

IPARD IN FOCUS

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Water Management, Serbia



IPARD
EU4Rural Areas

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The Sixth Public Call for Measure 1 is published

The Sixth Public Call for submission of applications for project approval for IPARD support for investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings was published on 21st June 2021. The deadline for submission of applications is until 10th September 2021.

Within this Public Call, interested natural persons and legal entities can apply for investments in the construction of facilities, as well as the purchase of new equipment, machinery and mechanization (excluding tractors). Eligible sectors for investments are: milk, meat, fruits and vegetables, other crops, grapes and eggs.



The allocated funds under this Public Call amount to RSD 6,460,900,000 (approx. EUR 55 million) and the amount of support is from 60% to 70%, depending on whether the applicant is a young farmer (up to 40 years at the moment of submission of application for project approval) and whether the agricultural holding is located in a mountainous area. The amounts of support that the recipient can receive in the sectors of fruits, vegetables, other crops and grapes can be from EUR 5,000 to EUR 700,000 and in the sectors of milk, meat and eggs from EUR 5,000 to EUR 1,000,000.

This is the last Public Call for the abovementioned investments for Measure 1 within the IPARD II programming period. The next Public Call for construction and equipping of facilities, as well as the purchase of machinery and mechanization is planned in the middle of the next year, from the funds allocated by the EU within the IPARD III Programme 2021-2027 of the Republic of Serbia.

Detailed text of the Public Call, the Rulebook and accompanying annexes shall be downloaded [here](#). For further information about the published Public Call, please contact the Info Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management by calling 011/2607960; 2607961, as well as the contact centre of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments by calling 011/3020100; 3020101, 3107013 every working day from 7:30 to 15:30.



The Eighth Session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee

The Eighth Session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Mrs MSc Jasmina Miljković, Head of the IPARD Managing Authority, was held on 11th June 2021 in the Palace “Serbia” in Belgrade. Together with the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee, the session was attended by representatives of the European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of European Integration, the Governmental Audit Office of EU Funds and others.

The achieved results of the IPARD II Programme implementation were discussed and the draft Annual Implementation Report on the IPARD II Programme for 2020 was adopted at the Eighth Session of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee. Also, progress in the preparation of the IPARD III Programme was presented by the IPARD Managing Authority.

In the introductory part of the session, Mr Marius Lazdinis, recently acting Head of Unit, DG AGRI, Pre-Accession Assistance to Agriculture and Rural Development, addressed to the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee and pointed out that the biggest challenges in the implementation of the IPARD II Programme are the absorption of funds and still insufficient number of employees in the IPARD Agency, which result in a long process of application processing. Mr Lazdinis expressed hope that these challenges will be solved soon by amending the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development. These amendments will introduce the possibility of advance payment up to 50% of the approved investment value, while the beginning of the Technical Assistance measure implementation will support strengthening IPARD Operating Structure capacities. In addition, Mr Mariusz Legowski, a new programme manager for the Republic of Serbia, introduced himself for the first time to the members of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee. Mr Legowski presented the guidelines and legal framework of the EC for adoption of the IPARD III Programme.

Proposals for amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development were presented at the session, which initiated a discussion among the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members. In order to improve the IPARD II Programme implementation, in the continuation of the discussion, the biggest concern of the IPARD II Monitoring Committee members was expressed in regard to price growth of construction materials and equipment, as well as the treatment of this topic within the IPARD Programme. The possibility for the IPARD recipients to identify representative consulting agencies with exemplary results in the field, was considered at the session as well.

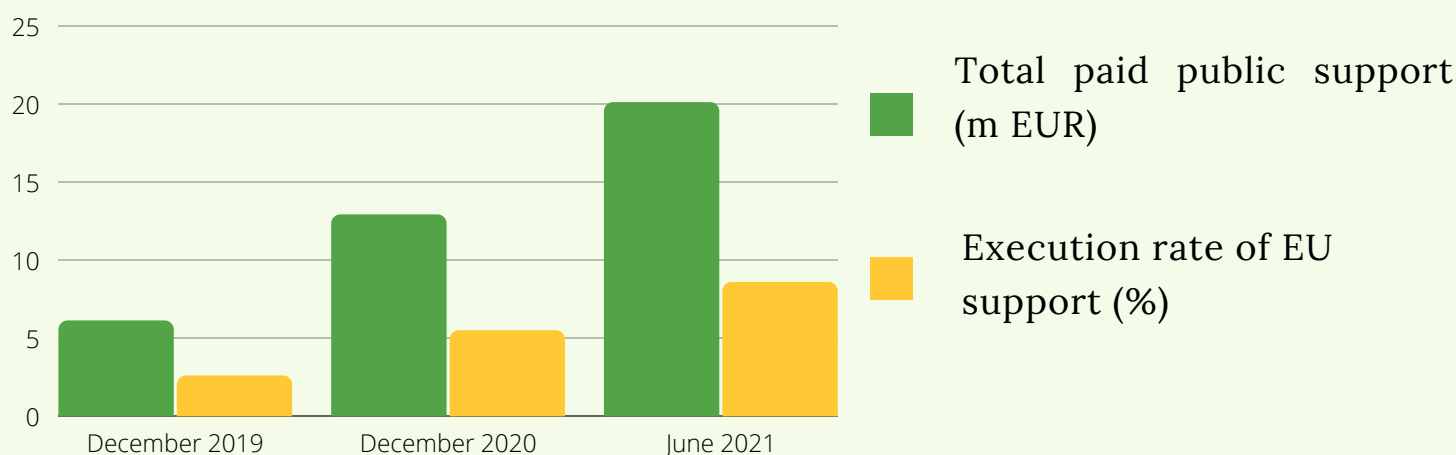
The IPA 2015 project “Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy”, which is financed by European Union, provided support for the organisation of the session.

