending the budgetary commitment 2019 is sent to EC

In order to plan the next steps, it is necessary to know whether there will be a possibility to extend the implementation of IARD II for another year (2024)





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
IPARD Agency



**IPARD**  
EU4Rural Areas

**WE REMAIN AT YOUR DISPOSAL FOR  
ANY FURTHER INFORMATION**

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**Marko Kesić**

[marko.kesic@minpolj.gov.rs](mailto:marko.kesic@minpolj.gov.rs)

Directorate for Agrarian Payment – IPARD Agency  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water  
Management  
Belgrade, Republic of Serbia  
[www.uap.gov.rs](http://www.uap.gov.rs)



# Guidelines for communication, publicity, and visibility for projects funded under IPARD III

Tenth session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

*Belgrade, 14.12.2022*



# Objectives

- To inform about and publicise EU-financed assistance and opportunities under IPARD III programmes;
- To ensure adequate communication, publicity and visibility of EU support granted.
- Provisions and rules set in FFPA (Art. 23-24), Sectoral Agreement (Art.31-32 + Annex 8) and in IPARD III programmes.

# IPARD authorities' roles and tasks (1)

- Role and division of tasks of **IPARD Managing Authority** and **IPARD Agency** in pursuing common objectives of communication, publicity and visibility.
- **IPARD Managing Authority** and **IPARD Agency** shall provide the information to potential recipients:
  - to disseminate widely information on the programme's objectives and funding opportunities to potential recipients and all interested parties;
  - to ensure that potential recipients have access to relevant information on funding opportunities, procedures of applications etc.

# IPARD authorities' roles and tasks (2)

## ➤ **IPARD Managing Authority** is obliged to:

- draft and implement a plan of visibility and communication activities,
- ensure functioning of a single website / a single website portal providing information on and access to the IPARD III programme,
- inform about funding opportunities under the IPARD III programme.

## ➤ **IPARD Agency** is obliged to:

- inform recipients of IPARD III assistance of the Union contribution,
- publish list of the projects and recipients of IPA III assistance, updated every six months, to be accessible through a single website /a single website portal.

# Plan of visibility and communication activities

- basis for beneficiary countries to provide information on assistance under IPARD III programme,
- to be agreed between the IPARD Managing Authority and the Commission and approved by IPARD III Monitoring Committee, **no later than one year after the adoption of the IPARD III programme** by the Commission,
- to be implemented by annual action plans, drawn by the Managing Authority and agreed by the Monitoring Committee, and including operations envisaged under the technical assistance measure.

# Roles and obligations of recipients

- Obligation of **recipients** of IPARD support to ensure visual information about the EU support received:
  - in form of posters, plaques, temporary and permanent billboard depending on the type and value of investments,
  - describing the project/operation, including the Union emblem and fund statement as well as the IPARD visual element,
- ❑ For small and middle-size projects: obligation to provide such information ends with the final payment
- ❑ For bigger projects (infrastructure or construction): a permanent plaque / billboard required after the final payment.

# EU visual identity

- **EU visual identity:** Union emblem and funding statement
  - obligation to display the Union emblem in any communication about IPARD III programme,
  - the Union emblem has to be always accompanied by the statement “Funded by the European Union” or “Co-funded by the European Union”



# IPARD new visual element (1)

➤ Rules on the use of the **new IPARD visual element**:

# IPARD

- IPARD visual element to be included in all IPARD III information and communication materials, supported measures and projects, as well as at premises of each entity of the IPARD Managing Authority/IPARD Agency,
- New EU visual identity rules do not permit to add any other graphic elements to that visual identity:

Do not add other graphic elements.



## IPARD new visual element (2)

- to respect the new visual identity rules while using IPARD visual element, a clear distance between these two distinct features must be ensured:

**YES** → **IPARD**



**NO** →



- when displaying both the EU emblem and the IPARD visual element, the EU emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the IPARD visual element and be at least of the same size.



**Thank you for  
your attention!**



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
MANAGING AUTHORITY



**IPARD**  
EU4Rural Areas

# 10th session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Belgrade