

IPARD IN FOCUS

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Water Management, Serbia



IPARD
EU4Rural Areas

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The Fourth Public Call for Measure 3 has been published

The Fourth Public Call for submission of applications for project approval for IPARD support for investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products was published on 16th August 2021. The deadline for submission of applications is 29th October 2021. Within this Public Call, interested legal entities (entrepreneurs and micro, small and medium-sized legal entities and agricultural cooperatives registered in the Register of Agricultural Holdings) can apply for investments in construction of facilities, as well as procurement of new equipment, machinery and mechanisation.

The allocated funds within this Public Call amount to RSD 3,000,780,714 (approx. EUR 26 million). The amount of support is 50% out of the total eligible expenditures of investment, while additional 10% of support can be obtained for investments in the field of waste management and waste water treatment. The amount of support, that the recipients can receive for investment related to processing and marketing within meat, eggs, wine, fruit and vegetable sectors, ranges from EUR 10,000 to EUR 1,000,000, while in the milk sector this amount is in the range from EUR 10,000 to EUR 2,000,000.



Detailed text of the Public Call, the Rulebook and accompanying annexes shall be downloaded [here](#). For further information on the published Public Call, please contact the Info Centre of the MAFWM (011/2607960 and 011/2607961) and contact centre of the DAP (011/3020100, 011/3020101 and 011/3107013), every working day from 7.30 to 15.30.

The amendments to the Rulebook for Measure 3

The Amendment to the Rulebook on IPARD subsidies for investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products ("Official Gazette of the RS", no. 84/17, 23/18, 98/18, 82/19 and 74/21), followed after the Fourth Modification of the IPARD II Programme, at the initiative of potential IPARD recipients. This amendment primarily aimed to eliminate the identified shortcomings during the implementation of the Public Calls in the previous period, as well as more precisely defining of the existing criteria.

Important amendment to the Rulebook refers to the possibility of realizing already started construction of facilities. In this way, potential recipients will be able to be supported through the IPARD Programme and to invest in the completion of the construction they have previously started but for some reason (e.g. potentially lack of funds) not been able to finish. The applicant will be obliged to submit a temporary situation with a measurement book for performed works or a finding of an authorized forensic expert in the field of civil engineering, containing the data about consumption of works and materials for performed works. Therefore, one significant amendment to this Rulebook is related to additional clarification of term realization of investment.



A consultation process regarding the IPARD III Programme was held in the period from 15th July to 6th August 2021, in order to obtain comments of all stakeholders and to define guidelines for future IPARD support.

We thank everyone who participated in the joint preparation of the programme of the Republic of Serbia for the EU pre-accession assistance for agriculture and rural development.

Consultation workshops for IPARD Measure 4

IPARD Managing Authority held two consultative workshops on “Programming IPARD Measure 4 - Agri-environment-climate measure and organic farming measure” in order to prepare the IPARD III Programme. The first workshop was held on 20th July 2021 for representatives of the IPARD Agency, relevant organizational units of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. Participants gave their suggestions and feedback contribution to measure programming, in particular in the part relating to general and specific eligibility criteria.

The second workshop, held on 22nd July 2021, was attended by more than 30 representatives of relevant faculties, institutes, environmental organizations and producer organizations. The aim of the workshop was to present the draft Measure 4 and its objectives, as well as to obtain feedback from all stakeholders on the key characteristics of the measure, the proposed operations and how to implement it, in order to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the measure. According to the type of proposed operations, working groups were formed, namely: Group 1 - application of crop rotation on arable land; Groups 2/3 - inter-row grassing and mechanical weeding in perennial plantations; Group 4 - establishment of flower strips and Group 5 - sustainable management of meadows and pastures. Through such interactive work, the participants of the workshop presented the main challenges for the implementation of this measure and gave suggestions for possible solutions for overcoming them.

The organization of the workshops was supported by 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”, funded by the European Union.

Workshop for Measure 6 – Investments in rural public infrastructure

The IPARD Managing Authority works intensively on preparation of the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the new programming period 2021-2027. Another novelty, compared to the IPARD II Programme, is introduction of Measure 6 – Investments in rural public infrastructure. For the purpose of preparation of this measure by independent experts, in cooperation with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, the Analysis of the capacities of local self-government units was conducted. Also, with the aim to strengthen administrative capacities and to transfer experience in the implementation of Measure 6, the workshop for Measure 6 was organised on 23rd July 2021 for employees in the IPARD Agency and IPARD Managing Authority. Also, a meeting with representatives of the Provincial Secretariat for Regional Development, Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government (Provincial Secretariat) was held, when Measure 6 within the IPARD III Programme and the analysis of local self-government needs for infrastructure projects in AP Vojvodina were discussed. The Provincial Secretariat expressed its will for further cooperation with the Managing Authority and proposed activities for additional support in the implementation of Measure 6.