Progress achieved in the IPARD II Programme implementation

Until mid-June 2021, a total of 362 IPARD projects have been paid, in the total amount of EUR 20.1 million of public support. Under Measure 1, 332 projects were paid (EUR 14.8 million of public support), while 30 projects were paid under Measure 3 (EUR 5.3 million of public support).

Total paid public support (EUR) and the execution rate of EU support (%)

Period: December 2019 - June 2021



According to the distribution analysis of submitted applications per region, the Vojvodina Region has the highest number of submitted applications within Measure 1, while the Šumadija and Western Serbia Region has the highest number of submitted applications within Measure 3 and Measure 7.

The highest amount of IPARD support for Measure 1 was paid for the investment in a box pallet in the fruit sub-sector in the Zapadnobački administrative district under the First Public Call in amount of EUR 617,691. The most valuable paid investment under Measure 3 was related to construction and equipping the cold storage and was realized in the Šumadija administrative district in the fruit sub-sector, within the Second Public Call, in the total paid amount of EUR 915,100 per application.

Department for Management of IPARD Programme is formed

Tasks of the IPARD Programme management, segregated from the assignments of the Sector for Rural Development, became the responsibility of the newly formed organizational unit – the Department for Management of IPARD Programme, by the Amendment to the Rulebook on Internal Organization and Systematization of Work Positions in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM), which entered into force on 21st May 2021.



This Department is responsible to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management directly, which contributes to the rapidity and quality of decision making. Segregation of the Department for Management of IPARD Programme does not affect the system of entrusted institutions, but only indicates the readiness of the MAFWM to strengthen its own capacities to monitor and implement the entrusted measures of the IPARD Programme.



Four groups have been established within the Department for Management of IPARD Programme: Group for Programming of IPARD Measures for Competitiveness Improvement, Rural Infrastructure and LEADER Approach, Group for Programming IPARD Measures for Improvement Quality of Life in Rural Areas, Group for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting of IPARD Programme and Group for Technical Assistance and IPARD Programme Promotion.

Preparation of the IPARD III Programme

The Managing Authority is in the final stage of preparation of the IPARD III Programme. The sectoral analyses of agricultural production and processing in Serbia, as well as analyses related to financial instruments, capacities of local self-government units and the impact of the European Green Deal on Serbia were the basis for IPARD III Programme preparation. The submission of the final version of the IPARD III Programme to the European Commission is envisaged for September, while its adoption is expected in November 2021.



Also, in order to complete the IPARD III Programme, it is necessary to engage an ex-ante evaluator. Given that the call for the engagement of ex-ante evaluator was published on 29th April 2021 and that it is currently in the contracting phase, the ex-ante evaluation of the IPARD III Programme is expected to begin in July this year. The communication process with the representatives of the European Commission, as well as with all stakeholders is being continuously performed since the beginning of the IPARD III Programme preparation.



The example of a successful project

With the financial resources from the IPARD fund, the Jokić family, from Topola, built a modern cold storage on 4,000 square metres. The cold storage has a capacity of 2,500 tons, located in the Krčevac village, as a part of the family company *Terra Optima*, established in 2013. This significant investment is intended, primarily for the storage of apples and for other fruits as well. The amount of RSD 215 million was invested in the construction of the cold storage and the obtained amount of the IPARD support was RSD 107 million.



The family Jokić is a real example that the administrative procedure and requirements, which IPARD applicants should meet, are clearly defined and achievable. According to Miloš Jokić, the owner of the company *Terra Optima*, the cold storage is of a great importance for the future production and it allows producer to choose the best moment when to offer apples to the domestic market. In this way, it is possible to meet the demanding conditions for storing fruits intended for export to the European and world markets. This is also a chance for permanent, and not only seasonal employment of the local residents, considering that 35 jobs have been created in the cold storage.

In addition to the new cold storage, there are orchards that cover 104 hectares, out of which 60 hectares are covered by modern apple orchards. Beside in Topola, the Jokić family has orchards in Sokobanja, where the most modern technology of fruit growing, from irrigation, anti-hail protection, to anti-frost systems is used. This level of production has improved quality of five types of apples and launched them on the market of the European Union, India, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Malaysia and Russia.



One click to first-hand information

For the newest information on events, announcements, calls and rules regarding the implementation of the IPARD II Programme in Serbia, follow the official IPARD Managing Authority accounts - on Instagram (@ipardnadlanu) and Facebook (IPARD na dlanu).

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR US?

For prompt answer, please contact us through e-mail ipardnadlanu@minpolj.gov.rs or Instagram and Facebook pages!



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