Workshops for Measure 3 have been started

The IPARD Managing Authority and the IPARD Agency, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, have started workshops in form of round table conferences, in order to explain in more details the possibilities of IPARD Measure 3 - Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, through support to investments in modernisation of processing capacities in the sector of milk, meat, fruit and vegetable, grapes and eggs, to relevant representatives of legal entities.

The first workshops with relevant representatives of legal entities were held on 9th and 10th August 2021 in Novi Sad and Kruševac, in order to present the Fourth amendment to the Rulebook and to announce the Fourth Public Call for Measure 3. The answers were provided to the potential recipients, which referred the most to the dynamic of public calls publishing, eligible investments, duration of process of application processing, investments in construction of facilities on the leased land, preparation of technical documentation, as well as procedures related to the project amendment during the round table conferences. The continuation of workshops is planned for September.



Having in mind that the implementation of consultation process with stakeholders is ongoing, the draft IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027 was presented at the workshops, as well as draft of future IPARD Measure 3. The participants had an opportunity to express their opinion and suggestions during the workshops. The implementation of the consultation process will provide insight in the stakeholders' point of view, in order to further define directions and guidelines for future support to agricultural producers and processors in the Republic of Serbia, based on obtained information.

IPARD informative workshop for consulting agencies was held

IPARD informative workshop for consulting agencies was held on 12th August 2021. The workshop was attended by representatives of the IPARD Managing Authority, the IPARD Agency and interested legal entities and entrepreneurs engaged in providing consulting services, development of business plans, development of projects and technical documentation.

The topics discussed at the informative workshop were the following: the amendment to the Rulebook and the Sixth Public Call for IPARD Measure 1, the amendment to the Rulebook and Fourth Public Call for IPARD Measure 3, as well as preparation of the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027. The workshop was attended by 70 representatives of consulting agencies, through online participation and presence of maximal permitted number of participants in the conference room due to the epidemic safety measures. All participants had an opportunity to ask questions, which mostly referred to continuation of started construction of facility, technical documentation, as well as beginning of the implementation of advance payment.



Ex-ante evaluation of the IPARD III Programme

A quality preparation of the IPARD III Programme includes ex-ante evaluation of the IPARD III Programme, which aims to assess medium and long-term needs in the field of agriculture and rural development, optimize budget allocation, improve programme quality and quantification of programme goals and results to be achieved.



Through the implemented public procurement procedure, within the project “Strengthening Agricultural Sector capacities for Evidence Based Policy Making”, implemented by the World Bank and financed by the Government of Japan, an independent evaluator was hired to conduct the ex-ante evaluation of the IPARD III Programme of the Republic of Serbia.

At the first meeting held between the IPARD Managing Authority and the hired ex-ante evaluator, a detailed plan of activities was prepared. The initial report with the planned activities and detailed methodology was submitted by the evaluator to the IPARD Managing Authority on 16th July 2021. During August, 11 meetings between the evaluator and stakeholders were held in order to assess the extent of their involvement in the process of the IPARD III Programme preparation. The draft final report on the ex-ante evaluation of the IPARD III Programme is expected in the mid-September.



Conference “IPARD III Programme – What is there for me?”

The Conference on “IPARD III Programme – What is there for me?”, within the 88th International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad and AGRI campaign organized by EU Delegation in Serbia, will be held on 22nd September 2021, at the “Master” Congress Center. The purpose of the Conference is to raise public awareness of the European Union's assistance in the fields of the EU funded projects aiming at building capacity of Serbian competent authorities in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy. Successful stories of the IPARD II support and the new IPARD III Programme shall be presented to the visitors of the fair. The Conference will be supported by EU Technical Assistance project “Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy”.

The example of a successful project

The issues of preserving the environment and stopping climate change, have been attracting the attention of the citizens of Serbia. The IPARD Programme responds to these challenges through supporting the introduction of new technologies on agricultural farms, the improvement of technological processes and products and the achievement of efficient use of energy and other resources.

“We decided on the purest energy of the sun, because most of our activities take place during the period of the year that is full of sunny days. At the moment, our solar panels produce surplus energy, which will be returned to us through the network in the autumn and winter”, says Aleksandar Jakovljević, owner of the ABD-PROM company, from Jevremovac near Šabac, which is one of the regional leaders in the field of production, purchase, storage and sale of fresh and frozen fruit in Western Serbia.



ABD-PROM has been a gathering place for fruit growers in this area for more than 20 years, because through favorable purchase prices, Aleksandar Jakovljević has established a stable network of cooperants, whom he also helps in the application of agro-technical measures, in order to improve product quality.

Two years ago, Aleksandar was encouraged, with the help of IPARD support, to invest almost half a million EUR in energy sustainability of his farm, through the construction and equipping of a plant for the solar electricity production. He applied for the Third Public Call for submitting applications for project approval for IPARD support for investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products in 2019. In the coming period, he expects receiving support.

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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